



Council of Dancers Meeting

Special Meeting

1:30 Sunday 06 July 2025
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order - Dave Western
 - 1.1. Confirmation of Quorum Appendix A - 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”.
With 13 of our 18 clubs represented, there is a quorum.
 - 1.2. Agenda - Arlo Speer
The attendees accepted the 2-item agenda that was circulated.

2. Old Business
 - 2.1. EOSARDA fees Appendix B - Dave Western

MOTION - A: Speer/Mason that Motion 4.1 from the 27 April 2025 meeting be taken from the table. **CARRIED**

Prior to calling for a recorded vote on the Motion, the Chair opened the floor to further discussion on the previously-tabled motion.

MOTION (4.1 from the 27 April 2025 meeting): Speer/Mason that in accordance with discussion at the November Council of Dancers meeting, the EOSARDA fee be increased by \$5 so that the EOSARDA dancer and club fees would each be \$7. **CARRIED**

Recorded vote – all designated representatives of the voting members present at the meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

Appendix A shows the member clubs whose representatives voted in favour of the motion.

Comparison of previous and newly-approved fee”

Fee Paid by	Fee paid to	Previous Fee	New Fee
Dancers and Dance Leaders	EOSARDA	\$2	\$7
	Ontario Federation	\$1	\$1
	Canadian Society	\$5	\$5
Total		\$8	\$13
Clubs and Associations	EOSARDA	\$2	\$7
	Ontario Federation	\$3	\$3
	Canadian Society	\$5	\$5
Total		\$10	\$15

The budget was accepted as presented.

3. New Business

3.1. Swing into Spring

There was discussion about why there was no budget entry for *Swing into Spring*.

Current and past members of the *Swing into Spring* Committee explained that the event is planned, organized, and facilitated by an autonomous committee of Eastern Ontario dancers and volunteers. Chapter 27 of the EOSARDA Procedures Manual describes the relationship between EOSARDA and the *Swing into Spring* Committee.

There was limited discussion about why *Swing into Spring* operates separately from EOSARDA.

The Chair agreed to put this issue on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

4. Next Meetings

The next Board of Directors meeting will be 21 September 2025 at 1:30

The next Council of Dancers Meeting will be fall 2025 at a date and time to be determined.

Appendix A: Attendance Record

Club	Surname	First Name	Club	Surname	First Name
Voting Delegates					
Crazy A's👍	Warriner	Lee	Mississippi Squares👍	Grant	Marian
Capital Carousels👍	Currie	Gavin	Napanee Pioneers👍	Wilson	Karen
Glengarry Tartans👍	Lauzon	Carole	Ottawa Date Squares👍	Frappier	Roger
Grenville Gremlins👍	Cruse	Mary	Quinte Twirlers👍	Dunham	Valerie
Limestone Dancers👍	Peters	Noreen	Russell Squares👍	VanderMeulen	Wendy
Lockits👍	Clarke	Geoff	Swinging B's👍	MacCallum	Helen
Meri Squares👍	Mason	Lamar			
Non-voting Delegates					
Grenville Gremlins	Armstrong	Debbie	Quinte Twirlers	Dunham	David
Limestone Dancers	Penney	Debbie	EOSARDA	Thurston	Mary
EOSARDA	Englehart	Barb		Pitruniak	Bob
	Brown	Shirley		Speer	Arlo
	Hutchinson	David		Western	Dave
Voting Members NOT Represented at the Meeting					
Rideau Canal Cloggers			Swinging Swallows		
Riverside Gypsies					
Russell Squares			Ottawa Area Callers Association		

👍 indicates those voting in favour of Motion 4.1 - B

Appendix B: Background on EOSARDA Fees

It's no secret that the number of registered dancers in Eastern Ontario (and indeed across North America) has been dropping for some time. While our records are woefully inadequate, I am told anecdotally that in 1967, Canada's Centennial Year, we had 6,000 registered dancers in EOSARDA! I cannot be certain that this number is correct, but I do know that when I joined the Board in 2008 there were over 1,200 dancers on our register.

I have been unable to ascertain when EOSARDA's membership fee of \$1.00 was established, but I'm pretty sure that it hasn't changed for 20 years or more. That's because the Association didn't need the money. Significant profits were made from hosting a National Convention in 1996 and that, combined with significant revenues from large regional dances, more than offset operating costs while allowing the Association to accumulate over \$20,000 in financial reserves.

Over time, the number of registered dancers has decreased significantly, a trend exacerbated by the pandemic. We have lost almost all of our dedicated Round Dancers, we have very few Cloggers and no line dancers. Worse still, our core of Square Dancers continues to diminish. As of March of this year, our total dancer registration (Square, Round and Dance Leaders) is approximately 578 and that is a small increase over the previous year.

For over 10 years, in an attempt to stem the loss of dancers, EOSARDA, with the approval of Council, has been operating on deficit financing, using our financial reserves to help Member Clubs with their recruiting efforts. While the actual deficits incurred have not been as large as predicted, there has been an inevitable draw down of our financial reserves.

In November 2024 the Board sought Council's direction as to our future budgetary policy. At that meeting, there was support for reducing the size of the projected deficit by reducing expenditures and increasing revenues, the aim being a gradual return to a balanced budget. It was suggested that one way to increase Association revenues would be to increase EOSARDA membership fees.

The Board was tasked with presenting to the April 2025 meeting of Council a draft budget for 2025/26 that would reflect Council's directions.

The draft budget presented to Council in April included a proposed increase in EOSARDA fees from \$2.00 to \$4.00. After some discussion this proposed increase was not accepted by Council. Instead, the following Motion was made from the floor:

That in accordance with discussion at the November Council of Dancers meeting, the EOSARDA fee be increased by \$5 so that the EOSARDA dancer and club fees would each be \$7.

Concerned that Clubs not be blind sided by this proposed increase in fees, I suspended debate on the Motion pending formal consultation with Member Clubs. That consultation as initiated by me on May 1 via an e-mail to all Club Presidents and club contacts. To date, five Member clubs have responded. All five expressed support for the Motion although one club made such support conditional on no additional fee increases. No negative opinions were received.

Prior to calling for a recorded vote on the Motion, I am opening the floor to further discussion.

Dave Western
President

Appendix C: 2025 – 2026 Budget

Committee	Year End	Budget	Cash on Hand for
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Estimate		Estimate
Bank	10,000	8,000	5,500
GIC	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Cash	20,000	18,000	15,500
REVENUE			
EOSARDA Dues	4,500	7,475	
EOSARDA Dances	1,600	1,600	
Square Time			
Misc			
Interest	300	225	
Total revenue	6,400	9,300	
EXPENSES			
Operations	Bank Fees	10	
	Cards	50	50
	OSRDF/CSRDF Dues	3,500	3,450
	OSRDF Mtg Travel Exp		
	EOSARDA Travel Expenses	200	200
	Board Meetings	240	300
	Council of Dancers Mtgs		
	Office Expenses	40	60
	Badges		30
	EOSARDA Dances	1,065	1,100
Dance	Publicity	1,000	700
Publicity	Website Hosting	140	140
Technology	Repairs & New Equipment		200
Club Liaison	New Dancer Recruiting Subsidy	3,000	3,000
	Dance Leader Training Subsidy		1,200
	CSRDS Pins		
	Visiting dangles	180	250
	New Dancer Celebrations	225	300
	Square Time Printing/Postage		
	Recognition and Awards		
	Compliance fees		
	Total expenses	9,640	10,990
	Profit/loss	-3,240	-1,690

Assumptions

- 575 Dancers + clubs + assoc registering for 2025-26
- 7 Portion of reg fee staying with EOSARDA
- 6 Portion of reg fee passed to OSRDF