



Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 Sunday 17 November 2024

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Confirmation of Quorum Appendix A
 - Dave Western
 - Barb EnglehartBylaw 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”.
With representatives from 13 clubs and 1 association, a quorum was present.
 - 1.2. Opening Remarks Appendix B
 - Dave Western
 - 1.3. Review of Agenda
 - Arlo Speer
2. Record of the 28 April 2023 Meeting
 - Arlo Speer
 - MOTION:** Speer/Mason – that the record of the 28 April 2023 Meeting be approved.
CARRIED.
3. Reports
 - 3.1. Executive Committee
 - 3.1.1. Interim 2023-2024 Financial Statement Appendix C
 - Bob Pitruniak
 - 3.1.2. Registrar’s Report Appendix D
 - Barb Englehart
 - 3.2. Dance Committee Appendix E
 - Dave Western (on behalf of Michelle Gravelle)
 - 3.3. Publicity Committee Appendix F
 - Lamar Mason
 - 3.4. Club Liaison Appendix G
 - Gerry Johnson
 - 3.5. Technology Appendix H
 - Arlo Speer
 - 3.6. Ottawa Area Callers’ Association
 - Ron GardnerTwo new callers-in-trainers are attending OACA meeting
The group is reviewing CallerLab’s restructuring of the square dance programme. – the “50-50 List”
Swing into Spring
 - Arlo SpeerFurther announcements will be coming shortly
The date is likely to change to a week later than usual since the school is not available on our usual weekend.
 - 3.7. Acceptance of Reports
 - MOTION:** Shirley Brown/Lamar Mason that the reports be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

4. Old Business

- 4.1. City of Ottawa City facility rental rate increase - Dave Western
Clubs renting Ottawa facilities report that we are still being charged the Not-For-Profit rate, but that the rate has increased slightly. Meri Squares has a signed contract at the new rate until the end of 2025.
- 4.2. Geoff Clarke (Lockits) reported that Beckwith Township has built new facility; rates are now 41.7% higher than before.
- 4.3. Mississippi Squares, that uses the same hall as the Lockits, has experienced a similar cost increase.
- 4.4. Carleton Place has also experienced an increase.
- 4.5. Town of Alexandria offers not-for-profit organisations 5 free hall rentals each year.

5. New Business

5.1. EOSARDA Finances

- 5.1.1. Year End 2023 Appendix I - Bob Pitruniak
- 5.1.2. Should EOSARDA fees be increased? - Dave Western
- 5.1.3. Where do we go from here? - Dave Western
 - a Although some suggestions were presented at this meeting, members are reminded that an approved budget is currently in place and that, subject to an identified need for revision, will remain in place in place.
 - b Consensus appeared to be forming that EOSARDA club and dancer fees should increase in FY 2025/26. While several numbers were suggested, by the end of the meeting it seemed like most clubs would be willing to support an increase of both fees from the current \$2.00 per year to \$5.00 per year.
 - c Discussion seemed to support keeping the subsidy amounts available through the new Dancer Recruitment Program,
 - d There appeared to be consensus that our 2025-2026 budget should reflect what we expect to spend (considering actual 2024-2025 expenditures), rather than showing the largest amount the Board is authorized to spend. If this model were adopted, the Board would need authority to increase budgeted amounts for individual items if needed on a case-by-case basis.
 - e Members seemed interested in reviewing a number of different budget options before agreeing on the final budget for the coming year. The options could include a budget modelled after previous years' budgets along with one or more versions of possible spending and/or revenue options.
 - f The Board will review the concepts presented from this meeting and bring to the April meeting budget proposals to reflect today's discussion.

5.2. Help wanted

- 5.2.1. EOSARDA Board - Dave Western
Members were reminded that the April Council of Dancers meeting will be our association's Annual Meeting, at which we will elect a Board of Directors. Many current directors have been in their positions for many years and there is always a need for new ideas and more help on the Board. The time commitment is minimal.

5.2.2. Clubs wanting help with their website

- Arlo Speer

Some clubs have asked the Chair of our Technology Committee if that committee can support clubs who need support with their websites. Unfortunately, the Technology Committee can't offer that sort of support.

BUT ... if any EOSARDA member is willing to help other clubs, please contact secretary@eosarda.ca to get in touch with clubs requesting help.

5.3. Club News:

5.3.1. "All Night Veer Right" square dance

Appendix J - David Shackleton

5.3.2. New Years Eve (afternoon) --- Kemptville

5.3.3.

6. Next Council of Dancers Meeting

The next meeting will be the association's Annual Meeting.

Date and time of April 2025 Annual Meeting to be determined.

Appendix A: Attendance Record

Club	Surname	First name	Club	Surname	First name
Voting Delegates					
Capital Carousels	Currie	Gavin	Meri Squares	Shackleton	David
Crazy A's	Mason	Lamar	Ottawa Area Callers Assoc.	Gardner	Ron
Glengarry Tartans	Lauzon	Carole	Ottawa Date Squares	Robichaud	Jean-Marc
Limestone Dancers	Brown	Shirley	Square Dance Ottawa	McEwan	Colleen
Grenville Gremlins	Armstrong	Debbie	Sunshine Squares	Shirley	McSavaney
Lockits	Clarke	Geoff	Swinging B's	Teresa	MacInnis
Mississippi Squares	Jones	Bruce	Swinging Swallows	Blais	André
Non-voting Delegates					
Capital Carousels	Speer	Arlo	Lockits	Lee	Wariner
Grenville Gremlins	Cruse	Mary	EOSARDA	Englehart	Barb
Mississippi Squares	Jones	Melanie		Johnson	Gerry
Limestone Dancers	Penney	Debbie		Pitruniak	Bob
Limestone Dancers	Peters	Noreen		Western	Dave
Regrets					
EOSARDA	Gravelle	Michelle	Russell Squares	VanderMeulen	Wendy

Appendix B: Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and welcome to EOSARDA's November 2024 Council of Dancers. I hope that you will find this to be an interesting experience, and I thank you for taking the time to join us this afternoon.

To help those who may not be familiar with Zoom, Arlo will briefly review the protocols for the meeting.

(Arlo)

Thank you, Arlo. Now for a few housekeeping items.

Under EOSARDA's new By-laws:

- \$ Each Member Club or Association may have one Voting Delegate and as many Non-voting delegates as they wish
- \$ Both Voting and Non-voting Delegates may speak to any issue before Council, but, as the title implies, only Voting Delegates may vote on an issue.
- \$ 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.

We will be watching for yellow 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 invited to speak, it would be helpful if you would give your name and club affiliation. 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 a quorum of 25% of Member Organizations is required. We currently have 17 registered Members, so a quorum is 5 clubs. Given the number of clubs represented here today, I can safely say that we have a quorum.

Along with the usual reports from the Chairs of our Standing Committees, this afternoon our Treasurer will provide us with a year-end report for Fiscal Year 2023/24 and an up-date on this year's budget and expenditures to date.

We will also get our first look at the results of the Fall Recruiting Drive and the return to dancing this September.

The major item on today's agenda is a discussion about EOSARDA Finances. Should we continue with the current practice of deficit budgeting, or should we return to a balanced budget in 2025/26? More (much more I'm sure) on this later.

I hereby call this meeting of the Council of Dancers to order.

Dave Western
President
EOSARDA

Appendix C: Interim 2023-2024 Financial Statement

Treasurer Year End Report for 2023-24

Enclosed with this document are 3 reports:

- 1) The financial summary for the year 2023-24 in spreadsheet format which shows the revenue and expenses by month during our last fiscal year
- 2) The year end report which summarizes the 2023-24 year's financial results against the budget
- 3) The reviewer letter provided by independent EOSARDA member Geoff Clarke

In the financial summary,

- Accounts payable are cheques outstanding, especially after year end
- Prepaid expenses are the amounts outstanding after the webmaster was prepaid for the web hosting and domain registration fees that come to him during the year and he pays on EOSARDA's behalf. At the end of the year there was a slight balance in the account which rolls over into the current year.

Overall, EOSARDA budgeted for a loss of up to \$7,090 but lost only \$1,614.

Bob Pitruniak
EOSARDA Treasurer

NOTE: Some information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request from: Secretary@EOSARDA.ca

November 10th, 2024

To: The Board of Directors & members of EOSARDA

The following records were provided to me for review by EOSARDA Treasurer Bob Pitruniak: -

- TD Bank Statements, including deposit slips;
- A variety of receipts & statements of disbursed funds;
- An Excel spreadsheet of monthly Revenues & Expenses as reported by the Treasurer;
- The EOSARDA 2023-2024 Year End Report as reported by the Treasurer.

My review was limited to the amounts (\$) listed & various notations found in the documentations indicated above.

Upon close examination, I found that all records were clearly well documented and nothing appeared amiss, inaccurate nor false.

I therefore believe they present a true financial picture of the Eastern Ontario Square & Round Dance Association for the years 2023-2024.

Regards,



Geoff Clarke
Reviewer.

Appendix D: Registrar's Report

EOSARDA 2024-2025 REGISTRAR'S REPORT													
	As of Nov. 11, 2024	As of June 5, 2024	Difference Nov 2024 vs June 2024	Total Members Registered by Club	SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING	SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING	New Dancers by Club (new to the activity)		
NEW SQUARE DANCERS	126	125	1	Capital Carousels		17							
new to activity 121 vs 125				Glengarry Tartans	18			1					
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	372	393	-21	Grenville Gremlins	46			9					
NEW ROUND DANCERS	0	0	0										
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	17	12	5	Limestone Dancers	34			9					
				Lockits	35								
				Meri Squares	68			18					SSD
				Mississippi Squares	75			12					
NEW LINE DANCERS/CLOGGERS	15	0	15	Napanee Pioneers	36			7					
new to the activity 8				Ottawa Date Squares	44			13					
RETURNING LINE DANCERS/CLOGGERS	0	9	-9	Quinte Twirlers	62			23					
				Sunshine Square	6								
TOTAL TO DATE	530	539	-9	Swinging B's	33			9					
				Swinging Swallows	29			4					
				Square Dance Ottawa	6			4					
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	12	13	-1	Crazy A's	1			0					
				Riverside Gypsy Squares	0								
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	542	552	-10	Russell Squares	15			4			8		SSD
				Rideau Canal Cloggers			17						
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	18	20	-2	TOTAL	508	17	17	113			8		
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 11, 2024													
Updated: November 16, 2024													

Appendix E: Dance Committee

Dance Committee
Michelle Gravelle, Chair
Lamar Mason
Dave Western

EOSARDA Christmas Dance

Date: Saturday, December 7
Time: 1:30 - 4:00
Program: SSD, Mainstream, Plus
Location: South Grenville District High School
Caller: Dave Hutchison

There will be refreshments and Share the Wealth. As per last year, as a “Not-For-Profit”, cost for rental is \$0. We kept anticipated registration numbers at 50 as we may be able to attract dancers from Kingston, by including plus level. A caller showcase will be featured. New for 2024: We will have a food bank drive that was historically done by Harbour Lites. The donations will be for the Prescott Food Bank. Also special for 2024 is that there will be a Trillium Award Presentation for Gerald and Marlene Casselman. Projected revenue over expenses: \$240.

Flyers have been distributed via EOSARDA Bulletin. Visits to Grenville Gremlins and Mississippi Squares have taken place.

Volunteers have been approached to help with various tasks for “event day”. Any extra volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

1. Frosty Fling

Date: Saturday, February 1
Time: 1:30 – 4:00
Program: Basic, SSD, Mainstream
Location: St. Mark’s Anglican Church, (Fisher/Normandy, Ottawa)
Callers: Brian Crawford and John Charman

There will be refreshments and Share the Wealth. We will promote that new dancers (new since the 2024 Frosty Fling) have a free ticket to the dance. We have forecasted a deficit of \$10 based on a conservative registration of 50 persons. Last year actual was 63 paid dancers.

2. Co-Sponsored Dances

There was mention in the October square time article (Save the dates) about EOSARDA being able to participate in joint dances where the venture is shared.

Appendix F: Publicity

Committee members:

Lamar Mason (EOSARDA Director)
Gloria Bateman
David Western

OBJECTIVES

1. To recruit additional committee members
2. To raise awareness of square, round and line dancing in Eastern Ontario to assist in dancer recruitment
3. Support clubs with recruitment and retaining dancers
4. Raise the visibility of EOSARDA and www.eodance.ca among member clubs

UPDATE SINCE APRIL 2024

1. We had reached out to the Rural Youth Network to try to arrange an introductory session for youth outside Ottawa. Unfortunately, after several exchanges, no positive response was received.
2. No major event was held by EOSARDA Publicity Cttee during the summer to promote square dancing. Appropriate venues were not identified by clubs. In one case, there was insufficient time to recruit volunteers across the region to support the event.
3. The EOSARDA Facebook page was regularly updated with open dance notifications and upcoming events.
4. With the help of the Webmaster, a link was created on the EOSARDA website to a list of open houses provided by member clubs.
5. Attended the promotional workshop at Canadian National Convention 2024 in Calgary.

PLANNED FOR 2024-2025

1. Outreach to community colleges to see if we can provide square dancing opportunities
2. Continue to make clubs aware of promotional materials available.
3. Research ways to keep square dancing, round dancing, line dancing visible throughout the year, not just at recruitment time.
4. Continue to support clubs with promotional materials, volunteers, other materials as part of their own recruitment efforts.
5. Identify and offer new promotional materials/ideas to clubs.
6. Identify new events/opportunities at which to raise awareness/visibility of dancing in local communities.

Appendix G: Club Liaison

Committee Chair:

- Gerry Johnson*

Committee Members:

- Michelle Gravelle *
- Gavin Currie *
- Debbie Penney

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

Updates

New Dancer Celebrations (Michelle)

No new update since April. The season closed with 52 new dancers being celebrated within 10 clubs. Six of the clubs had an EOSARDA representative. Ottawa Date Squares and Meri Squares each have a new SSD dancer celebration scheduled for December 2024.

New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy Program (Debbie)

So far, we have received six applications: from Mississippi Squares, Russell Squares, Glengarry Tartans, Meri Squares, Napanee Pioneers and the swallows. The total so far is at \$2,713, with a liability of \$1,800. We also will be receiving one from the Limestone Dancers. Debbie Penney has agreed to handle this process. I will be working with her to make sure the updated program is successful.

Dance Leader Training Subsidy Program (Gavin) –

\$1,200 budgeted. We subsidized training for 2 callers last year.

EOSARDA Dance Dangle Program (Michelle) – An article was included in the most recent Square Time along with a bulletin sent reminding everyone of the new procedures. As of Mid October 15 forms have been received. (Last year was six). Forms have been received from Mississippi Squares (5), Meri Squares (9) and one from Grenville Gremlins. There may be an additional form from Ottawa Date Squares. Michelle will reach out to SGA signs for production. Michelle will also contact Club Presidents regarding potential to have the Presidents present the dangle at a club dance which provides an excellent way to further promote the program. The majority of the Swing into Spring dangles (6) were presented at the Ottawa Date Squares Harvest Promenade on October 5th. Six additional dangles were mailed to the individuals.

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, the 50th anniversary of the Grenville Gremlins in April. We will be celebrating the 55th anniversary of Meri Squares. 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 for October is on the web. The budgeted income is \$500, but there was no actual income last year. We budgeted \$700. For printing and mailing, but there was no actual. We have changed the costs for advertising in Square Time. We have eliminated the cost for dance clubs, both EOSARDA based or not. I also want to look at potential new ways to get the magazine into more dancers hands; perhaps a new subscription service. I have had some feedback from clubs that is very mixed.

Appendix H: Technology

Committee Members: -

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

1. *EOSARDA Bulletins*

- There are currently 147 subscribers to our system, of whom 69% review EOSARDA Bulletins “often”; 3% access bulletins “sometimes” and 25% “rarely” access the bulletins ... marking a slight reduction in the number of recipients who access bulletins “often” and a slight increase in the number who “rarely” access them.
- 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.
- If you do not receive EOSARDA Bulletins directly but would like to, [Click here to add yourself to the direct mailing list.](#)
- If you receive EOSARDA Bulletins but would like to stop receiving them, you can unsubscribe by using the link at the bottom of any EOSARDA Bulletin you receive.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



2. *eoDance Website*

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

3. *Sound Systems (2)*

- EOSARDA has two (2) Hilton sound systems available on loan.
- One system is stored southwest of Ottawa in Kemptville; the other east of Ottawa in St-Albert
- Leaders and clubs wishing to borrow a sound system should contact: Equipment@EOSARDA.ca

Appendix I: Year End Financial 2023

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity for the current fiscal year showing transactions up to 11 November. The year is just starting and we have collected most of the dues from member clubs. Please note that we have not yet forwarded the portion dues to Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation so our bank account looks more full than it soon will.

As usual, print this report in landscape mode.

Bob Pitruniak
Treasurer, EOSARDA

NOTE: Some information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request from: Secretary@EOSARDA.ca

Appendix J: "All Night Veer Right" Square Dance

– A Proposal Presented to EOSARDA Ottawa Clubs by Meri Squares

This idea came about during a Meri Squares Executive Meeting. Wendy raised the possibility of doing an All-Night dance – something she had dreamed of doing for quite a long time. The MS were discussing alternate ways of attracting people to square dancing so Wendy brought this up.

Through discussions, a few suggestions came to light:

1. Get Media involved
2. Work with Participaction to stress the health benefits
3. Invite all EOSARDA clubs to participate, but also have it open to the non-dancing public
4. Make it a fundraiser for a charity to encourage better participation
5. Dancers and callers would sign up to cover certain hours of the night
6. "All Night" would be approximately 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, concluding with a breakfast (which may mean going to 7:00 AM because not too many places are open for breakfast earlier than that...)
7. The Meri Squares approached the Date Squares about helping to promote the idea; the Date Squares response was what could be accepted as typical – many said "I can't stay up all night" and some said "it sounds like fun!"
8. Note that NO ONE would have to stay all night. People could come and go throughout the dance.
9. As mentioned, ideally there would be a sign up sheet to ensure at least a square and a caller would be there every hour of the event. (As someone mentioned, if media are there, it would not look good to have NO ONE there at any time ... although it would also not be expected to have any media there all night.....)
10. The event would have to be done either at the end of the summer so that a successful media campaign would encourage dancers to start dancing in the fall – OR – it could be done at any time as long as a "class" of some sort would be offered shortly after the conclusion of the event.

Also note that other than the Meri Squares and Date Squares, no one else knows about it. So far, it has just been an idea. If there is enough interest in the idea, then "we" (whomever that might be) would start the ball rolling with contacting Participaction, getting a venue, etc. ...