

EOSARDA Board Meeting
Sunday 21 September 2025 – 1:30 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees:

Shirley Brown	Barb Englehart	Ron Gardner (arrived 2:55)
Carole Lauzon	Michelle Gravelle	Lamar Mason
Bob Pitruniak	Arlo Speer	Mary Thurston
	Dave Western	

Regrets: Dave Hutchinson Gerry Johnson

Guests: Debbie Penney Noreen Peters Val and Dave Dunham

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks

Appendix A ~ Dave Western

2. Review of past meeting records and decisions

~ Arlo Speer

2.1. **MOTION:** Speer/Englehart that the record of the 11 June 2025 Board meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2.2. **MOTION:** Speer/Mason that the record of the 06 July Special Council of Dancers meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

2.3. **MOTION:** Speer/Pitruniak that the e-mail vote to appoint Mary Thurston as a director be confirmed. **CARRIED**

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Financial year-end FY 2024/25 Appendix B ~ Bob Pitruniak

3.2. Dance Committee Appendix C ~ Dave Western

3.3. Publicity Appendix D ~ Lamar Mason

3.4. Club Liaison Appendix E ~ Shirley Brown

3.5. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Appendix F ~ Arlo Speer

MOTION: Speer/Mason that the committee reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

3.6. Arlo requested that those submitting electronic documents for inclusion in our meeting records provide them in their native format, without converting them to .pdf documents.

4. Business Arising from Previous Meetings and/or Reports

4.1. Ability to send funds by e-transfers ~ Bob Pitruniak

The board agreed that our Treasurer should begin discussions with our bank to find how we can move toward being able to make payments by Interac e-Transfer.

4.2. Canadian Society Pins Tabled from 11 June ~ Shirley Brown

We will use the existing supply of pins to cover needs for the coming fall and table until our next meeting where a decision will be made about continuing to supply pins in the future.

4.3. Trillium Awards 2025 ~ Dave Western

Dave now has the Trillium Award plaques and attendant paraphernalia for this year's Trillium Award recipients.

Long Service Award recipients, the Power's and the Mesman's, have asked to be presented with their Awards on December 15 at the Grenville Gremlins' party in Kemptville. The club has invited the presenters to take part in the potluck dinner. We need presenters from both the Federation and the Association.

Merit award recipients, Ron and Charlene Gardner, are still deciding on a date and venue for receiving their Awards.

5. New Business

5.1. Committee work plans Appendix G ~ Committee Chairs

MOTION: Western/Speer that the Dance Committee and Technology workplans and associated expenses be approved.

CARRIED

Costed workplans remain required from Club Liaison and Publicity.

5.2. Dangles and Open Dances

Very few dancers apply for dangles. At the same time, we note that very few dancers attend dances outside of their home clubs.

Several board members offered suggestions for the Dance Committee to consider.

- There were questions about whether the dangle programme should focus on new dancers or experienced dancers.
- To encourage dancers (new or experienced) to travel to other areas to dance, can we encourage clubs to visit other clubs, or to invite other clubs to join them?
- There seem to be different issues for clubs in different areas. For some, transportation is an issue; for others, reluctance to move outside of ones' own club or away from the usual caller.

- The board agreed to continue the Dance Dangle programme for one more year using funds already shown in the budget.

6. **Next Meeting:**

19 October 2025 ... 1:30

Arlo will not be able to attend. Dave will contact board members to find a replacement.

Appendix A: Opening Remarks

Here we go again, an exciting new Dance Year full of high hopes and great expectations. Many clubs are already back dancing, and some have already held their first Open Houses. It's early days yet but initial indications from several clubs are promising.

Clubs may be just starting up again but for this Board it has been a busy summer:

- \$ Our Registrar has redesigned the registration package to take the new fee structure into account and has ensured that all clubs have received the new documents
- \$ An Assistant Treasurer has been recruited and is preparing to replace the current Treasurer
- \$ Publicity Committee has been busy administering the Fair Squares project.
- \$ A restructured Dance Committee hit the ground running with last weekend's Welcome Back Dance
- \$ Club Liaison restructured itself over the summer months with a new Committee Chair, several new members and lots of good ideas.

Now we wait with bated breath for clubs to submit their registration numbers. Last year we increased our membership slightly. Was this a blip or the start of a trend? Time will tell. But if the dedication and energy of this Board and our volunteers is any indication, it's going to be a great year!

Dave Western

Appendix B: Financial Reports

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

Appendix C: Dance Committee

This year's Dance Committee consists of:

Michelle Gravelle
David Hutchinson
Carole Lauzon
Pat McLachlan
Barbara McLellan
Debbie Penney
David Western (Interim Chair)

The Committee has met several times over the summer months and has adopted an ambitious work plan for 2025/26 that will see the number of regional dances increased from two to three dances, starting with the Welcome Back Dance, held this past weekend in Prescott.

The other scheduled dances are:

The Christmas Dance Party on December 6 and
Frosty Fling on February 7

The new program will require an increase in the budget for regional dances. It is anticipated that this will be offset by a significant increase in dance revenues. The details are set out in the Committee's 2025/26 work plan.

The Committee is reviewing all aspects of the planning and organizing of our regional dances including: venues, dance programs and advertising, with a view to significantly increasing dancer participation.

Our goal is to make all three EOSARDA-sponsored dances a Can't Miss event.

Over to Debbie Penney for a detailed report on the results of the Welcome Back Dance.

EOSARDA Welcome Back Dance Committee Report Comprehensive Report on September 13th, 2025

Committee Members:

David Western	Dave Hutchinson	Michelle Gravelle	Carole Lauzon
Patricia McLachlan	McLellan, Barbara	Debbie Penney	
Volunteers:	Mary Thurston	Lamar Mason	

Introduction

On behalf of the EOSARDA's Dance Committee, I am pleased to present this detailed report to the committee on the first ever Welcome Back Dance. The purpose of this document is to provide a transparent overview of the event's planning, execution, outcomes, and recommendations for future improvements.

Objectives

The EOSARDA Welcome Dance was conceived as a response to offer additional Dance Opportunities for 2025. With Dave Hutchinson at the helm, we set out with Caller insight and suggestions to make it the biggest and the best EOSARDA Dance to date. The primary objectives established at the onset were:

- To give dancers an opportunity to refresh their skills in a fun atmosphere before welcoming and assisting new dancers into the start of a new season
- To attract the most dancer as possible through a convenient location, multiple levels of dance and saturated advertising
- To have a FUN and financially successful dance that members would look forward to in the coming years

Event Overview

The 2025 Welcome Back Dance was held on September 13, 2025, at St. Andrews Church, Prescott On.

The event featured:

- Two Halls. Large hall for SSD/Basic to Plus. Small hall for A1-A2
- Event Callers, Dave Hutchinson and Brian Crawford
- Callers showcase, Geoff Clarke, Laird Green, JM Robichard, Leo Mac Intyre, Mary Thurston
- Morning Session Share the Wealth and 2 donated door prizes, Repeated in the Afternoon Session
- Unlimited supply of Coffee, Tea, Water with Fruit and baked goods
- Dancer required to bring or purchase their own lunch

The Dance attracted:

- The first dance of the year was well attended
- 83 paid dancers, 2 callers and 2 unpaid fees for a total of 87 attendees representing a notable increase from EOSARDA dances in 2024.
- We had 14 clubs' attend. A Heavy presence from the clubs on the East side of Prescott Meri Sq, Lockits, Miss Sq, SwingB's, Ottawa Date Sq, Gremlins, Harb Lites, Swing Star, Swing Swall, Glengarry, with a few dancers from Limestone, Quinte Twirlers, Napanee, Peterborough.
- We attracted one potential new dancer that walked in off the street looking for a club to join. We introduced her to the Grenville Gremlins to exchange information, hopefully we will bump into her on the dance floor.

Financial Results

The Dance generated a total revenue of \$1,599.00 surpassing the initial goal. Key financial highlights include:

- Entry fees of \$1,376.00
- Share the Wealth tickets: \$223.00
- Direct donations: Door Prizes, refreshments

After deductions for event expenses (venue, Callers, Music totalling \$890.00), the net proceeds amounted to \$709.00.

Conclusion

Positive and encouraging comments with requests to do it again next year. The atmosphere was friendly, comfortable and FUN. The callers were energetic and entertaining applauded with an end of day cheer from the dancers.

The results of this year's Welcome Dance offered both encouragement and opportunity as the committee looks ahead. The success of this Dance reflects the hard work and commitment of the Dance Committee. Sincere thanks are extended to the committee members, volunteers, EOSARDA Directors, whose collective efforts made this event possible. Special recognition goes to Lamar Mason and her kitchen elves.

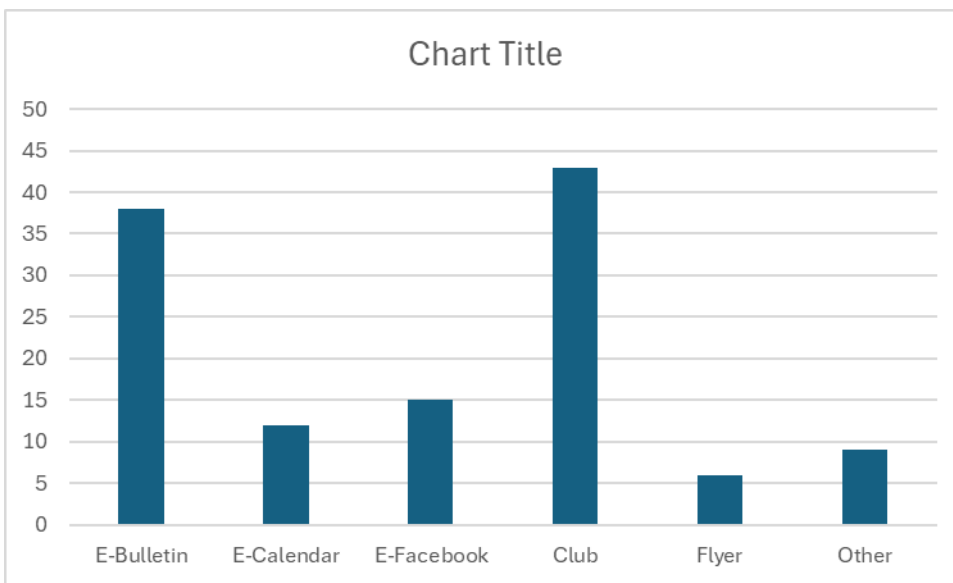
Survey of Attendees at Welcome Back Dance

At the Welcome Back Dance, participants were asked:

How did you hear about This Welcome Dance?

- EOSARDA Bulletin ☐
- EOSARDA Calendar ☐
- EOSARDA Facebook ☐
- Your Club Email ☐
- Onsite Flyer ☐
- Other ☐

78 people surveyed. There responses were:



Appendix D: Publicity Committee

Fair Squares Project

The clubs that participated in Fair Squares are the Glengarry Tartans, Cornwall Swinging B's, Ottawa Date Squares, Meri Squares, Kingston Limestone Dancers, Quinte Twirlers and Russell Square Dance. Pembroke Swinging Swallows was originally to be part of the project but had to cancel their two events due to a lack of dancers for the demonstrations.

At this time, we have not heard back from all clubs on the outcome of their efforts as some clubs are still holding open houses and do not have registration information at this time. This report compiles feedback from those clubs from which we have heard to date.

Clubs conducted a variety of recruitment efforts, some as part of Fair Squares and some separately. Most clubs held dance demos as part of their efforts but in several instances information booths were set up without dancing.

Backpacks

All of the participating clubs received at least one backpack. EOSARDA still has two left over. A couple of clubs supplemented the backpack with additional items to make them more attractive. To date, most clubs have indicated that the backpack was useful in collecting contact information.

Magnets

While 7 clubs participated in the Fair Squares project, only 5 requested magnets. Feedback from those clubs indicate that they were not overly useful, mainly because they contained generic information rather than club-specific information. The idea of distributing them widely for future reference seems to have taken second place to the interest in materials advertising current club events. EOSARDA has LOTS of magnets undistributed. These will be used perhaps for a future EOSARDA-sponsored event. Clubs have been advised that they may keep any remaining magnets for their own future use if they wish.

EOSARDA brochures

A couple of years ago, EOSARDA created a new tr-fold brochure providing general information on square dancing that has been used in previous EOSARDA recruitment activities and made available to clubs. Two clubs requested these brochures as part of the Fair Squares project. Additional copies were printed.

Costs

The cost of the magnets and backpacks was \$997.69 and was charged to the 2024-2025 budget.

The cost of printing EOSARDA's general tri-fold brochures was \$426.56 and has been charged to the 2025-2026 budget.

Inter-club collaboration

EOSARDA also worked to support clubs requiring extra dancers. While we were unable to provide enough non-club volunteers for the Swinging Swallows in Pembroke, extra dancers were recruited for the Glengarry Tartans and Russell Squares.

In addition, all three clubs in the Kingston area – Limestone, Quinte Twirlers and Napanee Pioneers – worked together on a couple of recruitment events, directing interested persons to the club closest to them. The Glengarry Tartans and the Cornwall Swinging B's also worked collaboratively on an event.

The Ottawa Dates Squares hosted a dance for all levels and all clubs on August 23 followed by an open dance for newcomers in the afternoon. Both events were well attended.

While this was not a specific goal of Fair Squares, it is great to see clubs supporting each other in their efforts to promote square dancing and attract new dancers.

Visibility

In at least two instances, the visibility of clubs' efforts at events was hindered by the location allocated by the event organizers: i.e., low traffic area at fair, no inclusion on the entertainment program, poor visibility at the event in general. This is something that is worth noting for future such events.

Summary

There was appreciation for EOSARDA providing materials to assist with recruitment. The magnets were perhaps not the best option but can be used moving forward. The clubs that required dancer support also appreciated EOSARDA's efforts, through bulletins, to assist in finding volunteers.

The goal of the Fair Squares Project to raise the visibility of square dancing seems to have been good with both information booths and demonstrations attracting interest in all instances. That visibility depended, of course, on the size of the event chosen by the Club and, sometimes, the location allocated to the club at the event in question. I am sure clubs will be reviewing their venue choices should they decide to undertake such events in future.

At this time, the number of new dancers recruited is not available. With the main goal of Fair Squares being a 10% increase in overall EOSARDA registration, we will have to wait to see if that objective has been achieved.

Other initiative -Yard signs

As mentioned at the June meeting, the Publicity Committee was looking into the cost of yard signs. Unfortunately, time (and funds) escaped us and no further action has been taken on this item at this time.

Appendix E: Club Liaison

Creating Awareness

Carole Lauzon completed a “Creating Awareness” document (attached) which we will distribute both via e-Bulletins and in the Square Times. The purpose of this is to inform our dancers of the size and importance of square dancing in Canada and introduce the 3 governing identities - the local (EOSARDA), provincial (OSARDF) and nationally (CSARDS). Thank you to Carole for not only coming up with this idea, but also compiling the info and writing the document.

Stay tuned as Carole is working on a document “Who Are the Callers – And What Do They Do”.

Visiting Dangles:

Michele reports that she has received forms for 19 dangles broken down as follows:

Grenville Gremlins	3 Gold
Gold Limestone Dancers	1 Gold
Meri Squares	5 Gold & 3 Silver
Mississippi Squares	3 Gold
Napanee Pioneers	1 Gold
Ottawa Date Squares	2 Gold
Quinte Twirlers	2 Gold

There are a couple more forms to come and that will wrap up the program for 2024-25 dance season.

Last year we paid \$10 per dangle. We do NOT need the ring and that will save us \$2.00 - 3 bucks based on my discussion last year. I have sent a new request for a quote to SGA signs. We do need to order more and expect the cost will be \$180 - 200 for an expense? (20 x \$8 plus tax however Michelle is trying to source a cheaper vendor)

Square Time

Gerry Johnson continues to be editor and has called for articles to be submitted by September 30

Recruitment Expenses

Information and requests for submissions will be sent out by mid-October

Society Pins

There currently are only 50 pins in stock. Our last order of pins from CSRDS was in March 2023. 125 pins at \$4.00 each plus \$20 shipping for a total of \$520.

Michelle estimates that we will need 25 pins each December for SSD graduates and 75 pins each spring for the spring graduations. Of course, this number could fluctuate as it depends on how many new dancers graduate. With these estimates it appears we will need to order at least 75 pins in January for an estimated cost of \$350 – 375.

DID YOU KNOW that YOU and your dance club are members of a **vast** not for profit square & round dance community?

Creating Awareness

Brought to you by the EOSARDA Club Liaison Committee

Note: the following is a short summary only. For **more info** visit the posted website links below.

Your home base...



EOSARDA <https://eodance.ca/>

EOSARDA is our regional organization supporting clubs in Eastern Ontario. Our goal is to promote dancing as a healthy, friendly, social activity. We support clubs with recruitment of new dancers, Caller training and numerous other endeavours. Locally, your Association coordinates a variety of activities including sponsoring three EOSARDA open dances as opportunities to mingle with dancers from ~20 EOSARDA clubs. **Association Membership ≈578**

OSARDF Our Mission <https://squaredance.on.ca/about/>

To encourage the growth and advancement of the square and round dance movement within Ontario by providing assistance in the organization, development, and promotion of Clubs and Associations that have been formed, encourage the development of square and round dance callers, cuers and leaders, and to promote the square and round dance movement in Ontario. Financial programs to assist if required. **Federation**

Membership ≈1,530



CANADIAN SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE SOCIETY

CSARDS Our Mission <https://csrds.ca/>

As a central focal point for the Canadian square and round dance movement, it supports worthwhile projects that further square and round dancing in Canada. We also help plan and co-ordinate the biennial National Square & Round Dance Convention, which attracts dancers from across North America and the world. **Society Membership ≈4,556**

Appendix F: Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

Dance clubs and regional associations across Ontario are spooling up for the coming dance year. The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation is no different, getting ready for the coming dance year.

The biggest federation project underway is a review of the federation's constitution and by-laws, to bring our federation in line with current Ontario legislation for not-for-profit corporations. (This is the same exercise EOSARDA completed a while back.) A project team consisting of Dave Western, Arlo Speer, and Gerry Gregoire (Toronto & District) has started work on the update and is preparing recommendations for the Federation board.

At the last federation board meeting, there was discussion about the need for a federation newsletter. One suggestion was to assign a federation director to the role of Newsletter Editor, charged with creating a regular federation publication. Another suggestion was that, rather than creating another newsletter, federation should (1) provide regional associations with information about province-wide or national issues, and (2) facilitate the distribution of regional newsletters throughout all regional associations. No decision has been made but federation director Gerry Gregoire is to reach out to newsletter editors in the regional associations for further input.

Appendix G: Committee Work Plans

Dance Committee

Dance Committee intends to plan, organize and run three Regional Dances in 2025/26. All three of these dances are forecast to be bigger events than either of the two regional dances that were held in 2024/25.

Executing this plan will require an increase in the committee's operating budget. However, it is anticipated that the increased costs will be offset by greater revenues than previously predicted.

Dance Committee is requesting Board approval of the following budgetary changes:

Increase approved expenditures for EOSARDA Dances from \$1,100 to \$2,700

Increase forecast revenues from EOSARDA dances from \$1,600 to \$4,000

Net result, an increase in estimated profits from \$500 to \$1,300

Proposed Regional Dance Program 2025/26

A) The Welcome Back Dance

Held on Saturday, September 13, 2025 - Morning 10:30 - 1:00 Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 425 Center Street, Prescott, ON

Dance Program - Graduate Basic/SSD, Mainstream, Plus, A1 and A2

Callers - Brian Crawford and David Hutchinson

Budget (Actual)

Expenses

Hall rental	\$355.00
Caller fees	\$400.00
Entandem fee	\$ 25.00
Share the wealth	\$110.00
Refreshments	\$
Total	\$890.00

Revenues

Dancer fees	\$1,376.00
Share the Wealth	\$ 223.00
Total	\$1,599.00
Profit	\$ 709.00

B) The Christmas Dance Party

Date and Time - December 6, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Venue - to be determined

Dance Organizing Committee - to be determined

Dance Budget

Estimated Expenses	\$ 900.00
Estimated Revenues	\$1,200.00
Estimated profit	\$ 300.00

C) Frosty Fling

Date and Time - tentatively scheduled February 7, 2026

Venue - to be determined

Dance Organizing Committee - to be determined

Dance Budget

Estimated Expenses	\$ 900.00
Estimated Revenues	\$1,200.00
Estimated profit	\$ 300.00

Publicity

Club Liaison

Technology

Essentially, Technology plans to continue its traditional ongoing work that includes:

Zoom account – Arlo Speer, Committee Chair

Projected cost \$226.00 (Licence fee)

Continue making Zoom available as long as a demand for online meetings remains

eoDance.ca website – Bob Summers, volunteer

Projected cost \$150.00 (website hosting and domain registration)

Operation and maintenance of the current system is not proposed to change significantly over the short term.

The committee will explore alternate formats and platforms as new needs or opportunities become apparent.

EOSARDA Bulletins – Arlo Speer, Committee Chair

Projected cost \$ 0.00

Operation and maintenance of the current system is not proposed to change in the short term.

Sound systems for loan – Geoff Clarke, John Sharman, Bob Summers – volunteers

Projected cost \$200.00 (maintenance)

The committee will review the utilisation and need for these sound systems with a view to a possible recommendation to the Board.