



**EOSARDA Board Meeting**  
Sunday 15 February 2026 – 1:30 pm  
Via Zoom

**Attendees:**

Shirley Brown	Barb Englehart	Michelle Gravelle	Dave Hutchinson
Gerry Johnson	Debbie Penny	Bob Pitruniak	Arlo Speer
Mary Thurston	Dave Western		

**Regrets:** Ron Gardner Lamar Mason

1. Call to Order
  - 1.1. Opening Remarks Appendix A ~ Dave Western
2. Review of Past Records and e-mail decisions ~ Arlo Speer
  - 2.1. 19 October 2025 Board Meeting
  - 2.2. 28 October Special Board Meeting
    - 2.2.1. **MOTION** Speer/ Englehart that the records of the 19 and 28 October 2025 board meetings be approved as presented **Deferred until we confirm the version of the record.**
  - 2.3. 14 December 2025 Council of Dancers Meeting
    - 2.3.1. **MOTION** Speer/Gravelle that the record of the 14 December 2025 Council of Dancer meeting be accepted as presented **CARRIED**
  - 2.4. Confirmation of e-mail vote to advertise in the national convention's programme brochure.
    - 2.4.1. **MOTION** Pitruniak/Johnson that board confirms the e-mail decision to task the Publicity Committee with arranging an advertisement in the Convention Booklet for the 2026 National Convention in Penticton, B.C. **CARRIED**  
  
A draft of the advertisement is to be circulated to Board for review and comments before being submitted. The advertisement should include material promoting EOSARDA.
3. Committee Reports
  - 3.1. Financial Appendix B ~ Mary Thurston
    - 3.1.1. Transition to new Treasurer ~ Bob Pitruniak & Mary Thurston  
Transition is now complete. Mary is now the Treasurer with Bob as Director. The Board expressed its thanks to Bob for his service as Treasurer.
  - 3.2. Registrar Appendix C ~ Barb Englehart  
Registrar's report to be amended to reflect total number of registered dancers as of the report's date.
  - 3.3. Dance Committee Appendix D ~ Dave Western
  - 3.4. Club Liaison Appendix E ~ Shirley Brown
  - 3.5. **MOTION** Brown/Hutchinson that the reports be accepted. **CARRIED**
4. Business Arising from Previous Meetings and/or reports
  - 4.1. Trillium Awards ~ Dave Western  
All 2025 Trillium recipients in our region have received their awards. Deadline for submitting 2026 nominations to EOSARDA is 01 March.

4.2. Interact e-Transfer Status (19 October, Item 4.1) ~ Bob Pitruniak  
Most banks do not accommodate e-transfers from the account when more than one signatory is required. Several board members suggested we should move away from requiring two signatories for withdrawals. Mary is to draft a proposal for a single signatory for our bank account and associated e-transfer procedures.

4.3. Committee Work Plans ~ Dave Western  
Publicity work plan needs to be updated.

4.4. Updating our Website (14 December 3.5) Appendix F ~ Arlo Speer

The following suggestions were offered during the meeting:

- Remove requirement for compressing document files
- Finding a way for multiple people to be able to post material on website
- Explore the possibility issuing “reminder” EOSARDA Bulletins in advance of advertised events.
- List club opening nights, open houses, and special events on the Calendar of Events.
  - Arlo mentioned that in the past we did list various regular club activities – the result was a very cluttered calendar.
  - Club Liaison will reach out to clubs asking them to provide information about such events.
  - Arlo asked that Technology be able to review the message before it goes out to make sure that what is asked for is something Technology can provide.

4.5. Canva Access (14 December 5.2) ~ Arlo Speer

Arlo will continue to assist Lamar in her absence.

4.6. EOSARDA’s role in New Dancer Celebrations  
(14 December 5.4.2) ~ Shirley Brown

The consensus was that EOSARDA should continue to be involved in new dancer celebrations to help dancers better understand the services EOSARDA, the Ontario Federation and the Canadian Society can offer.

Michelle will explore costs of various dangles (e.g., for new dancers, angels, and others).

## 5. New Business

5.1. Estimated committee revenues and expenses ~ Committee Chairs  
Committee Chairs advised Mary of needs for the coming year.

5.2. Preliminary Discussion 2026-2027 Budget Appendix G ~ Mary Thurston

5.3. Fees for Teen Dancers Appendix H ~ Dave Western

Both the Ontario Federation and Canadian Society waive fee for dancers under 19 years of age. The EOSARDA fee structure provides no basis for charging a lower rate for young dancers.

One club has already paid for young dancers and is now asking for a refund.

**MOTION:** Speer / Hutchinson that (a) we revise the EOSARDA fee structure to show free membership for dancers under 19 years of age effective 01 September 2026; and (b) as special consideration, we reimburse the dancers from Rideau Canal Cloggers and Quinte Twirlers that have already paid a membership fee for

the current dance year and deduct the \$6/dancer over payment from our next submission to the Ontario Federation. **CARRIED**

Appendix H (attached) has been updated to reflect the revised fee structure.

5.4. Preparation for Council of Dancers Meeting ~ Dave Western  
Deferred to next meeting

6. Next Meeting(s)  
Board Meeting 15 March 2026 1:30  
Council of Dancers 19 April 2026 1:30

## Appendix A: Opening Remarks

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven

Nowhere is this more true than it is for Eastern Ontario's annual dance season.

While it seems like Dance Year 2025/26 has only just begun, already we as a Board are moving from the beginning of a new dance season towards the end of what is quickly becoming the old dance season

- \$ Dance Committee has wrapped up this year's Regional Dance Program;
- \$ Club Liaison is wrapping up this year's New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy Program and is turning its attention to the Dance Dangle Visitor program and the recognition of significant club anniversaries;
- \$ Publicity is considering ways to promote Modern Square Dancing over the summer months and how best to support Member Clubs' recruitment drives for 2026/27;
- \$ While there may still be a few stray memberships to process, for our Registrar the bulk of her annual workload is behind her;
- \$ Planning for this year's AGM and the election of a new Board of Directors is already underway; and
- \$ The Treasurer's attention is turning towards putting together an Operating Budget for 2026/27

But while we can see the end of the current Dance Year from here, we aren't there yet. There's still lots to do and lots to talk about, so let's get to it.

Dave Western

## Appendix B: Financial Statement 2025-2026

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request to: [Secretary@EOSARDA.ca](mailto:Secretary@EOSARDA.ca)

# Appendix C: Registrar's Report

Updated: February 14, 2026

	As of Mar 21, 2025	As of Nov 24, 2025	As of Feb 8, 2026	Difference from Nov 2025 to Feb 2026	Total Members Registered by Club			New Dancers by Club (new to the activity)		
					SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING	SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING
NEW SQUARE DANCERS	149	134	144	10	Capital Carousels	14				
new to activity 119 as of Feb 8, 2026					Glengarry Tartans	22		7		SSD
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	375	384	378	-6	Grenville Gremlins	49		13		
NEW ROUND DANCERS	0	0	0	0	Limestone Dancers	38		12		
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	17	14	14	0	Lockits	31				
					Meri Squares	79		21		SSD
					Mississippi Squares	70		7		
NEW LINE DANCERS/CLOGGERS	0	20	16	-4	Napanee Pioneers	31		5		SSD
new to the activity 16					Ottawa Date Squares	59		16		SSD
RETURNING LINE DANCERS/CLOGGERS	15	8	6	-2	Quinte Twirlers	70		21		
TOTAL TO DATE	556	560	558	-2	Swinging B's	41		9		
					Swinging Swallows	16		1		SSD
					Square Dance Ottawa	8		7		SSD
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	12	12	11	-1	Crazy A's	2				
					Riverside Gypsy Squares	6				
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	568	572	569		Russell Squares	10				SSD
					Rideau Canal Cloggers			23		16
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	18	17	17	0	TOTAL	532	14	23	119	16
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE	2	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 era of this report will be added.

## Appendix D: Dance Committee Report

EOSARDA's Regional Dance Program for 2025/26 wrapped up in Prescott on Saturday, February 7 with Frosty Fling '26 - The Beach Party. Despite high winds, blowing snow and bone-chilling temperatures, the dance was a great success, attracting 84 dancers from all corners of our region along with a few from Montreal. Frosty Fling dances were presented to 38 people who identified themselves as first time Frosty Fling attendees. This included 10 people who identified themselves as new dancers.

As if coping with the weather wasn't challenge enough, early on dance day morning, one of our featured Callers, Brian Crawford, called in sick, leaving us with one Caller, Ron Gardner, for two rooms. Without hesitation, Geoff Clarke, Laird Green, Dave Hutchinson, Bob Summers and Mary Thurston stepped forward to fill the gap and save the day.

The original plan, based on attendance at past-Frosty Flings was to have a Basic/SSD/Mainstream hall in the foyer and a Plus/Advance hall in the gym. However it quickly became apparent that an overwhelming majority of dancers preferred to dance in the Basic/SSD/Mainstream hall which was moved to the gym while the Plus/Advanced hall moved to the foyer.

From the dancers' point of view the dance with its beach party theme, great decor and tasty snacks was a great success. It was also a success financially.

We had originally estimated that the dance would make a profit of about \$300.00. In fact the profit from the dance was \$805.00, see chart below;

FF '26	Budget	Actuals
Expenses*	\$900.00	\$597.00
Revenues	\$1,200	\$1,432.00
Profit/Loss	\$300	\$835.00

\*excludes \$196 for supplies (coffee, tea, cups etc) which are paid for from the overall Regional Dance budget and are not costed against any particular dance.

Frosty Fling was the last Regional Dance on this year's Dance Calendar. It capped off a year that went from "very good" with the Welcome Back Dance to "even better" with the Christmas Dance Party to "best yet" with Frosty Fling.

It was originally estimated that this year's dance program would raise approximately \$800 for EOSARDA. In fact, the three dances combined raised over \$2,000 for the Association.

I would like to thank this year's Dance Committee: Michelle Gravelle, David Hutchinson, Pat McLachlan, Barbara McLellan, and Debbie Penney for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. I have never worked with a finer team.

### Recommendations to Dance Committee 2026/27

1. That the Association sponsor 3 dances in 2026/27
  - Welcome Back (to be held a little later in the Fall)
  - The Christmas Dance Party
  - Frosty Fling
2. That games not be included in the dance programs
3. That adequate funds be provided for the purchase of thematic decor for each dance
4. That dance dangles be provided for every EOSARDA dance
5. That the Dance Leader Fee agreement between EOSARDA and the OACA be up-dated to reflect the impact of inflation on Dance Leader costs.

Dave Western, Dance Committee Chair

**Regional Dance Budget for 2026/27**

**Results of 2025/26 Regional Dance Program**

	<b>Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated revenue</b>	<b>Actual revenues</b>	<b>Estimated profit</b>	<b>Profit/Loss</b>
<b>Welcome Back</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>	<b>\$890.00</b>	<b>\$1,120.00</b>	<b>\$1,599.00</b>	<b>\$205.00</b>	<b>\$709.00</b>
<b>Christmas Dance Party</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>	<b>\$844.00</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,336.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$492.00</b>
<b>Frosty Fling '26</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>	<b>\$551.00</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,432.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$881.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,715.00</b> *excludes \$196 for supplies	<b>\$2,285.00</b>	<b>\$3,600.00</b>	<b>\$4,357.00</b>	<b>\$805.00</b>	<b>\$2,082.00</b>

Dance Committee recommends that the budget for Regional Dances for 2026/27 be increased as follows

	<b>Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated revenue</b>
<b>Welcome Back</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>
<b>Christmas Dance Party</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Frosty Fling '26</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,900.00</b>	<b>\$4,600.00</b>

## Appendix E: Club Liaison Report

### RECRUITMENT REIMBURSEMENT – SHIRLEY BROWN

A total of 9 Clubs submitted applications for a total of \$3609.20 and \$2,411.04 paid out of the account leaving a balance of \$588.96. A total of 5 Clubs made application to OSRDF which I will be submitting before month end, I am waiting for some further documentation from these Clubs. To date no applications have been received for the January 2026 new sessions.

REVISED - New Dance Recruitment Subsidy 2025-26							
Club Name	Primary location	Contact	Total Expenses Submitted	Approved EOSARDA	Balance To OSRDF	Date sent EOSARDA Treasurer	OSRDF Appl.?
Glengarry Tartans	Alexandra	Carole Lauzon	\$335.92	\$300.00	\$35.92	2026-02-05	Y
Grenville Gremlins	Kemptville	Harold Tompkins	\$214.30	\$214.30	\$0.00	2026-02-04	N/A
Limestone	Kingston	Noreen Peters	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	2026-02-04	N/A
Meri Squares	Nepean	Gerry Lelievre	\$559.61	\$300.00	\$259.61	2026-02-04	Y
Mississippi Squares	Carleton Place	Muriel Hanneson	\$296.74	\$296.74	\$0.00	2026-02-04	N/A
Napanee Pioneers	Napanee	Muriel Brough	\$668.82	\$300.00	\$368.82	2026-02-04	Y
Quinte Twirlers	Belleville	Shannon O'Rourke	\$551.56	\$300.00	\$251.56	2026-02-04	Y
Russell Squares	Russell	Wendy VanderMeulen	\$147.31	\$147.31	\$0.00	2026-02-13	N/A
Swinging B's	Cornwall	Donald Hogan	\$480.00	\$300.00	\$180.00	2026-02-04	Y
Swinging Swallows	Pembroke	Gloria Bateman	\$402.25	\$300.00	\$0.00	2026-02-04	N
			<b>\$3,756.51</b>	<b>\$2,558.35</b>	<b>\$1,095.91</b>		
<b>BALANCE REMAINING IN EOSARDA ACCOUNT</b>				<b>\$441.65</b>			

### DANGLES & GRADUATIONS - MICHELLE GRAVELLE

- Despite coping with heart-breaking news on her Mom in December, Michelle organized the distribution of graduation packages for the following clubs:
  - Russell Squares - 12; Ottawa Date Squares - 16; Meri Squares - 7;
- Completed distribution of the Visitation dangles
- Ordered Frosty Fling dangles.

Thanks to Michelle for her dedication to getting the job done, no matter what.

**SQUARE TIME - GERRY JOHNSON**

Another great issue produced in December and now is hard at work on a March issue. As you all know by now, Gerry sent out an e-bulletin requesting articles and suggested a couple of great ideas.

Thanks to Gerry for a consistent job well-done.

**SPECIAL EVENTS - SHIRLEY BROWN**

In the month of March, we have 2 significant Club anniversary celebrations:

March 8 – Swinging B’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and March 28 – Mississippi Squares – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

I will design and produce congratulatory certificates and make a presentation at each dance, weather permitting, on behalf of EOSARDA

Looking further into the future, on May 2<sup>nd</sup> there is dance to honour Don Moger on his 50 years of calling which I plan to attend and will present a congratulatory certificate.

Respectfully submitted  
Shirley Brown, Chair

## Appendix F: Website Report

At the 14 December 2025 Council of Dancers meeting, the Technology Committee was charged with creating a costed proposal for updating our website. The assignment came without clarity as to what “updating” meant.

Most of the issues identified by board members at the Council of Dancers meeting related to content.

Updating content could easily be achieved if EOSARDA members responsible for various areas were to provide the webmaster with the URL addresses (that shows in the address bar) for new or replacement content for their areas. Such an “update” could happen at next to no cost (most likely at no cost), depending on the complexity of the material.

Other suggestions involved using different software and allowing committee chairs to update material. To consider these proposals, the Technical Committee needs to understand the underlying problems these proposals were intended to address.

### **Toward Identifying Specific Changes:**

Before presenting a specific plan, it is essential for us to identify the problems we are attempting to resolve. Rather than risk engaging in work that does not address the concerns of website users, the Technology Committee believes we need to identify:

1. what the board wishes to have changed in the current website,
2. what users (EOSARDA members in general) want the website to do,
3. content that needs to be changed, added, or removed, and
4. options for alternate formatting and platform, including associated costs.

Regardless of decisions about website format and the platform used, EOSARDA needs to establish and apply clear policy with respect to:

1. getting new or updated content onto the website, and
2. whether we keep dated material as history or delete it when it is no longer relevant.

### **The Technology Committee proposes:**

1. surveying all EOSARDA members about their use of and wishes for the EOSARDA website. In this way, we can identify issues with the current website and pinpoint changes that address users' needs;
2. inviting board members (and perhaps others) to review our website and suggest pages that should be retained, removed, or stored as historical information – leading to creation of associated EOSARDA policy; and
3. creation of EOSARDA procedures whereby the webmaster is provided with information to keep website content current and accurate.

### **Past Cost Estimates**

Hopefully this information will offer at least an initial insight into potential costs. Undoubtedly, current cost will be greater than in the past.

Over a dozen years ago, the EOSARDA board decided to engage a professional web designer to develop a new website for us. That work was not completed, but at that time a fee of \$5,000 was agreed upon. More recently, another dance group’s website was migrated to WordPress (with next to no changes to content) at a cost of \$3,000. Both websites had many fewer pages and less automation than our current site.

## Appendix G: Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request to: [Secretary@EOSARDA.ca](mailto:Secretary@EOSARDA.ca)

## Appendix H: Fees for Teen Dancers – Fee Information

Fee Paid by	Fee paid to	New Fee
<b>Dancers and Leaders under 19 years of age</b>	EOSARDA	Free
	Ontario Federation	Free
	Canadian Society	Free
<b>Dancers and Dance Leaders 19 years old and older</b>	EOSARDA	\$7
	Ontario Federation	\$1
	Canadian Society	\$5 *
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$13</b>
<b>Clubs and Associations</b>	EOSARDA	\$7
	Ontario Federation	\$3
	Canadian Society	\$5 *
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15</b>
New Fee Structure effective 01 September 2026		

*\* Although insurance isn't optional for members, approximately 1/2 of the fee paid to the Canadian Society covers insurance cost.*