



Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 Sunday 15 May 2022

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks

Appendix A

- Dave Western

1.2. Quorum was confirmed

Appendix B

- Dave Western

- Arlo Speer

Bylaw 27 requires that “A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of Members shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Member Clubs”.

Clubs and associations

Total Member Clubs	23
Represented:	20 87%
Not attending:	2 7%
Not responding:	1 5%

Participants

Total attendees:	38
Voting delegates:	33
Non-voting delegates:	5

2. Acceptance of Agenda

- Dave Western

There were no additions proposed to the agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Record of the 28 November 2021 Meeting

- Arlo Speer

MOTION: Lee Warriner/Peter & Geraldine Matthew ... that the record of the 28 November Council of Dancers meeting be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**

4. Reports

4.1. Operations Committee

4.1.1. 2021-1022 Financial statements

Appendix C

- Bob Pitruniak

4.1.2. Registrar's Report

Appendix D

- Dave Western

4.2. Dance Operations

4.2.1. Possible Open Dances

- Wendy VanderMeulen

Depending on COVID situation for the coming dance year, EOSARDA asked clubs to consider co-sponsoring dances with EOSARDA.

4.2.2. Swing into Spring

Appendix E

- Arlo Speer

4.3. Publicity Committee

Appendix F

- Lamar Mason

4.4. Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards

Appendix G

- Geoff Clark

4.5. Technology Committee

Appendix H

- Arlo Speer

4.6. Ottawa Area Callers' Association

Appendix I

- Geoff Clark

4.7. Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association

– Marlene & Gerald Casselman

Appendix J

4.8. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

Appendix K

- Ron Gardner

4.9. Acceptance of Reports

MOTION: Wendy VanderMeulen / Lamar Mason that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

6.1. Financial Assistance:

6.1.1. New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy

- Clarke/Chesnais

MOTION: Geoff Clarke / Lee Warriner that for the 2022-2023 dance year **only**, the 3 changes to this program, as outlined in Item 6 of the Club Liaison Report, be adopted. These three changes are:

- (1) the budgeted amount set at \$4,500,
- (2) Change to the EOSARDA Procedures Manual Chapter 13.3[c] to read "Assistance under this program be limited to a maximum of \$300 of net expenses per club per dance year, and
- (3) change to the EOSARDA Procedures Manual Chapter 13.3[d] to read "Eligible expenses must be over & above the club's normal operating expenses".

CARRIED

6.1.2. Dance Leader Training Bursary

- Geoff Clark

MOTION: Geoff Clarke / Gerry Johnson that for the 2022-2023 dance year **only**, (in order to fund an intense search for new leaders), the budget for this program be set at \$1,200.

CARRIED

6.2. Print version of *Square Time*

- Gerry Johnson

Initially, *Square Time* was published in printed form. More recently, we introduced an online version of *Square Time* in addition to the print version. During the COVID period, we published *Square Time* as online versions only.

It was suggested that we should go forward publishing an online version only, with clubs or individual members printing copies as needed.

Some clubs reported a reduction in the number of dancers expressly wishing printed copies. In recent years, we printed approximately 90 printed copies. A reduced number of printed copies would likely increase the per copy cost for printing.

6.3. Budget 2022-2023

Appendix L

- Bob Pitruniak

MOTION: Bob Pitruniak / Gavin Currie ... that the budget be accepted as shown in Appendix L. **CARRIED**

6.4. Volunteers for various Committees

- Mason/Clarke/Speer

The following individuals volunteered to become part of the following committees:

6.4.1. Publicity

- Shirley Brown

6.4.2. New Dancer Celebrations

- Following the meeting, Michelle Gravelle & Sander Rosen approached the Chair, Club Liaison for further information and subsequently agreed to join the committee.

6.4.3. Dance Dangle Programme

-

6.4.4. *Swing into Spring* Committee

- Shirley Brown

6.5. Election of EOSARDA Board of Directors

- Dave Western

The following slate of officers was presented:

Jacques Chesnais	Geoff Clark	Gavin Currie
Barbara Englehart	Ron Gardner	Gerry Johnson
Lamar Mason	Bob Pitruniak	Arlo Speer
David Western	Wendy VanderMeulen	

MOTION: Lamar Mason /David Shackleton ... that the above slate of officers be elected as the EOSARDA Board of Directors for 2022- 2023. **CARRIED**

7. Roundtable Discussion

7.1. Clubs returning to Dancing

- Club Delegates

Sunshine Squares has yet to formulate its fall plans.

Ottawa Date Squares:

Started dancing again with two intros (April 20 and 27) and first class (with 22 dancers on the floor) on May 4 dancing every Wednesday at Jack Purcell Community Centre @6:30pm. Caller is Wendy VanderMeulen. \$10 per night.

We are starting a second dance night on Mondays starting on June 6 (same time and place) with a couple weeks of review of Mainstream followed by beginning Plus. Caller is Wendy VanderMeulen. Anyone is welcome to join us. \$10 per night.

Veer North to the Capital 2022 (<https://veernorth.ca>) took place April 14-17 (Easter weekend) at Arts Court Theatre. 67 full weekend packages were sold. 10 individual sessions sold.

Callers were: Don Moger, Wendy VanderMeulen, Barry Clasper, Marge Coahran, Brian Crawford and Osamu Miyabe. Feedback was very positive.

Ottawa 2023 convention (Follow Your Northern Neighbour) is July 5-8, 2023.
<https://ottawa2023.com>

Dance levels: SSD through C3B in 8 separate halls at the Westin convention centre. Current registration cost is \$230 (includes banquet and brunch) goes up to \$295 on July 5, 2022.

Mississippi Squares dancing Tuesdays (for current dancers) at Brunton Hall, starting September

Capital Carousels

Has held two dance sessions, one from late October to mid-December and another from January to May. Plans are to return to dancing again in September.

Glengarry Tartans

has started dancing and plans recruitment sessions over the summer and into the fall

Kanata Squares planning to return Thursday afternoons in September.

Grenville Gremlins will start in September with its regular dance programme.

Meri Squares

Meri Squares resumed dancing in October 2021 with a gathering limit of 25 people, strict COVID masking and vaccination rules and cleaning and disinfecting rules. By mid-November, participation numbers were increased, and we danced with about 30 people until December 16. We resumed dancing with open participation on March 3, 2022.

Masking at all times, proof of three vaccinations and hand sanitizing were required. Numbers were much smaller with Omicron being a concern and most nights were about 20 people. There were no reported cases of COVID among dancers as a result of participation in our dances.

Meri Squares has stopped dancing now until September. In September, we will be offering Social Square Dancing as our introductory level on Tuesday nights and Mainstream and Plus on Thursday nights.

We were very fortunate to receive the support of members at our AGM in April and will have a full Executive to start the 2022-2023 dance season. Summer will be focused on publicity efforts to recruit new members.

Harbour Lites

Harbour Lites started dancing on April 13th, in the afternoon.

It was great to get back to square dancing even though we wore our masks and sanitized our hands before and after dancing. Everyone was excited to be back to dancing and realized they almost remembered what our caller John Charman was calling. He was very patient.

We had over two squares, as many of our dancers are dealing with personal problems and we wish them all the best and hope to have them return in the fall.

Our last dance will be May 25th and we will break for the summer and return to dancing in September.

8. Next Council of Dancers Meeting

Sunday afternoon, 27 November 2022 at 1:30

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 15:50.

Appendix A – Chairman's Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and welcome to EOSARDA's Council of Dancers and Annual General Meeting for 2022. Way back in October of 2020, faced with a global pandemic, we held our first ever online Council of Dancers, not sure whether the online format would work or not. The response was overwhelming, breaking all previous attendance records, and the trend has continued ever since. Over 80% of our Member Organizations have registered delegates for today's meeting, which translates into about 40 individuals taking part. Thank you for taking the time to join us this afternoon.

Before we begin, Arlo will briefly review the protocols for a Zoom meeting.

Normally at this point I would point out where the washrooms are and announce break times. I'm guessing that you already know where your washroom is. As for breaks, we will take a 15-minute break around 2:45, but you are going to have to provide your own tea, coffee and cookies.

Due to the pandemic, the membership of any club, association, dance leader or dancer registered with EOSARDA since 2019 has been extended, at no cost, until Autumn 2022.

Under EOSARDA's Constitution and By-laws:

- \$ Any dancer registered with EOSARDA may attend Council and speak at the meeting
- \$ Each registered club or association may have up to two Voting Delegates both of whom may vote on any issue before Council.
- \$ Only designated Voting Delegates have a vote
- \$ However, no Delegate may vote more than once on any issue (you don't get two votes if you are the only Delegate from your organization or if you represent more than one club)
- \$ Members of EOSARDA's Board of Directors cannot vote unless they are also designated as Voting Delegates for a Member Organization
- \$ The Board is bound by any decision or direction issued by this Council.

Arlo will be watching for blue hands indicating that someone wishes to address the meeting. We will do our best to make sure that all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so, please be patient. A reminder that when not speaking, please mute your microphone to help reduce background noise, but don't forget to turn it back on to speak.

To enable this Council to make decisions and to elect a new Board, a quorum of 25% of Member Clubs is required. We currently have 24 Member Organizations, so a quorum is 6 clubs. Given today's participation level, I can safely declare that we have a quorum and can continue with the meeting.

Returning to some semblance of normality next year is going to be a difficult task. For most clubs the first priority is going to be to try and get back as many experienced dancers as possible. However, given all that we have been through in the last two years, it is quite likely that there we will lose some of our experienced dancers. Therefore, recruiting new dancers is going to be a close second priority.

The focus of this afternoon's meeting is going to be a series of discussion about what EOSARDA can do to help Member Clubs return to the dance floor.

However, we also have a number of important business items that need to be addressed by Council. These include:

- acceptance of a Year-end Financial Report for 2021/22;
- adoption of an Operating Budget for 2022/23;
- the election of a new Board of Directors to take us through Dance Year 2022/23; and
- acceptance of a series of reports from our Standing Committees on the year past.

Lots to do and lots to talk about, so let's get started.

Appendix B – Meeting Attendance

Club	Surname	First name	Club	Surname	First name
Bay Waves	Gardner	Ron	Meri Squares	Shackleton	David
Crazy A's	VanderMeulen	Wendy		Mason	Lamar
Capital Carousels	Currie	Gavin		* Gravel	Michelle
	Speer	Arlo		* Rosen	Sandy
Capital City Lines	Blondeau	Janet	Mississippi Squares	Jones	Bruce
Glengarry Tartans	Lauzon	Bernie		Jones	Melanie
	Lauzon	Carole	Ottawa Date Squares	Robichaud	Jean-Marc
Got Lines	Western	Dave		Vaquette	Jacqueline
	Pitruniak	Bob	Sunshine Squares	McSavaney	Jim
Grenville Gremlins	Matthew	Geraldine		McSavaney	Shirley
	Matthew	Peter		* Kearnes	Diane
Harbour Lites	Casselman	Marlene		* Kearnes	James
	Johnson	Gerry	Swinging B's	Frappier	Roger
Kanata Squares	Currie	David	Swinging Swallows	Bateman	Gloria
	Currie	Marie		Patterson	Renton
Limestone Dancers	Brown	Shirley	Village Squares	Forsyth	Gabrielle
Lockits	Clarke	Geoff		Forsyth	Bob
SVSRDA	Casselman	Gerald	EOSARDA	* Chesnais	Jacques
	Warriner	Lee	Ottawa Area Callers Association	Crawford	Brian

Appendix C – 2021-1022 Financial statements

EOSARDA Treasurer's Report

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity since 01 July 2021 and including results up to 04 May 2022. The EOSARDA Board and Council of Dancers were optimistic that dancing would resume in January of this year but that did not happen for most clubs. Thus, there was little financial activity for the year. What you see in this report will be very close to our year-end results. Again, print this report in landscape mode.

2. Financial compliance

No change.

3. Online access to bank account

The next step with online bank account access will be to setup the acceptance of e-payments. I will work on this during the summer and report back. The primary motivation for this is to allow *Square Time* advertisers who do not use cheques to easily pay their advertising bills. No change since last report.

4. Streamlining EOSARDA financial management

During the past 2 years the Treasurer and Registrar have been working together to make the management of cheques received more efficient. In the past the Treasurer and Registrar were close enough together that cheques received by the Registrar could be passed to the Treasurer for deposit. Now the two are 70km apart and who knows what the future will be so physical passing of cheques is not practical.

We have enabled to the Registrar to make deposits at the nearest TD Bank branch and that has worked much better. The next step will be to obtain an EOSARDA TD Bank card for the Registrar so she can:

- identify herself and the account at a TD Bank branch when making a deposit
- make TD ATM deposits
- make mobile deposits

This will happen at a convenient time in the future. No change since last report.

Bob Pitruniak
Treasurer, EOSARDA

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request to secretary@eosarda.ca .

Appendix D – Registrar's Report

Some Clubs have been dancing and some intend to dance over the summer. Please remember that if there is anyone that was not registered with an EOSARDA Club in 2019/2020 their names will have to be provided to registrar@eosarda.ca in order that they can be included in the list of names to Federation for insurance purposes.

The Canadian Society of Square and Round Dancing intends to meet in July it is expected that they will decide as to whether or not the fees will increase for the 2022/2023 dance season. As soon as that information is confirmed the Clubs will be advised accordingly.

We are hopeful that there will be a 2022/2023 dance season in which case registration packages will be sent out late summer to all current EOSARDA clubs. Please ensure that the registrar has the most current contact information so that the packages are received by the correct person(s).

Appendix E – Swing into Spring



Swing into Spring is an Eastern Ontario dance weekend established under the joint auspices of the Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association (EOSARDA) and the Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association (SVSRDA). The event is planned each year for the weekend of the first Sunday in May. The weekend begins with Swing into Spring (which ends at noon on Sunday) and is followed immediately by the Seaway Valley Mother's Day Dance.

Swing into Spring is organized each year by a volunteer committee. The committee strives for at least 6 members providing equal representation from both EOSARDA and SVSRDA clubs. Recent events have seen a decline in committee members. Current committee members are:

Gloria Bateman (Swinging Swallows)
Gremlins)

Kathleen Pitruniak (Grenville

Bob Pitruniak (Grenville Gremlins)

Arlo Speer, Secretary (Capital Carousels)

Although the committee has initiated plans for *Swing into Spring* 2023, additional committee members are required to make next year's event a success. In addition to attracting a Treasurer and Registrar, we need a replacement member(s) who will liaise with the SVSRDA. Committee workload involves approximately 4 meetings over the course of the year – meetings have been held virtually for the past few years and it is likely that all (or at least most) future meetings will continue to be virtual meetings.

Those interested in participating in the planning and operation of *Swing into Spring* going forward are invited to contact any of the existing committee members or to reach out to Secretary@swingintospring.ca.

Swing into Spring 2023 is planned for the weekend of 05 to 07 May 2023. We have been able to bring back leaders who have served our dancers well in previous years: **Tom Miller** and **Ken Ritucci** have agreed to get us square dancing for the weekend while **JL and Linda Pelton** will keep round dancers active.

Of course, all of the best laid plans will depend on how COVID progresses and whether suitable venues will once again rent space for our dance weekend!

Aside from stepping forward and offering to help the committee, we ask everyone to join us in keeping fingers crossed for 2023!



<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottSIS/>

www.swingintospring.ca

Appendix F – Publicity Committee

Since the last Council of Dancer's meeting in November 2021, the Publicity Committee has lost one of its valued members. Carole Lauzon has stepped down from the committee to pursue other endeavours. We will miss her energy and great ideas. Gloria and I often had trouble keeping up with Carole and everything she wanted to do to promote square, line and round dancing in Eastern Ontario. We were lucky to have her on our team!

EOSARDA Website – Potential dancer pages

The Publicity Committee, with Bob Summers of the EOSARDA Technology Committee, have developed a series of new pages for the Eodance.ca website aimed at sharing information with people who might be interested in dancing. The pages can be accessed by clicking on the yellow box on the eodance.ca home page. They reflect the new EOSARDA colour scheme and provide valuable information on our activities. A huge thank you to Bob Summers for his critical help in getting this information up and running as we look to start recruiting for the fall. You can include the link to these pages in your advertising, Facebook pages and on your websites.

Demonstration in Kingston – August 21, 2022

The Publicity Committee has secured Confederation Park (and the covered platform) in Kingston for a demonstration on Sunday, August 21 from 10:00 am to 3:30 p.m. The format will be similar to that of the demonstration in the Byward Market in summer 2019. We will be looking for volunteer callers, cuers and leaders as well as lots of square, round and line dancers to come out and encourage the public to dance with us. We will have an information booth with pamphlets from all EOSARDA Clubs who want to provide them. This is a great location to promote dancing in Kingston, Napanee, Belleville and even Prescott. We will be sending out more information as the time draws closer and asking for volunteers. Please put August 21 on your calendars and plan to join us in Kingston on the waterfront.

International Plowing Match – September 20-24, 2022 – Kemptville

This event attracts some 50,000 spectators and participants. The EOSARDA Publicity Committee has applied to provide demonstrations on the event stages throughout the five days. We will also be applying for an information booth. We are waiting for the release of the application form. We should know about the demonstrations by late May, early June.

This event will require LOTS and LOTS of volunteers, both to assist at the information booth (8 am to 10pm for 5 days) and any demonstrations. OSRDF has approved funding to assist with costs provided we offer information from clubs across Ontario. No problem there! And hopefully we will attract volunteers from across the province as well. Again, as soon as we have confirmed information, we will reach out to all dancers and clubs to lend a hand. This is a unique opportunity we need to seize! If anyone would like to help with organization of this event, please contact Gloria and Lamar at publicity@eosarda.ca.

EOSARDA Bulletins – Looking Forward

The Publicity Committee has sent out its first "Looking Forward" ebulletin. We plan on several more as clubs gear up for September. We are looking for great ideas from everyone that we can share to attract new dancers –or get previous ones back. After two years of being cooped up – Let's Get Social and Dance! Please send any ideas you have to publicity@eosarda.ca.

Lamar Mason and Gloria Bateman
EOSARDA Publicity Committee

Appendix G – Club Liaison

Committee Members: *(with portfolios indicated)*

1. **Helgi Goodman** - *(Dance Dangle Program)*
 2. **Helen MacCallum** - *(Recognition of Major Anniversaries & Accomplishments)*
 3. **Geoff Clarke *** - *(Committee Chair & Scheduling Conflicts)*
 4. **Teena Clarke** - *(New Dancer Celebrations)*
 5. **Jacques Chesnais*** - *(COVID Related Expenses Subsidy)*
 6. **Jacques Chesnais*** - *(New Dancer Recruitment Subsidies & Federation Recruitment Subsidies)*
 7. **Ron Gardner*** - *(Dance Leader Training Subsidies)*
 8. **Gerry Johnson*** - *(Editor & Publication of Square Time Magazine)*
- (* are also Board members, while Teena, Helen & Helgi are our committee volunteers!)*

Preamble:-

The **Club Liaison** Committee is made up of 7 volunteers, 4 of which also serve on the EOSARDA Board with Teena, Helen & Helgi volunteering to help us with the 'tasks at hand'! **Thank You!** As noted above, each member has the responsibilities as shown in parentheses for the 2021-2022 dance year, and although there hasn't been much of any dancing action in the past year, we're all hoping for a complete 'return to dancing' this coming fall. So in anticipation of such, **this report to Council is a complete & current update of this Committees' activities!**

As we go forward to the 2022-2023 dance year, fiscal changes to our programs are reflected in the 2022-2023 Budget that is being presented to this Council later in this meeting.

To note first is that two of our volunteers will NOT be returning for the 2022-2023 dance season and **those positions will need to be filled.** (New Dancer Celebrations & Dance Dangle Program). **THANK YOU to Helgi Goodman & Teena Clarke for all their work with Club Liaison since May 2019.**

The rest of the committee will continue for the 2022-23 dance year – Thank you for being willing to continue in your current role(s)

- **Geoff Clarke, Chair**

PORTFOLIO & PROGRAM REVIEWS

1) EOSARDA's Dance Dangle Program - *Helgi Goodman*

Currently dormant, the Dance Dangle program will 're-activate' once regular dancing begins. Details of the program can be found in Chapter 24 of the EOSARDA Procedures Manual. *We will need a new volunteer to manage this program for 2022-2023.*

2) Recognition of Major Anniversaries & Accomplishments - *Helen MacCallum*

As this program has also been dormant in the last 2 years, it will also resume during the 2022-2023 season, ensuring that the major milestones of clubs, club members & club leaders do not go unrecognized.

3) Scheduling Conflict Policy - *Geoff Clarke*

No dances, no dancing, no conflicts & no problems!!

4) New Dancer Celebrations - Teena Clarke

Anticipating that all clubs will likely be recruiting during this coming year, then regular “celebrations” will once again occur sometime during the dance season. However, in the budget for this coming year, we’re reducing the funds required due to (a) an anticipated reduction in travel expenses; (b) we have sufficient CSRDS pins (60) on hand. *We will need a new volunteer to manage this program for 2022-2023*

5) COVID Related Expenses Subsidy – Jacques Chesnais

This 2021-2022 program ends at the end of June, and as of this meeting the ‘uptake’ of the program funding (\$2,000) has not been anyway near what was imagined when it was created. To date, we have received funding requests from **3 clubs for a total of \$231**. Thus, the Club Liaison Committee & the Board feels there is no need to continue the program into the 2022-2023 year as most of the previous mandates have now been lifted and any ‘protocols’ being applied are now by ‘personal choice’.

This program will be terminated upon its expiry date which is June 30, 2022

6) New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy – Jacques Chesnais

As all dancing has been suspended since March 2020, there has been no disbursement of funds for this subsidy in the 2021-2022 dance year.

At the EOSARDA Board meeting of March 20th, 2022, we had a considerable discussion about how best to ‘support’ all clubs as we ‘restart’ Square Dancing. Not only will there be considerable effort in getting our regular dancers back on the dance floor after a >2 year pause but we recognize that there will also be a strong need to RECRUIT NEW DANCERS in order to ‘rebuild’ our activity going forward & that effort will likely be started in the upcoming dance season, 2022-2023.

To that end, it was felt that our current budget of \$2,000 was probably not sufficient to provide the level of assistance that all Clubs will need in 2022-2023, and so the following changes are proposed, to not only the budget, but also to the “limitations” (as described in the Procedures Manual - Chapter 13.3 parts [c] & [d]) currently in place which limit the funding available to Clubs.

A motion was made & duly passed (Clarke/Chesnais) at the March 20th Board meeting & now it is **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL OF DANCERS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year as follows:** -

1. Total budgeted amount for New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy be set at \$4,500 (up from \$2,000)
2. Change to Chapter 13.3[c] – “Assistance under this program is limited to a maximum of \$300 of net expenses per club per dance year” (full reimbursement on net expenses up to the maximum of \$300, rather than 50% of net expenses up to a maximum of \$250)
3. Change to Chapter 13.3[d] – removing the “ineligibility” of hall rental & dance leader fees, provided these are only for new dancer recruitment and not for normal operating expenses. Open houses are considered part of normal operating expenses.

4. In summary, these two sections of Chapter 13 will now read: -

13.3[c] – *Assistance under the program is limited to a maximum of \$300 of net expenses per club per dance year.*

13.3[d] – *Eligible expenses must be over and above the club’s normal operating expenses.*

The net effect of these recommended changes will put more money into the hands of the Clubs towards the recruitment of new dancers in the coming 2022-2023 season.

The proposed changes apply to dance year 2022-23 only. The EOSARDA Board will be reassessing the level of funding and operation of the program before the Council of Dancers meeting in the Spring of 2023, based on results to that point and an evaluation of future needs.

7) Dancer Leader Training Subsidy — Ron Gardner

Because dancing has been suspended since March 2020, there has been no “leaders training” held locally nor “Caller’s Schools” held anywhere for any of our active Callers or Cuers, or ‘leaders-in-training’ (we have none). Thus, there was no disbursement of funds for this subsidy in 2021-2022.

However, for the 2022-2023 reason, Club Liaison recommends that the funds for this program be raised to \$1,200 (from \$200) for the following reasons: -

We are in dire straits for both Callers & Cuers due to deaths & retirements in recent years, along with the health & aging of our current active Callers & Cuers. We have only one ‘active’ Cuer in Ottawa with NO NEW Cuers on the radar. Similarly with Caller s - our numbers are dwindling and again, we have NO NEW Callers in the pipe.

So, we MUST find a way to recruit new leaders. We’re not sure just how that can be achieved, but we’re recommending that we support a major effort to recruit new leaders by increasing the budget accordingly.

Publication of the EOSARDA Square Time Magazine - Gerry Johnson (Editor)

We are currently working on a new edition that should be submitted in early May. This will be an online only version. We do not expect to have a printed edition until at least October.

Appendix H – Technology Committee

EOSARDA's Technology Committee is responsible for:

- establishing and maintaining eoDance.ca, EOSARDA's website
- distributing information through EOSARDA Bulletins,
- offering advice and guidance to EOSARDA Member Clubs regarding their own Internet presence, and
- managing and maintaining sound systems and hearing assistance systems for use by clubs and leaders.

Members of the Technology Committee are:

Arlo Speer, Chair **Geoff Clarke**, Sound Equipment website

Bob Summers, eoDance

Work completed during the 2021-2022 Dance Year

Although dance activities have been somewhat limited for the past years, members of the Technology Committee have been active, albeit with much of the committee's work being "behind the scenes".

Website:

While our website has been active for some time, it does require physical and mental effort by our Webmaster to maximize its benefit for our clubs and dancers. Routine maintenance of the site, management of our servers, and dealings with Internet Service Providers is an ongoing task. As we move toward more dancing activities, our Webmaster will become busier updating our Calendar of Events and keeping information current throughout the site.

This year, considerable work and effort was dedicated to the development of the "Interested in Dancing" pages – a series of new pages for our eoDance.ca website aimed at sharing information with people who might be interested in joining our dance activity. These pages are a collaborative effort between our Webmaster and EOSARDA's Publicity Committee.

Sound Equipment:

EOSARDA has available working sound systems and working Hearing Assist systems. These systems are available to clubs and leaders as needed – most recently, the both sound systems and both Hearing Assist systems were loaned for the "Veer North" event in mid-April. Technology Committee members ensure that the systems are functioning, looking after repairs as needed.

Our 2 Hearing Assist systems both use older FM technology. As technology advances, the Technology Committee is investigating more current technologies for our Hearing Assist systems. We will soon be surveying our clubs and dancers to help identify needs and suggest ways to meet our future needs.

EOSARDA Bulletins:

In addition to offering advertising in Square Time and posting information on eoDance.ca, EOSARDA operates an e-mail-based message system that is free of charge to EOSARDA member clubs and associations. EOSARDA Bulletins are intended to provide dancers with timely information about dances or related events in our region. EOSARDA Bulletins are also used to relay other information of interest to members of our dance community. Information about EOSARDA Bulletins can be found in [Chapter 25 of the EOSARDA Procedures Manual](#).

There are currently 144 subscribers to EOSARDA Bulletins and since our June Council of Dancers meeting, 68 Bulletins have been published.

Appendix I – Ottawa Area Callers Association

Since our last report to the Council of Dancers on Nov 28, 2021, the OACA has had one virtual meeting on March 6, 2022. As well we've had a couple of face-to-face social gatherings in December 2021 (Christmas) & April 2022 (Year-end) to keep us 'in touch' as we all work through the impact of the pandemic on our beloved activity.

At our March meeting, Geoff Clarke became the new Chair of OACA for 2022-2023, taking over the reins from Brian Crawford who has served for 3 consecutive terms – **THANK YOU Brian!** At the same time, John Charman was 're-elected' (??) to his 22nd (or more) consecutive term as Treasurer – John seems to have a 'job for life' – **THANKS John!**

The OACA will continue to hold its meetings 'virtually' although we're hoping that we can resume our regular (in person) meetings & workshops come this fall. Our first fall meeting will be October 2nd, 2022.

Our membership however is steadily decreasing from a high of 19 in 2012, to our current membership of 10 (8 in Ottawa; 1 in Kingston; 1 in Montreal/Cornwall). Of that 10 we only have 9 'actively' calling as one is now "off indefinitely" for health reasons. That 'lack of callers' has already resulted in one of our clubs having to bring in a caller from Montreal to call for them.

Currently we have 6 callers that are "active" (calling for the clubs that have started dancing in recent times) with the other 3 now waiting for their clubs to resume dancing in September (hopefully).

We clearly recognize that we need to recruit new callers as our current numbers have not only declined, but like you, we're all getting older and it's really not clear how many more of us will 'retire' in the next few years! Yes, we did have a couple of 'potential' (new caller) candidates at one time recently, but they've since decided to 'step back' and are no longer interested in pursuing that goal.

All of us in the OACA will all be 'racking our brains' to find a way to recruit new Callers & so, to help us, we're asking all the Clubs to 'look within' to see if you have any one that might be interested in taking up the microphone! Please let us know, as we need to have some 'newbies' to 'come to the front of the hall' and join us!

Geoff Clarke,
OACA Chair.

Appendix J – Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association

The association had their meeting on January 30th, 2022. This was our first meeting since 2019. Thanks to EOSARDA and Arlo Speer for supporting us through this meeting, before and after.

Each club updated their status as far as if they were dancing and when they will be dancing. Harbour Lites started dancing April 13th in the afternoon. The Gremlins', Mississippi Squares & Swinging B's will wait until fall. Meri Squares & Glengarry Tartans continue to dance. Skirts & Flirts met for a picnic in 2021. Bob Brown has retired from calling and Ron Roy will be their new caller. The Promenaders keep in touch, meet for breakfast and will start dancing in the fall. There was no update from the Limestones.

Mother's Day Dance was the main topic and it was decided to wait and see how the covid 19 pandemic would be, closer to May 1st. It was an executive decision to cancel this year's dance since many clubs were not dancing and the attendance would be low.

A financial assistance for each club was discussed. This would be \$100 for each club when they begin dancing again. This will be discussed again at our next meeting as to how it will be allocated to each club.

Our next meeting will be in September. Date to be confirmed.

Marlene & Gerald Casselman
President

Appendix K – Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

Treasurer Report:

OSRDF is in good financial shape. No big expenses. No money coming in from registrations since Society is covering insurance again this dance year.

Membership:

Society is picking up the tab for 2021-2022. May have to increase cost for next year. Insurance costs have gone up considerably. New dancers will have to be added to the list for insurance purposes but no money will be collected for 2022, \$10,500 bill.

Notification of Trillium Awards:

A discussion took place regarding how recipients are notified of their Trillium award. It was felt the current process of sending an email to the nominators and then snail mail to advise the recipients wasn't working. It was decided that notifications would be a 3-step process...

Recipients would first receive a telephone call from the Federation president congratulating the recipient on receiving the award and advising them a formal letter would be sent. An email would then be sent to recipients, nominators and association presidents. The formal letter would then follow.

Licence plate logo:

It was suggested that the Associations be sent a message that they could circulate to the Clubs who in turn could inform the dancers. ACTION: Dan (Ontario Federation President) to send out a message to the Associations.

Zoom Licence - Renewed shared with society, they paid.
Available for any club who needs it.

New Brunswick Ad – Souvenir Book

Federation, society putting in an add 100\$ 1 page ad

Future Board Meeting – AGM May 29 - Time: 1:30

Next Federation Meeting - Aug 28 7:00 PM

PR – Funding for IPM (International Plowing match)

Motion - Cost of booth total & cost of rental of booth and printing. \$800 to cover the cost.
All associations should be sending representatives.

Ronald Gardner
EOSARDA Rep to Federation

Appendix L – 2022-2023 Budget

Budget Assumptions

for budget dated 2022-03-21

1 General

Dancing will resume in September 2022. As a starting estimate, we will have 70% of 2019 dancers returning and paying fees.

Society paid for insurance fees for EXISTING DANCERS for calendar 2022. EOSARDA will collect insurance fees for all dancers for calendar 2023.

2 Revenue

EOSARDA Dues: EOSARDA will collect fees this dance year.

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

SquareTime: There will be “normal” income here.

3 Expenses

OSRDF Dues: There will be fees to remit to OSRDF.

Board meetings: We pay for Zoom again for EOSARDA Board and Council of Dancers meetings. In case we decide to have one or more in-person meetings there is a small amount added to cover hall rental.

Publicity: Publicity will promote the 2022/23 dance year. EOSARDA will have a booth at the International Plowing Match to be held in the Kemptville area in September 2022.

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

Repairs etc: Carry forward of past amount.

Leader training: We will budget for a leader training initiative sometime in calendar 2023.

SquareTime: We will print hard copies beginning in fall 2022.

Dance expenses: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance in 2023.

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request to secretary@eosarda.ca .