



## EOSARDA Board Meeting

Sunday, 15 August 2021

Zoom

### Attendees:

Jacques Chesnais	Geoff Clarke	Gavin Currie	Barb Englehart
Gerry Johnson	Bob Pitruniak	Arlo Speer	Wendy VanderMeulen
	Dave Western		

### Regrets:

Ron Gardner                      Lamar Mason

1. **Opening Remarks**                      Appendix A                      - Dave Western
2. **Review Records of Past Board meetings**                      - Arlo Speer  
**MOTION:** Speer / Currie that the records of our 16 May 2021 and 27 June 2021 meetings be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**

### 3. Committee Reports

- 3.1. Financial Report                      Appendix B                      – Bob Pitruniak
- 3.2. Publicity Committee                      Appendix C                      – Lamar Mason

**MOTION:** VanderMeulen / Pitruniak that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

### 4. Business Arising from the Past Record

- 4.1. **Updated 2021-2022 Budget**                      Appendix D                      – Bob Pitruniak
- 4.2. **Board Meeting Schedule for dance year** – Item 3.2 from 27 June meeting

The board agreed to meet on 17 October 2021, 16 January 2022, and 20 March 2022 with Council of Dancers meetings on 21 November 2021 and 24 April 2022.

### 4.3. Social Square Dancing – Item 5 from 27 June meeting. Appendix E

After discussion, Wendy and Geoff offered to provide documents describing Social Square Dancing and identifying advantages and disadvantages of the approach.

The board agreed to review these documents and that this item should reappear on the October agenda.

### 5. New Business

- 5.1. Ontario Government and a returning to dancing                      Appendix F                      - Dave Western
- 5.2. ENTANDEM Project, for the Canadian Society                      Appendix G                      - Dave Western

### 6. Next Meeting

Sunday 17 October 2021 1:30 pm.

## **Appendix A – Opening Remarks**

Back in March of 2020, Bob Pitruniak predicted that it would be over a year before we would be dancing again. Who, at that time, would have thought that he was being overly optimistic? But here we are, some seventeen months later, with no clear idea when we will get back on the dance floor.

With the 4<sup>th</sup> wave now breaking upon us; most rental facilities still closed; a stubborn minority of unvaccinated people refusing to get the jab; and increasing pressure for and resistance against vaccine “passports”, it seems unlikely that we will get any clarity on the situation any time soon.

In the absence of any clear direction, I know that some of our clubs have their eyes on starting-up again sometime this Autumn, while others are thinking about January 2022 and I have heard a few people mention September 2022!

Through all this confusion and uncertainty, dance related work has continued on a number of fronts. Today we are going to hear about some of these efforts and continue our dialogue about some of the issues and problems we are facing.

Welcome to Dance Year 2021/22.

Dave Western, President

## **Appendix B – Treasurer’s Report**

I include a summary of activity since 01 July 2020 and including results up to 30 Jun 2021 This is the complete report for the year but please note that this report has not yet been reviewed by an outside person.

The net results for the year 2020-2021 show us losing just over \$400 for the year.

Note that there has been zero financial activity for the current fiscal year which began July 1 so I have not included any report for the current year.

If you wish a printed copy, print the financial summary report in landscape mode.

Bob Pitruniak  
Treasurer, EOSARDA

[NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request.](#)



## **Appendix C – Publicity Committee**

The Publicity Committee continues to work on its Facebook page, which we hope to launch in the next couple of weeks.

We had a very productive meeting with the Technology Committee to discuss possible changes to the EOSARDA website that would align it with the new branding introduced with the new EOSARDA logo and the upcoming Facebook page. In addition, the discussion focused on a design that will highlight information for potential dancers year-round, while maintaining accessibility for clubs and existing dancers.

The Publicity Committee members appreciate the support received from the members of the Technology Committee.

Lamar Mason  
Chair  
With Gloria Bateman and Carole Lauzon

## **Appendix D – Updated 2021/2022 Budget**

*(As amended and approved at 27 June 2021 Council of Dancers meeting)*

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request.

## Budget Assumptions

for budget dated 2021-06-27 and amended at Council of Dancers

### 1 General

Most dancing will resume in January 2022. Thus, expenses will be for half a year of operations.

### 2 Revenue

EOSARDA Dues: We have been losing dancers every year due to old age/dropouts. This year we must expect the same plus dancers who choose not to return until things are more stable.. The assumption here is that we get 85% of our dues paying dancers back. This could be a high first guess because there might be clubs who cannot return because of reduced numbers or space that has become unaffordable. Pick a percentage of returning dancers - 85% is an opening and optimistic number.

Note that dancers who return will pay full EOSARDA dues because these dues cover the insurance costs which are on a calendar year basis. The club fees paid by dancers would be for only the winter dance session.

Dance revenue: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance this year.

SquareTime: There will be fewer dances advertised so reduced income here.

### 3 Expenses

OSRDF Dues: As per the revenue assumption, 85% of what we last paid.

Board meetings: We pay for Zoom again for EOSARDA Board and Council of Dancers meetings.

Office expenses: All stamp purchases lately BUT added \$200 here to account for expenses to become compliant with Province of Ontario corporate reporting requirements,

Publicity: By the end of 2020/21, publicity will begin promoting the 2021/22 dance year to get new dancers interested for 2022

Website/hosting: A fixed cost unrelated to the number of dancers.

Repairs etc: Carry forward of past amount.

## Appendix E – Social Square Dancing

Special Summer Zoom Meeting  
of the Ottawa Area Callers Association  
regarding SSD

**Attending:** Wendy Vandermeulin, John Charman, Bob Summers,  
Francois Demarais, David Currie,  
David Hutchison, Don Moger, Geoff Clarke, Ron Gardiner, Brian Crawford

This meeting was held to address the comment / request from EOSARDA publicity that the Callers Association make a decision on use or possible adoption of SSD even though we were not asked to do so before the COD meeting.

In conclusion there was no unanimous consensus to adopt or reject the SSD program. It was noted that any decisions on dance program changes rests with the Executive of all Exec-run clubs.

It appears that one club has intentions on transitioning to SSD and others have discussed it but will not change from the “existing Basic / MS” program; others have not had discussions at this time.

It seems likely that there will be both SSD and Basic instruction being offered when dancing resumes within EOSARDA, although our key concern is just how many dancers will return to the dance floor - that fact alone may settle any questions regarding SSD.

Brian Crawford  
OACA Chair

## Appendix F – Ontario Government and Return to Dancing

On July 5 after several failed attempts to speak to someone at Ottawa Public Health to discuss the possible return to dancing, I contacted Ontario's Minister of Health and asked for a contact with whom we could discuss the various issues.

On July 27, I received a reply from Audley Stephenson of the Sport, Recreation and Recognition Division of Ontario's Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. Audley said that he would respond to any questions we may have about returning to dancing during the current pandemic.

On July 28 I sent the following message to Audley:

*Hi Audley*

*Thank you very much for getting back to me.*

*The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation represents clubs from all across Ontario and is a member of the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society. The types of dancing done by our member clubs includes Modern Square Dancing, Round Dancing (aka Choreographed ballroom dancing, and Line Dancing. For more information about the Federation, please see [squaredance.on.ca/](http://squaredance.on.ca/).*

*As we proceed through Stage 3 of the Ontario government's COVID recovery program, pressure from our dancers to return to the dance floor is increasing and as a result the Federation is receiving an increased number of queries from our members as to when we can safely resume dancing and which health protocols will be mandatory and which can either be adopted voluntarily or set aside completely.*

*Part of the challenge for our members is that the different types of dancing involve different degrees of risk.*

*In line dancing there is little or no physical interpersonal contact and it is relatively easy to maintain physical distancing. But the amount of physical exertion and thus the expulsion of airborne particles is the greatest of the three types of dancing.*

*Round dancing, being a form of ballroom dancing, involves the close physical contact of two people but it is relatively easy to maintain physical distancing between couples. Depending on the dance rhythm the amount of physical exertion varies from moderate to heavy (Latin dances as a rule require more exertion than say a slow two-step or waltz).*

*Square dancing required 8 people in a square with the composition of the squares changing frequently. All 8 dancers would normally have contact with all the other dancers in the square, including holding hands and close body contact when executing certain moves such as a 360 degree partner spin. The degree of exertion is generally low to moderate with the occasional fast dance.*

*None of our clubs own the halls in which we dance. They are rented on an hourly basis from local municipal governments, churches and school boards.*

*We realize that ultimately any decision as to when dancing may resume and under what conditions is going to be the responsibility of the local Public Health authority, but we are trying to get some idea of under what circumstances the three forms of dancing could reasonably expect to start up safely; what public health conditions would likely apply (masks, social distancing, sanitizing etc); and what other measures our members should or could take to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID virus.*

*Given that we rent our dance facilities from 3rd parties but operate independently from them, we are also*

*wondering whether either we or the property owners can legally insist that our dancers be fully vaccinated in order to participate in our activity.*

*Any other guidance that you can provide would also be greatly appreciated.*

Having received no reply to the above message I contacted Audley again on August 6 to confirm that he had received my previous message and to ascertain if a reply would be forthcoming.

Confirmation of receipt and a promise of a reply were received the same day.

As yet, no reply has been received.

Dave Western

## Appendix G – Entandem

The establishment of Entandem has introduced a serious level of uncertainty about the cost of playing music in public. While the SOCAN portion of recent Entandem assessments seems to be generally in line with what we were paying prior to the creation of Entandem, the newer re:Sound fees have increased assessments by over 150% in some cases and have the potential to increase even more based on the organization's complicated reporting system. The higher fees are already placing strains on our members' operating budgets and there is a limit to how much dancer fees can be increased to cover the higher costs.

There is also wide-spread misunderstanding of and confusion over: how Entandem fees are established; and what the holder of a licence is permitted to do with it. In addition, there are inconsistencies in the interpretation and application of the licensing rules.

In light of these problems, earlier this summer I approached the Chair of the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation with a proposal that we ask the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society to seek an up-dated agreement with Entandem similar to that which previously existed with SOCAN.

I was initially advised that Society already had the matter in hand. This proved to be incorrect.

Follow-up messages with society resulted in me offering to set up a project team to deal with this issue. That offer was accepted and I was mandated by Society to look into our relationship with Entandem and to explore the possibility of an enhanced agreement that will clarify the present relationship with SOCAN and possibly expand it to include re:Sound.

A four-person project team consisting of Geoff Clarke, Gavin Currie, Arlo Speer and myself has been set up and we have established an initial contact with Entandem.

Dave Western