



Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 Sunday 28 April 2024

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order - Dave Western
- 1.1. Confirmation of Quorum - Dave Western
- Bylaw 9.04 (a) sets the “quorum for the transaction of business at a Council of Dancers meeting (at) 25 percent of the member clubs entitled to vote at the meeting”.

	Total	Attending	%age
Member Clubs	19	13	68%
Associations	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>100%</u>
	20	14	70%
Total attendees:	24	Voting delegates:	14
		Non-voting delegates:	10

- 1.2. Opening Remarks Appendix B - Dave Western
- 1.3. Review of Agenda - Arlo Speer
- Item 5.7 was added.
2. Record of the 19 November 2023 Meeting - Arlo Speer
- MOTION: Speer/Mason that the record be accepted as circulated. CARRIED
3. Reports
- 3.1. Executive Committee
- Interim 2023-2024 Financial Statement Appendix C - Bob Pitruniak
 - Registrar’s Report Appendix D - Barb Englehart
- 3.2. Dance Committee Appendix E - Arlo Speer
- 3.3. Swing into Spring Appendix F - Arlo Speer
- 3.4. Publicity Committee Appendix G - Lamar Mason
- 3.5. Club Liaison Appendix H - Gerry Johnson
- 3.6. Technology Appendix I - Arlo Speer
- 3.7. Ottawa Area Callers’ Association Appendix J - Brian Crawford
- 3.8. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation - Dave Western & Barb Englehart
- The Canadian Society has not yet decided on the fee structure for the coming year.
- The Ontario Federation is considering further support to new dancers.
- Membership is down in all regions of Ontario.
- 3.9. Rural Youth Outreach Appendix K - Dave Western
- MOTION: Summers /Shackleton that the reports be accepted as presented. CARRIED
4. Old Business
- 4.1. City of Ottawa City facility rental rate increase Appendix L - Dave Western
- 4.2. Identification of person to complete financial review - Bob Pitruniak
- Bob asked anyone interested in volunteering to conduct the financial review to contact him at Treasurer@EOSARDA.ca
- UPDATE NOTE:** -- Following the Annual Meeting, Geoff Clarke contacted our Treasurer offering to review our financial statements.
- We are no longer looking for additional volunteers.**

At our 17 November Members Meeting, the Board plans to introduce a motion to appoint Geoff Clarke to conduct our independent financial review.

5. New Business

- 5.1. Square Time – (A) Print vs. online (B) increasing readership - Gerry Johnson
Gerry asked for ideas about print and/or online editions. For the near future, Council recommended staying with the electronic version.

When new editions are posted on eoDance, Gerry will forward electronic copies of Square Time to the Club Contacts when he sends the material for an EOSARDA Bulletin. Club Contacts are urged to distribute the electronic copies within their clubs.

- 5.2. Budget 2024 - 2025 Appendix M - Bob Pitruniak
MOTION: Pitruniak/Robichaud that the budget be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

To encourage more clubs to operate open dances, the Board was asked to consider a policy whereby clubs that lose funds because an open dance must be cancelled with little notice can have the financial loss supported.

- 5.3. EOSARDA –What we’ve done -- Where do we go from here Appendix N
- Dave Western, Lamar Mason, Arlo Speer

- 5.4. Election of 2024-2025 Directors - Dave Western

EOSARDA's Board of Directors presented the following nominees for 2024/25:

Barbara Englehart	Michelle Gravelle	Gerry Johnson
Lamar Mason	Bob Pitruniak	Arlo Speer
	David Western	

In addition, Ron Gardner was nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Shackleton/Mason that the 8 individuals be elected to the 2024-2025 EOSARDA Board of Directors. **CARRIED**

- 5.5. Call for Volunteers - Dave Western

Geoff Clarke ... will continue with Technology (Equipment)

Debbie Penny and Mary Cruse offered to help in unspecified areas.
Members of the Board are to contact Mary and Debbie.

- 5.6. Attracting dancers and dance leaders – roundtable discussion - Dave Western

- E-mail, Facebook, outreach brought in several contacts ... 18 dancers came out, 13 stayed.
- Lyndhurst holds a Turkey Fair that has potential for promoting square dancing.
- Meri Squares has been recruiting SSD dancers through ads in community newspapers (not convinced this approach is effective). Signs to hang on neighbourhood doors has been effective. Having City Counsellors advertising for them has worked well.
- Can EOSARDA create a process for supporting dancers relocating from clubs that are closing?

- 5.7. Federation Representatives - Dave Western

MOTION: Mason/Clarke that Ron Gardner, Dave Western, Barb Englehart, Arlo Speer be assigned as representatives to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation.

CARRIED

6. Next Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 pm -- the 3rd Sunday in November -- 17 November 2024

Adjournment:

MOTION: Shackleton/Clarke that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Appendix A: -- Meeting Attendance

Club	Surname	First name	Club	Surname	First name
Voting Delegates					
Capital Carousels	Currie	Gavin	Meri Squares	Shackleton	David
Crazy A's	Mason	Lamar	Mississippi Squares	Jones	Bruce
Glengarry Tartans	Lauzon	Carole	Napanee Pioneers	Penney	Debbie
Grenville Gremlins	Armstrong	Debbie	Ottawa Area Callers Assoc.	Crawford	Brian
Harbour Lites	Johnson	Gerry	Ottawa Date Squares	Robichaud	Jean-Marc
Kanata Squares	Summers	Bob	Sunshine Squares	Kearns	James
Lockits	Clarke	Geoff	Swinging Swallows	Blais	André
Non-voting Delegates					
Capital Carousels	Speer	Arlo	Sunshine Squares	Kearns	Diane
Grenville Gremlins	Cruse	Mary	Swinging Swallows	Gardner	Ron
Meri Squares	Gravelle	Michelle	EOSARDA	Englehart	Barb
Mississippi Squares	Jones	Melanie		Pitruniak	Bob
Ottawa Date Squares	Smith	Joel		Western	Dave



Appendix B: Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and welcome to EOSARDA's Council of Dancers and Annual General Meeting for 2024. 16 of our 19 Member Clubs have registered delegates for today's meeting with 25 registered participants. Thank you for taking the time to join us this afternoon.

According to our new By-laws, a quorum for the transaction of business at a Council of Dancers meeting is 25 percent of the member clubs entitled to vote at the meeting. EOSARDA currently has 19 Voting Members, so a quorum of the membership is 5 Voting Members. Given today's attendance, I think I can safely say that we have a quorum and the meeting may proceed as scheduled.

Before we begin, Arlo will briefly review the protocols for today's Zoom meeting.

(Arlo)

Thank you Arlo

Lamar and Michelle will help me watch for 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. When not speaking, please mute your microphone to help reduce background noise, but don't forget to turn it back on to speak.

We will take a 15-minute break around 2:45. Unfortunately, the downside of an on-line meeting is that you are going to have to provide your own snacks and drinks.

A brief reminder about the rules of engagement this afternoon.

Under EOSARDA's new By-laws:

- \$ Any dancer registered with EOSARDA may attend Council and speak at the meeting
- \$ Each registered club or association may designate one Voting Delegate who 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 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.

While dancing has resumed across our region, we continue to feel the aftershocks from the pandemic. We lost two more clubs this year and another two have announced that they are unlikely to start up again in September. As Barbara will report shortly, we were reasonably successful in attracting new dancers this year, but the number of registered dancers continues to trend downward.

As we move into the third year of a return to dancing, more than ever we need to focus on growing the square and round dance movement in all corners of our region. You, our Member Clubs and Dance Leaders, are the front line in these efforts. You are both the public face of square and round dancing and the first point of contact with would-be dancers.

The Board's role is to provide you with the support and additional resources you need to deliver your programs. One of the issues we are going to discuss today is what kind of support you want from your Board. But keep in mind that our ability to deliver the help you need is limited by the number of people willing to serve on the Board.

This past year we have been working with only 8 Directors on the Board, two of whom have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election. If this association is to continue to meet the needs of you, our Member Clubs, it is essential that the departing Directors be replaced. Without sufficient human resources, there is simply no way that the Board can deliver the required services to our members. More on this shortly.

In addition to electing a new Board for 2024/25, we have a number of important business items that need to be addressed by Council. These include:

- \$ acceptance of a Financial Report for 2023/24 (the current dance year)
- \$ adoption of an Operating Budget for 2024/25 (the coming dance year)
- \$ a series of reports on the Board's activities over the past year
- \$ a discussion on the format for Square Time - Print vs On-line?
- \$ a discussion on the future of your Board of Directors and
- \$ a round table discussion on best practices for attracting new dancers and new dance leaders

Lots to do and lots to talk about, so I call the meeting to order.

Appendix C: Financial Statements

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

EOSARDA 2023-2024												
	As of April 12, 2023	As of April 8, 2024	Difference Apr 2024 vs April 2023	Total Members Registered by Club	SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING	New Dancers by Club (new to the activity)				
								SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING		
NEW SQUARE DANCERS	130	125	-5	Capital Carousels		12						
new to activity 125 vs 123				Glengarry Tartans	23			3				
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	430	392	-38	Grenville Gremlins	35			7				
				Harbour Lites	22							
NEW ROUND DANCERS	0	0	0	Kanata Square	13			3				
				Limestone Dancers	26			3				
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	21	12	-9	Lockits	43							
				Meri Squares	76			19				
				Mississippi Squares	70			22				
NEW LINE DANCERS/CLOGGERS	0	0	0	Napanee Pioneers	36			10				
new to the activity 0				Ottawa Date Squares	49			14				
RETURNING LINE DANCERS/CLOGGERS	28	0	0	Quinte Twirlers	50			18				
				Sunshine Square	12							
TOTAL TO DATE	609	529	-80	Swining B 's	28			2				
				Swinging Swallows	26			5				
				Square Dance Ottawa	5			5				
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	16	12	-4	Crazy A's	0			0				
				Riverside Gypsy Squares	0			0				
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	625	541	-84	Russell Squares	15			14				
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	25	19	-6	TOTAL	529	12		125				
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE	2	2	0									
Note: Numbers are based on registration information received as of the issuance date of this report. Any new members that join after the issuance date of this report will be added.												
Issued: November 6, 2023												
Updated: November 7, 2023												
Updated: January 20, 2024												
Updated: March 23, 2024												
Updated: April 8, 2024												

Appendix E: Dance Committee

Dance Committee is made up of:

- Wendy VanderMeulen, Chair
- Arlo Speer
- Gavin Currie
- Dave Western

1. Christmas Dance and Frosty Fling Dance

Both dances were a great success:

- The Christmas dance attracted 57 people and made a profit of \$271.54.
- The Frosty Fling dance attracted 77 people and made a profit of \$286.00.

The Christmas dance was held in Prescott, which probably accounts for the lower attendance. When the Seaway Valley Association (SVSRDA) folded a short time ago, EOSARDA promised to continue holding this dance, which was a SVSRDA fixture for many years, for as long as the clubs in the SVSRDA area would support the dance. Fourteen of the attendees were from two SVSRDA club: Swinging B's and Harbour Lites. The Harbour Lites celebrated their 50th Anniversary at this dance, which encouraged many of them to attend the dance. They graciously provided two delicious cakes for the refreshment table, which was great appreciated by all!

You may wonder why the Frosty Fling, with 20 more attendees, did not make a bigger profit. That is simply because we had to pay rent for the church, when we paid nothing for the school for the Christmas dance.

We want to thank the people who volunteered to help with the various tasks that are always required to run a dance: putting up chairs and tables, arranging the refreshment table, working at the sign-in table, selling Share The Wealth tickets, handling money, greeting dancers..... In neither dance was a specific club's help requested. The word went out that volunteers were needed and more than we needed came forward to help out. It makes organizing a dance SO easy! Many, MANY thanks!!!!

Many thanks to Geoff Clarke and Wendy VanderMeulen for calling at the Christmas Dance, and to Brian Crawford and Bob Summers for calling the Frosty Fling.

2. Co-Sponsored Dances

There were no co-sponsored dances this past year. One tentative request came in, but it did not result in anything. We would encourage clubs to consider it for the next dance season.

3. Future Dances

Open Dances are a vital part of EOSARDA whether they are organized by a club or by EOSARDA. Whenever you hear of one being offered, PLEASE make every effort to support the dances by attending. Besides the great experience of dancing with many more dancers than we usually get to dance with at our regular club nights and, in most cases, dancing to a different caller, remember that if you attend their dance, they will attend yours when you decide to host one! Let's help each other out and have FUN doing it!

See you on the dance floor!!!

Appendix F:



Our new location has been reserved; callers are confirmed and their flights have been booked; a block of hotel rooms has been set aside for the weekend; a number of guests have already booked their hotel.

We're excited for the weekend!

Our usual weekend ... the weekend of the first Sunday of May ... **03 – 05 May 2024**

Our new location:

Thousand Islands Secondary School, 2510 Parkedale Avenue in Brockville

Hotel accommodations:

A block of rooms reserved at Comfort Inn, 7777 Kent Blvd., Brockville

Information about other hotels is on our website: www.swingintospring.ca

Our updated format:

Square dancing only -- the number of dancers participating in round dance workshops has decreased since the early days of *Swing into Spring*. As a result, we've reluctantly been forced to focus on square dancing only with no round dancing.

3 halls

Square dance workshops and lots of dancing

Basic, SSD, and plus through advanced

Including the Mother's Day Dance Sunday afternoon

Our callers:

Jet Roberts (Alabama),

Sandie Bryant (Chicago), and

Eastern Ontario's own **Brian Crawford**.

As always, information is available at:

www.swingintospring.ca and www.facebook.com/BrockvilleSIS/

You can contact the Swing into Spring team at:

Promotion@swingintospring.ca

Treasurer@swingintospring.ca

Secretary@swingintospring.ca

Members of the Swing into Spring committee:

Gloria Bateman (Swinging Swallows)

Joel Smith (Ottawa Date Squares)

Shirley Brown (Limestone Dancers)

Arlo Speer, Secretary (Capital Carousels)

Appendix G: Publicity Committee

Resources: The Publicity Committee has met only sporadically through the winter. After creating the new promotional brochure on square, round, and line dancing last summer for all clubs to use in their own promotional efforts, we are unsure what additional resources clubs may require. The two-sided, tri-fold brochure is available under on the eodance.ca website under “More...for clubs, Promote square and round dancing.” Clubs can download the file and print when required. You can even add your club contact information at the bottom of the middle page. If there is something specific that you believe EOSARDA could produce or provide in the way of promotional materials, please let us know.

We have customized videos for use when EOSARDA is hosting a promotional event. Clubs were sent the link to Square Dance Tech (<https://squaredancetech.com/>) resources to obtain their own customized videos.

Promotional assistance: Your Publicity Committee would be willing to help with any promotional event that you are planning. Do you need to borrow a table, the EOSARDA banner, printed business cards or brochures? Do you just need some people to put on a demo or help populate your information booth or distribute your brochures? With advance notice, we can reach out to other clubs to see if there are volunteers to help. It is important that all EOSARDA clubs help each other. Smaller clubs need help sometimes from bigger ones in an effort to grow dancing in their community. Square dancers and round dancers need to work together if we are to continue and to grow. Working together we can make that happen.

Rural youth: EOSARDA, including the Publicity Committee, has been reaching out to the Rural Youth Mental Health Collective in rural areas around Ottawa to see if we can attract youth to our activity. We will continue to work on this initiative.

Summer events: So far, the Publicity Committee has not identified any major events across the region this summer where we might be able to showcase square dancing or round dancing. We need the help of all members to find these events and have the time to plan our participation. We recently saw the closing of the Bay Waves in Constance Bay and the Opeongo club in Barry's Bay. The Ottawa Valley is an area where we hope to raise our visibility by working with Swinging Swallows and former members of the Bay Waves. Cornwall is another area in which we believe we can work with existing clubs to raise awareness. If you have an event or know of a good opportunity to showcase dancing in these areas, please let us know. We would love to help.

Got an idea? The Publicity Committee needs your ideas and your assistance. We can only do so much “guessing” as to what clubs need. Please reach out to us at publicity@eosarda.ca if you have any thoughts or would like to join the team. If you have experience in marketing or graphics, we could use your expertise. Join the committee (you do not need to be a director) and help your fellow dancers.

Submitted by Lamar Mason

On behalf of the EOSARDA Publicity Committee

Appendix H: Club Liaison

Committee Chair:

- Gerry Johnson*

Committee Members:

Michelle Gravelle

Gavin Currie *

(* are also Board members, all others are our committee volunteers!)

Updates

New Dancer Celebrations – (Michelle)

Wed. April 17th - Ottawa Date Squares / Michelle Gravelle

Thursday April 18th Swinging Swallows / Lamar Mason

Monday, April 22 - Grenville Gremlin's / Lamar Mason

Tuesday, April 23 - Mississippi Squares / Dave Western

Thursday, April 25 - Meri Squares / Barbara Englehart

Packages have been sent to the Glengarry Tartans and Swinging B's. Packages will be sent to Limestone Dancers and Quinte Twirlers. Napanee Pioneers are to let us know their preference. In total, we are expecting 55 new dancers on the floor!

New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy Program - (Gerry)

So far, we have received seven applications: from Mississippi Squares, Meri Squares, Square Dance Ottawa, Swinging Swallows, Glengarry Tartans, Quinty Twirlers and Grenville Gremlins. The total so far is at \$1942.48.

We have also approved & forwarded 4 applications for the OSRDF bursary.

Dance Leader Training Subsidy Program - (Gavin)

\$1,200 budgeted. I received a request from David W forwarded him by the Ontario Federation. David asked us to process this as if it had come the usual way. The request by Mary Thurston has been tentatively approved. I have spoken to her and we will process the application upon receiving receipts. We also got a request from George Williams. Both of these potential callers will be attending Jeff Priest's caller school in April. Both of these folks dance with the most westerly area of our area.

EOSARDA Dance Dangle Program - (Michelle)

An article was included in the December and February Square Time Issues. We plan to continue the article in the next issue. We know that dancers are starting to chat about the dangle program at some clubs! We are making a proposal to loosen the requirements for acquiring a dangle to encourage as much travelling as possible among dancers.

Association Recognition of Major Anniversaries & Accomplishments - (Gerry)

A budget of \$100 We presented a award to Harbour Lites at the Christmas dance for their 50th anniversary. We will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Grenville Gremlin's in April. Reminder again that - if your Club has an anniversary coming up; or has a dancer celebrating a dancing milestone, etc., please contact Gerry (mailto:gjohnson_2003@hotmail.com).

Scheduling Conflict Policy (Gerry) – no issues so far.

Square Time Publications – (Gerry) – new issue April is on the web. We budgeted income of \$1,100, but there was no actual. We budgeted \$700. For printing and mailing, but there was no actual. We reviewed the costs for advertising in Square Time. We will not be charging for dance related material. We will continue the current charging policy for commercial advertisements. I also want to look at potential new ways to get the magazine into more dancers' hands. I have canvassed several clubs and will convene a small task force to review the current process. I want to determine if a subscription service would help increase readership.

Report Submitted by: Gerry Johnson, Chair

Appendix I: Technology

Committee Members: -

- Arlo Speer – Chair; EOSARDA Bulletin Manager
- Bob Summers – EOSARDA Webmaster, Sound Equipment
- Geoff Clarke – Sound Equipment
- John Charman – Sound Equipment

EOSARDA's Technology Committee is responsible for:

1. EOSARDA Bulletins

- There are currently 150 subscribers to our system: 70% review EOSARDA Bulletins “often” (down from last year); 3% access bulletins “sometimes” (same as last year), and 23% “rarely” access the bulletins (up from last year).
- Please review the information about submitting material for an EOSARDA Bulletin that can be found in [Chapter 25 of the EOSARDA Procedures Manual](#) – especially, the information about compressing files and providing text from which to link .pdf files.
- If you forward EOSARDA bulletins to others in your club, please remember to delete the “Unsubscribe” link from the bottom of the message to avoid having any of your club members inadvertently cause you to be unsubscribed.

2. eoDance Website

- We continue managing website hosting & domain registrations.
- Normal site operation & maintenance continues with improvements made as needed.

3. Sound Systems (2)

- EOSARDA has two (2) Hilton sound systems available on loan.
- One system is stored by John Charman in St-Albert and one system is stored by Bob Summers in Kemptville
- Leaders and clubs wishing to borrow a sound system should contact Equipment@EOSARDA.ca

Appendix J: Ottawa Area Callers Association

Ottawa Area Callers Association Report to the Council of Dancers

April 28, 2024

For 2023 / 2024 we have 12 callers in good standing and three of our members are new callers.

The OACA schedule six meetings per dance season but unfortunately we had to cancel our December 2023 meeting due to inclement weather.

Our meeting consists of a business session and a workshop session.

Our workshops have components that are for our experienced callers and as we have some up and coming callers we are building workshops that will help our new callers build their skills.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October.

John Charman has agreed to stay on as chair for the 24 / 25 season.

Brian Crawford
OACA Representative

Appendix K: Rural Youth Outreach

The Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective is an umbrella organization consists of 13 member organizations including:

- \$ Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre
- \$ Osgoode Youth Association
- \$ Youth of Manotick Association
- \$ Youth Net (CHEO)
- \$ Ottawa Child & Youth Initiative
- \$ Ottawa Police Service
- \$ Ottawa Public Health
- \$ Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
- \$ Eastern Ottawa Community Resource Centre
- \$ South Nepean Satellite Community Health Centre
- \$ Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre
- \$ Parents Lifeline of Eastern Ontario
- \$ Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team

In late February, with the support of the Board and the OACA, I reached out to the Collective to offer a series of free Modern Square Dance lessons to their youth members. In making this offer, I underlined the mental and physical benefits of square dancing.

Our offer was initially well received and was followed up, about a month later, by a short Zoom meeting to flesh out our proposal. Again, there was a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the Collective's representative who promised to flag the offer to the attention of all their member organizations. I offered to meet with any of their member organizations on a no-obligation basis to discuss our proposal.

Since then — nothing.

At the Grenville Gremlins' 50th Anniversary Dance a couple of weeks ago, I made a similar offer to the Mayor of North Grenville and several of her Municipal Councilors, adding in an offer of a free dance lesson for the Council. Again the offer was very well received, with a promise to get back to me through the local club later this year.

Time will tell.

If you think that there may be an opportunity for a similar initiative in your area, contact me and we will work together to see what can be accomplished.

Dave Western

Appendix L: City of Ottawa Facility Rental Rates

As reported at last November's Council of Dancers, late last year City of Ottawa staff decided (without prior consultation) that our dance activities were improperly classified as being "publicly available." Therefore, the not-for-profit rate for renting City-owned facilities would no longer apply to us. This change in classification would have resulted in a four-fold increase in the hourly rental rate for the use of City-owned facilities.

At the request of the clubs impacted by this decision, an on-line meeting with City Councillors and staff from two Councillors' offices took place on November 28. No recreation staff were present. I was accompanied by Jim Kearns (Sunshine Squares), Jean-Marc Robichaud (Date Squares) and David Shackleton (Meri Squares).

Following that meeting, I received an e-mail from Councillor Devine setting out conditions for a temporary extension of the not-for-profit rate, (Appendix 1).

Early in January, while we were still working on a response to Councillor Devine's message, two clubs were advised by the City that their rental rates would be increasing effective April 2024 (Appendix 2). I immediately contacted Councillors Devine, Dudas and Brown to advise them of this turn of events. The next day, Councillor Devine advised:

\$ *There had been a breakdown in communication, and EOSARDA members do not have to pay the private rental rate.*

\$ *Our mutual agreement is on hold until EOSARDA submits their confirmation to the terms we agreed to.*

\$ *There will be a consultation process in 2024 (not sure when), and EOSARDA will be involved.*

On January 24, 2024 I sent a formal response to Councillor Devine's original message accepting the terms and conditions as set out by the City, (Appendix 3).

On January 26, Tracey McGarry, Director, Complexes, Aquatics and Specialized Services, City of Ottawa replied

Thank you for the letter you provided in response to my email of November 28, 2023 and for agreeing to adhere to the conditions requested in order to maintain your current rental rate. I will ensure this information is shared with all of the City sites that the EOSARDA currently use.

As you know, the rental policy is currently under review and we will be going to public consultation shortly to seek feedback from our users. We look forward to your participation at that time.

At our invitation, Councillors Brown and Devine subsequently attended an afternoon dance session with Square Dance Ottawa. Both said that they had enjoyed themselves.

On March 27, at the behest of the Meri Squares, the following request was sent to Ms McGarry:

As you know, as part of the agreement brokered by Councillor Devine between EOSARDA and the City of Ottawa, we undertook to advertise our dance activities as widely as possible. To help with this undertaking, would it be possible for you to designate someone on City staff with whom our clubs could work in order to have our dance information placed on various City notice boards, such as those in community centres and sports facilities, and in City newsletters?

Our request was declined. There has been no further development on this file.

Appendix 1
E-mail - Councillor Devine to David Western
November 28, 2023

As discussed, we are pleased to maintain our longstanding relationship with EOSARDA and are willing to offer Not-For-Profit rates for their dance events. This, however, is contingent upon the group actively promoting and opening its events to all City of Ottawa residents, not solely its members. This commitment could take various forms, such as:

- \$ Consistently promoting events to all residents on individual club and EOSARDA's websites.
- \$ Developing and distributing printed posters/pamphlets for display on community boards at City of Ottawa buildings (subject to staff approval and space availability).
- \$ With on-site staff's permission, using an A-Frame, Sandwich board, or Chalkboard signs during events (ensuring no obstruction of traffic or emergency exits).
- \$ Using removable window decals or clings that won't damage City Property, placed strategically during events (perhaps on the door of the hall being used).
- \$ Implementing targeted social media posts or distributing flyers in public spaces visible to a broader audience beyond EOSARDA members.

In summary, the non-profit rates will be applicable for the seven Ottawa-area EOSARDA clubs currently using City of Ottawa facilities and can continue until the policy is revisited in 2024. To further that point, part of the policy revision will include public consultation with hall rental stakeholders.

Appendix 2
E-mail advising of increase in rental rates
January 2024

After much discussion, you are receiving this email to advise you that there will unfortunately be increases to your rental rates effective April 2024 for all permits at Alexander Community Center & J A Dulude Arena.

To better align with the City of Ottawa's mandate and rental policy definitions the decision to charge the Private Rental rate, but at a reduced rate, has been made.

We will provide a reduced rate of \$33.86 per hour instead of the \$44.07 per hour and only implement the new rental rate as of April 2024 to allow time to adjust the fee the groups charge the participants; or any method the groups would prefer to use, to recoup the additional rental costs incurred."

Appendix 3
EOSARDA Response to City
January 24, 2024

EOSARDA is pleased to note that the city is interested in maintaining the longstanding relationship between the City of Ottawa and the Association and has agreed that EOSARDA and its Member Clubs may continue to enjoy the city's not-for profit facility rental rates pending a policy review tentatively scheduled to take place later this year, subject to the group actively promoting and opening its events to all City of Ottawa residents

EOSARDA agrees to respect the afore-mentioned condition and appreciates the suggestions put forward in Councillor Devine's message, many of which are already an integral part of our advertising programs. Of course, new and innovative ideas are always welcome. Accordingly, the Association has asked all of our Member Clubs to add as many of the city's suggestions as practicable to their on-going efforts to attract residents of Ottawa to Modern Square Dancing. It should be noted however, that, among other initiatives, our on-going efforts to attract new dancers already include:

- \$ a well-established web presence at www.eodance.ca with three pages on the web site dedicated exclusively to prospective new dancers;
- \$ a substantial Social Media presence;
- \$ advertising in various print media;
- \$ occasional demo dances around the city and across the adjacent region, in various venues and at various events; and
- \$ regular free Open Houses for prospective new dancers.

Collectively EOSARDA and its Member Clubs expend significant funds every year to attract prospective new dancers. This is a significant investment for an organization that is funded solely from dancer fees. Neither the Association nor any of its Member Clubs receives financial assistance from any level of government.

I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm EOSARDA's interest in taking part in the afore-mentioned policy review.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, it appears to me that the conditions presented by city staff seem to be predicated on a continued and, in our opinion, misguided belief, that the Activity of teaching and practising Modern Square Dancing is a closed activity that is not available to "everybody". EOSARDA does not agree with that conclusion.

Staff's interpretation of "everybody" appears to only include non-dancers and does not take into account the need to accommodate Ottawa residents who are experienced square dancers. We believe that "everybody" or "all" has to be interpreted in such a way as to include those several hundred Ottawa residents who have already acquired a range of dancing skills and abilities.

Furthermore, in order to properly assess the accessibility of the Activity of teaching and practising Modern Square Dancing, the Activity should be considered in its entirety rather than by looking at one or more of its constituent parts.

In the interest of being as inclusive as possible, EOSARDA, through its Member Clubs, offers dance programs for all levels of dancers from raw beginner to experienced advanced dancers:

- \$ We have a program specifically tailored to new dancers and anyone else who wants to dance occasionally with no on-going commitment:
- \$ We have a program for new dancers who want to learn just the basics through an abbreviated 12-week teaching syllabus that, once completed, allows them to continue dancing on either a regular or intermittent basis with no further instruction required.
- \$ We also offer a longer teaching syllabus that, in addition to introducing new dancers to Modern Square Dancing, allows those who so desire, to advance through the various levels of square dancing at their own speed and to continue or remain at their current skill level for as long as they desire.

There is a program for everybody who wants to dance.

Furthermore, Modern Square Dancing welcomes:

- \$ all ages from youth to seniors (as opposed to a youth program that, by its very nature is age-restrictive) .
- \$ everyone regardless of race, creed, colour, sexual orientation or religion
- \$ single dancers and traditional and same sex couples
- \$ dancers who are visually impaired
- \$ through the use of adaptive technology, dancers who are hearing impaired
- \$ through the use of adaptive measures, those for whom no-touch dancing is necessary for religious or cultural reasons.
- \$ low income individuals through our low fee structure (\$7.00 to \$10.00 per person per night)

Ottawa has a very large geographic footprint. Offering different dance locations and a schedule that includes different dance days and different dance times further enhances the accessibility of the Activity by allowing people to choose the day, time and place that best meets their needs.

While there is always room for improvement, we believe that Modern Square dancing is one of the most accessible and open dance activities there is. Through our inter-connected network of clubs we provide a safe, fun environment for everyone who wants to dance. No one gets left out, all are welcome.

EOSARDA believes that the Activity of teaching and practising Modern Square Dancing, as currently constituted in Ottawa, fully meets all three of the published criteria for classification as not-for-profit for the purpose of renting city-owned facilities.

Dave Western
President
EOSARDA

Appendix M: 2024-2025 Budget

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

Appendix N: EOSARDA Achievements

EOSARDA - Where do we go from Here?

It is said that the only constant is change. This is trite but true, nothing ever stays the same.

Change is not always welcome. It can be unsettling and disturbing, interfering with our comfortable routines and creating uncertainty and anxiety. But it can also be a force for good, ensuring that new ideas come forward with new solutions for old problems.

Nowhere is this more true than with a board of directors. The lack of turnover on a board can lead to hardening of the corporate arteries. Maintaining the status quo can become the guiding principal taking precedence over all other objectives. At that point we begin to hear statements such as:

“That’s not how we do it.” (Perhaps true, but irrelevant.)

and

“We tried that once and it didn’t work.” (Probably not accurate since circumstances change and ideas evolve.)

To avoid this happening, it is desirable for the composition of any board to change gradually over time as some directors retire and other people take their place. But the departure of experienced board members also constitutes a loss of corporate knowledge and personal experience which can make the job more difficult for inexperienced replacements. Putting on a regional dance is a piece of cake - if you’ve done it multiple times - but it is a daunting task if you have not done it before and have no one to guide you.

Ideally then, any change in a board’s composition should be sufficiently gradual to allow for the transfer of knowledge and experience from long-serving directors to new Board members.

But in EOSARDA the recruiting of new directors has not kept pace with the departure of experienced board members. Over the years we have seen a gradual but continual decline in the number of serving directors and, perhaps more importantly, a significant reduction in the number of clubs represented on the board.

In 2008 there were 26 Directors on the EOSARDA Board including representatives from our southwest, southeast and northwest clubs as well as representatives from the OACA and the RDTA. At the present time we have 8 Directors on the Board and no representation from any clubs outside of Ottawa. Two of our current directors are no longer active dancers and two directors, Gavin Currie and Wendy VanderMeulen are not standing for re-election this year.

Gavin has served on the board for the last 17 years, Wendy has 11 years of board experience. On behalf of this Council, I would like to thank them both for their dedication and long service. Their knowledge, experience and wisdom will be missed.

Losing two experienced board members is bad enough. The situation is made worse by the fact

that only one new person has volunteered to join next year's board. This does not bode well for the on-going well-being of the association.

It negatively impacts both the Board's ability to deliver the association's programs such as New Dancer Recruitment Subsidies and Dance Leader Training Bursaries and also the transfer of knowledge to new board members. I can tell you that, from personal experience, it is not easy to take on a job where there is no corporate memory and no mentors in place to ease the transition.

Prior to this meeting of Council, we circulated a long, and frankly very impressive, list of the current board's accomplishments. Hopefully you have read it. All the items on this list have one thing in common, they require someone (or some ones) to take on the task and bring it to a successful conclusion. For purposes of oversight and accountability, some of these people need to sit on the Board of Directors, but, as Arlo is about to discuss, not all do.

Arlo:

Our by-laws call for some of the work of our association to be completed by elected directors – but not much of it!

We need at least 3 directors – new Ontario legislation recognizes that it's not always easy to get people to stand for election as directors, even though they might be able to help in some way.

We need a Chair – and the Chair must be a director. We also need a Treasurer, Secretary, and Registrar – and these positions must be a director.

All other work of the association is completed by officers who are appointed by the Board but who do not need to be elected Board members.

Square Time Editor, Publicity, Club Liaison, Technology, Dances, ... everything other than Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Registrar can be done by other volunteer officers.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Dave

OK, we need some additional help and it doesn't have to oblige anyone to sit on the Board. But what kind of tasks are we talking about, Lamar?

>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Lamar

- Long list of financial and other types of support and activities to promote and foster square and round dancing, support clubs in recruitment activities, encourage dancers and leaders
- Can only be accomplished with the help of volunteers – both elected directors and other volunteers
- Will be unable to continue to provide these types of support without people being willing to step forward and take a lead role or lend a hand
- What EOSARDA does, whether directly for clubs or as general promotion, is geared to recruiting new dancers and retaining those we have. Without these efforts, dancers retire, clubs fold and our activity ceases
- You do not like lengthy organizational meetings and don't want to take a lead role: then participate as a non-elected volunteer on one of EOSARDA's committees

- Do you have two to four hours a month to help sustain dancing? Then there is a place for you on an EOSARDA committee
- Do you have tech skills, marketing expertise, are you a good organizer? EOSARDA can use all those skills
- Please consider how you can contribute and contact Dave Western or any member of the EOSARDA board

Dave

Questions or points of discussion?

What did EOSARDA do for its member clubs this year?

Between April 2023 and April 2024, EOSARDA

- Coordinated the registration of member clubs and dancers at the regional, provincial and national levels. Remember you are all members of the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society and can dance anywhere across Canada and around the world!
- Provided \$1,745.21 to clubs to offset advertising for new dancer recruitment
- Organized the Christmas Dance (57 attendees) and the Frosty Fling (77 attendees) in support of new dancers
- Offered free attendance for new graduates at Frosty Fling
- Saw the successful completion of extensive negotiating efforts between Entandem and the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society (negotiations conducted by four EOSARDA directors) to address music royalty fees payable by callers or clubs. Efforts resulted in lower fees and simplified reporting for callers and clubs across Canada.
- Lobbied the City of Ottawa on behalf of and with the support of EOSARDA clubs directly affected by proposed major increases in fees for the rental of City of Ottawa facilities. As a result of persistent efforts by Dave Western, fees will remain at current Not-for-Profit (NFP) rates until the City's final review for all NFP organizations. The City's proposal would have increased hourly rates by about 400 percent, effectively rendering it financially impossible for most clubs renting city facilities to continue to do so. EOSARDA's efforts, with the assistance of Councillor Devine, have given clubs a reprieve for now and highlighted concerns about the City's potential approach.
- Has been working with the Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective to try to offer square dancing to youth in Ottawa's rural communities
- Developed a promotional brochure on square dancing that is available electronically to all clubs so they can avoid the expense of creating their own materials. It also has a similar brochure describing EOSARDA's activities that is provided to all graduating dancers
- Maintained its website (eodance.ca) and Facebook (facebook.com/eosarda) page that keeps clubs and dancers up to date on upcoming events and provides information on square dancing to interested members of the public
- Produced several issues of Square Time magazine that allows clubs to share their good news, announce upcoming events and recognize their callers, cuers and club members
- Issued close to 110 electronic bulletins (and counting) to keep clubs informed of dance-related activities and events in our region and elsewhere
- Provided EOSARDA clubs with third party liability insurance at very low rates through our affiliation with the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society
- Recognized dancer achievements through the presentation of Dance Dangles to 6 dancers. Dance Dangles are a way to encourage all dancers to visit other clubs and attend dances
- Provided promotional brochures to clubs that requested them
- Recognized leadership and long service by dancers and callers and cuers by supporting club and individual nominations for Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation's Trillium Awards
- Recognized the 50th anniversary of the Harbour Lites Square Dance Club by presenting a certificate from EOSARDA

- Recognized the 50th Anniversary of the Grenville Gremlin's Square Dance Club by presenting a certificate from EOSARDA
- Welcomed 72 new dancers with welcome letters and CRSDS pins
- Supported the planning and organization of Swing into Spring
- Represented EOSARDA on the OSRDF board to ensure that the interests of Eastern Ontario clubs are taken into account when policy decisions are made at the provincial and national levels
- Drafted and implemented new bylaws to replace the previous Constitution and By-Laws that were badly outdated and no longer consistent with provincial legislation
- Brought EOSARDA into compliance with provincial not-for-profit legislation and regulations
- Is providing financial assistance to two callers-in-training

Things we offer but no one has taken us up on yet this year (there is still time!)

- Provide funding to current callers and cuers interested in improving their skills
- Co-sponsor a dance with a club to ensure no financial loss for the club
- Lots of opportunities to ask for EOSARDA support with a major promotional event in your area

And all this for the price of \$2 per club or dancer! The remainder of your \$10 club or \$8 dancer registration fee is forwarded to Ontario Federation and Canadian Society.