



Council of Dancers Meeting 1:30 Sunday 20 November 2022

Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** - Dave Western
- 1.1. **Confirmation of Quorum** Appendix A - Barb Englehart
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”.

<u>Clubs and associations</u>	Total Member Clubs	25
	Represented:	18 72%
	Not attending:	5 20%
	Not responding:	2 8%
<u>Participants</u>	Total attendees:	31
	Voting delegates:	27
	Non-voting delegates:	4
- 1.2. **Opening Remarks** Appendix B - Dave Western
2. **Acceptance of Agenda** - Dave Western
3. **Record of the 15 May 2022 Meeting**
MOTION: Arlo Speer/Lee Warriner that the record of the 15 May 2022 Council of Dancers meeting be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**
4. **Reports**
 - 4.1. Operations Committee
 - 2021-2022 Financial statements Appendix C - Bob Pitruniak
 - Registrar’s Report Appendix D - Barb Englehart
 - 4.2. Dance Operations
 - Dance Committee Appendix E - Wendy VanderMeulen
 - Swing into Spring - Bob Pitruniak

The committee is working toward holding the event in May of 2023, including coordination with the Mothers’ Day Dance. The committee has contracted with dance leaders but has not at this point been able to secure facilities.

Bob identified the need for more than the current 4 members to operate the event. He also identified that the Upper Canada School District is imposing strict requirements for rental of school property. Some of those requirements can impose significant liability for event organizers.

Vince Guthro (Mississippi Squares) reported having similar issues that resulted in his club changing the longstanding location of some events.
 - 4.3. Publicity Committee Appendix F - Lamar Mason
 - 4.4. Club Liaison Appendix G - Geoff Clarke
 - 4.5. Technology Committee Appendix H - Geoff Clarke
 - 4.6. Ottawa Area Callers’ Association Appendix I - Geoff Clarke
 - 4.7. Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association – Marlene & Gerald Casselman Appendix J

4.8. Acceptance of Reports

MOTION: Wendy VanderMeulen / Gavin Currie that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

5. Old Business -- None

6. New Business

6.1. Revised Budget Appendix K - Bob Pitruniak

MOTION: Bob Pitruniak / Vince Guthro that the revised budget be approved. **CARRIED**

6.2. Benefits available to clubs through our subsidy programs -- Geoff Clarke

Geoff Clarke reminded the group that EOSARDA has unclaimed financial support available to assist clubs in their recruitment activities.

6.3. Update on Social Square Dancing –

Jean-Marc Robichaud // Wendy VanderMeulen // Lamar Mason

Meri Squares and the Ottawa Date Squares have both incorporated Social Square Dancing into their club programmes. Each club reports significant success, with a number of new dancers.

6.4. Trillium Award nominations for 2023 -- Dave Western

Dave Western emphasised the need to recognize our members and identified that the Ontario Federation's Trillium Award programme is one way to provide this recognition.

6.5. Frosty Fling -- Wendy VanderMeulen

Traditionally, this dance has focused on new dancers.

Tentatively 12 February – further information coming soon.

6.6. Club reports

Recurring themes:

- A small number of clubs report increasing numbers; a number of clubs report reduced numbers
- Clubs report that it is important to combine teaching with reviews, along with time to “just dance”
- Many dancers report being uncomfortable returning to dancing
- Some clubs are finding higher level dancers returning, and to varying degrees have new dancers attending, for at least a few sessions
- Clubs that have experimented with newer, modern and innovative advertising approaches report success over past attempts using “just the usual”
- Some clubs have introduced COVID protocols requiring standard measures such as vaccinations, masks, etc.
- Some clubs report difficulty getting all members to attend on a regular basis, and that it is difficult to encourage dancers to travel very far to dance
- While open houses have attracted new dancers, only a small proportion of those recruits remain active in the clubs

7. Next Council of Dancers Meeting

16 April 2023 -- the 3rd Sunday of April (one week after Easter)