



EOSARDA Board Meeting

Sunday 24 March 2024 -- 1:30 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees:

Barb Englehart
Bob Pitruniak

Gavin Currie
Arlo Speer

Gerry Johnson
Dave Western

Lamar Mason

Regrets: Wendy VanderMeulen

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. Opening Remarks Appendix A ~ Dave Western
- 1.2. The agenda was accepted with the addition of items 4.4 and 5.7.

2. Record of 21 January Meeting

~ Arlo Speer

MOTION: Speer/ Johnson that the record be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Executive Committee

3.1.1. Financial

Appendix B

~ Bob Pitruniak

3.1.2. Registrar

Appendix C

~ Barb Englehart

3.2. Dance Committee

Appendix D

~ Wendy VanderMeulen

3.3. Swing into Spring

Appendix E

~ Arlo Speer

3.4. Club Liaison

Appendix F

~ Gerry Johnson

3.5. Publicity Report

Appendix G

~ Lamar Mason

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

4. Business Arising from Last Meeting and/or Reports

4.1. City of Ottawa rental rates

~ Dave Western

A temporary agreement is in place

No information is yet available about the upcoming policy review.

Meri Squares has asked Dave to seek a designated contact on City staff with whom they can liaise on advertising Modern Square Dancing in City venues.

4.2. Rural Youth Outreach

~ Dave Western

Dave contacted the Co-operative on 29 February.

The initial reaction was positive; however, there has been no further contact to date.

Dave has followed up with the Cooperative.

4.3. Board members' intentions about standing for re-election

~ Dave Western

Wendy ... not returning

Others indicated a willingness to return

4.4. 2024-2025 budget

Appendix B

~ Bob Pitruniak

MOTION: Pitruniak/Englehart that the budget be circulated to the Council of Dancers with the Board's recommendation for approval. **CARRIED**

5. New Business

5.1. Square Time

~ Gerry Johnson

5.1.1. Since Square Time is currently an on-line only publication (i.e., no printed copies are provided), production cost is minimal. The Board agreed that dance-related

- advertisement in Square Time will be free of charge and that non-dance-related advertisement will be charged at the rate currently shown as “commercial”.
- 5.1.2. Gerry expressed his desire to establish some sort of subscription system whereby individuals could arrange to have electronic Square Time sent directly to them.
- 5.1.3. Gerry and Arlo will confer on ways to increase readership.
- 5.1.4. The issue would be put on the agenda for Council of Dancers meeting in April.
- 5.2. Possible revisions to the Club Visit Dangle Program ~ Dave Western
Gerry will complete a full policy review of the Dangle program and present an updated document to describe how dancing with one’s “home club” is to be addressed.
- 5.3. Renewing Zoom account ~ Arlo Speer
The Board agreed that we need to renew our Zoom subscription.
Arlo will renew the subscription.
- 5.4. EOSARDA position regarding old time square dancing ~ Arlo Speer
With one or more old time square dance callers operating in our area, EOSARDA should have answers to whether old time square dancers and clubs are eligible for or required to hold EOSARDA membership. Apparently, old time square dance callers exist in the Perth area and in the area east of Ottawa.
Associated with the membership question is the question of eligibility for EOSARDA grants for recruitment of leader training.
Arlo has offered to serve as a point of contact should the caller operating in Kemptville reach out to EOSARDA. To this point there has been no contact, but Arlo will follow up as needed.
- 5.5. 2024 Trillium Awards ~ Dave Western
Nominations have been submitted.
- 5.6. How can we recruit several new Directors? ~ Dave Western
Some discussion followed relating to whether we would be more successful by attempting to recruit additional directors or searching for volunteers to serve as officers with specific responsibilities.
Members are asked to provide suggested strategies to Dave.
- 5.7. Supporting attendees at OSRDF Annual Meeting ~ Dave Western
The Board agreed that EOSARDA representatives attending OSRDF meetings should submit claims to Federation initially. Any expenses not covered by Federation can be presented to EOSARDA for consideration.
- 5.8. Annual (Council of Dancers) Meeting – 28 April 2024 ~ Dave Western
Priorities include:
- Identifying new board members and/or volunteers
 - Attracting new dancers and new dance leaders
 - Tasks Committee Chairs have identified needing additional volunteers
 - List of EOSARDA accomplishments
 - Outline of how EOSARDA has helped clubs with City of Ottawa rate negotiations
-- Lamar will compile a preliminary draft list of EOSARDA accomplishments
 - Distribution of Square Time and preference for printed vs. on-line editions
 - Treasurer’s Request for person to complete financial review.
 - Ways to increase Square Time readership

6. Next Meeting:

Board meeting: Organizational Board meeting immediately following Council of Dancers Meeting

Council of Dancers 1:30 pm – 28 April 2024 (4th Sunday in April)

Appendix A – Opening Remarks

It's been a topsy turvy year.

For most of the winter the weather was spring-like and now it is spring, the weather is winter-like.

Through it all, we have kept on dancing, although at times it felt like we were beset by sharks on all sides:

- There were health alarms over COVID, RSV and the seasonal 'flu
- the City of Ottawa threatened to raise hall rental rates significantly
- we lost a couple of clubs
- some existing clubs are struggling to survive
- we lost a lot of dancers.

On the other hand:

- we successfully negotiated a temporary deal with the city on hall rental rates
- we replaced the old Constitution and By-laws with a new set of By-laws
- we brought the association into compliance with provincial not-for-profit legislation
- we have made a start on bringing the association into compliance with CRA requirements
- Frosty Fling was a success
- plans for Swing into Spring are well in hand
- there have been a number of successful club-sponsored Open Dances, with more to come
- the mood at all the clubs I have visited is up-beat with lots of smiles all around.

Hopefully we have begun to turn things around, but the struggle for survival is not yet over. We need to stay focussed on recruiting new dancers while working hard to retain our experienced ones and the need to find and train new Callers is becoming increasingly more urgent.

Also, while I sincerely hope that most of you will agree to serve another term of office, there is a pressing need to recruit new Board members while there is a core of experienced directors to provide the new directors with the training and nurturing, they will need to guide the association into the second quarter of the 21st Century.

To that end, prior to next month's Council of Dancers, I am asking each of you to do your very best to encourage people to volunteer to serve on the Board for 2024/25. I know that it's not an easy sell, but the need has never been more urgent.

Dave Western

Appendix B – Financial

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

Appendix B – Registrar Report

	As of April 12, 2023	As of March 23, 2024	Difference Mar 2024 vs April 2023		Total Members Registered by Club	SQ	RD	LINE/CLOGGING	New Dancers by Club (new to the activity)			
									SQ	RD		
	130	125	-5		Capital Carousels		12					
NEW SQUARE DANCERS new to activity 125 vs 123					Glengarry Tartans	23			3			
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	430	391	-39		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	75			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	528	-81		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	540	-85		Russell Squares	15			14			
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	25	19	-6		TOTAL	528	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												

Appendix D – Dance Committee

1. Frosty Fling Dance

.... Was a great success. There were over 8 squares in attendance, although most times it was 7 squares up dancing – right to the end! There was a bit of a problem with the sound which was rectified when the callers changed the speakers that were being used.

EOSARDA Frosty Fling 2024						
Expenses and Revenues				Attendee Statistics		
						NEW Dancers
Revenues:						
	FREE New Dancers	8	\$ -	Meri Squares	22	2
	Non-paying signed-in attendees	6	\$ -	Lockits	7	
	Paying signed-in dancers	63	\$ 630.00	Mississippi Squares	16	4
	Share the Wealth (net)		\$ 86.00	Ottawa Date Squares		2
				Grenville Gremlins	9	
	Total Revenue		\$ 716.00	EOSARDA	2	
				Swinging Swallows	5	
Expenses:				Swinging B's	2	
	Caller fee: Bob Summers		\$ 125.00	Glengarry Tartans	2	
	Caller fee: Brian Crawford		\$ 125.00			
	Entandem fee paid to Brian		\$ 20.00	Callers & Partners	4	
	Hall Rent: St. Mark's Anglican		\$ 120.00			
	Refreshment costs		\$ 40.00	Total	69	8
	Total Expenses		\$ 430.00			
	Profit/(Loss)		\$ 286.00			

2. Future Dances

Even though we have a Dance Manual with guidelines on how to organize a dance, doing so does not need to be as complicated as the Manual makes it out to be. Once the hall was booked and the callers lined up, there really was not much else to do. I, as DC Chair, arranged the refreshments (cookies, cream, milk – not much!). I contacted Lamar to ensure she could get the coffee supplies to the dance. And in the eBulletin, it was mentioned that anyone who could come a bit early to help with set up, registration, sign in, and Share The Wealth, would be very welcome. We had more than enough people volunteering to help. There was no paperwork, no schedule of assignments...

We need to let people know that arranging dances like the Frosty Fling and the Christmas Dance does not need to be a major undertaking.

Appendix E – Swing into Spring



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 dance only

3 halls

Square dance workshops and lots of dancing

Basic and SSD 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/

Appendix F – 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

Thursday April 18th Swinging Swallows

Wed. April 17th - Ottawa Date Squares

Monday, April 22 - Grenville Gremlins

Tuesday, April 23 - Mississippi Squares

Thursday, April 25 - Meri Squares We are seeking a board member from EOSARDA for each of these celebrations.

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.

EOSARDA Dance Dangle Program (Michelle) – An article was included in the most recent Square Time. At the end of October, six applications have been received. Four applicants will receive the silver dangle where 5 dances were completed and two applicants will receive the gold dangle where 8 dances were completed. It is good to note; that all silver dangle recipients completed more than 5 dances but did not reach 8 dances. The two gold dangle recipients exceeded 8 dances. Dangles have been ordered through SGA Signs and Trophies. The successful applicants are Diane Marsh (Mississippi Squares), Joey Walker (Mississippi Squares), Gerry Lelievre (Meri Squares), Colleen McEwan (Meri Squares), Robert Milburn (Meri Squares) and Rosie Schurr (Meri Squares). Michelle will reach out to 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. We plan to have an article in the December Square Time issue.

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 Gremlins 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 February is on the web. Working on the April issue. We budgeted income of \$1,100, but there was no actual. We budgeted \$700. For printing and mailing, but there was no actual. I want to review the costs for advertising in Square Time. We have not been charging since we went to a web only version. I also want to look at potential new ways to get the magazine into more dancer's hands; perhaps a new subscription service.

Report Submitted by: Gerry Johnson, Chair

Celebrations Spring 2024

Club Name	No. of Dancers	Date of Celebration	Request Rep EOSARDA	EOSARDA Rep	Club Contact
1. Glengarry Tartans	2	mail by April 14	no	n/a	Carole Lauzon
2. Grenville Gremlins (Dave Western)	2	Monday, April 22	yes		Debbie Armstrong
3. Harbour Lites	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	Donna Plus
4. Limestone Dancers	3	mail by May 23	no	n/a	Shirley Brown
5. Meri Squares (Barb Englehart)	10	Thursday, April 25	yes		Wendy VanderMeulen
6. Mississippi Squares (Lamar Mason)	14	Tuesday, April 23	yes		Betty Goodwin
7. Napanee Pioneers	5	Friday, May 24	TBC		Muriel Brough
8. Ottawa Date Squares	2	Wednesday, April, 17	yes		Jean-Marc Robichaud
9. Quinte Twirlers	10	May 1st	no	n/a	Bob & Gail Jones
10. Russell Squares	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	Wendy VanderMeulen
11. Swinging B's	4	Friday, April 12	n/a	n/a	Joan Gaudreau
12. Swinging Swallows (Lamar Mason)	3	Thursday, April 18	yes		Jeannie Mastine

55

as of March 19

Appendix G – Publicity

The Publicity Committee (Gloria Bateman, David Western and Lamar Mason) met in February to discuss its activities for the coming dance year.

1. The Publicity Committee will support whatever initiative comes from the Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Network
2. Gloria will look into the idea of supporting a postal drop for clubs. A mass mailout in a specific area through Canada Post. Dave indicated that in the past design help was available from Canada Post. Gloria will gather the information and costs and report back.
3. PC will remind clubs that it has materials that can be printed by them for promotional purposes so no need to reinvent.
4. PC will reach out to Belleville, Cornwall/Alexandria and Swinging Swallows and the Gardners to see if it can support a special event to help generate interest in their areas.
5. Discussion of organizing a joint event with Olde Tyme and Modern square dancing will be explored.
6. Gloria will also look into cost/value of generic yard signs (bulk buying) that can have club contact info added.