



EOSARDA Board Meeting

20 September 2026 – 1:30

Via Zoom

Attendees:

Shirley Brown	Dave Hutchinson	Gerry Johnson
Arlo Speer	Mary Thurston	Dave Western

Regrets:

Barb Englehart	Ron Gardner	Bob Pitruniak
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1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Opening Remarks Appendix A Dave Western
2. Review Past Meeting Records and Decisions Arlo Speer
 - 2.1. **MOTION:** Speer/Brown that the records of 15 March, 19 April, and 24 May board meetings be accepted. **CARRIED**
 - 2.2. **MOTION:** Speer/Brown that the board confirms the e-mail decision to appoint Gerry Johnson as OSRDF Representative. **CARRIED**
3. Reports
 - 3.1. Financial Appendix B Mary Thurston
 - 3.2. Registrar Barb Englehart

Barb Englehart is away, returning 02 October.
Registration packages have been distributed and Barb has received some updates to the contact list.
 - 3.3. Dance Committee Appendix C Dave Hutchinson
 - 3.4. Club Liaison Appendix D Shirley Brown
 - 3.5. Communication & Technology Appendix E Arlo Speer
 - 3.6. Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation Appendix F Dave Western
 - 3.7. **MOTION:** Brown/Hutchinson that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**
4. Business Arising from Previous Meetings and/or reports
 - 4.1. Canva Update Arlo Speer

Our Canva account is now up and running
In addition to Lamar and Arlo as administrators, we have 15 members, 8 of whom have logged into Canva in the last month.
One club has created its own group.
So far, 76 designs have been created since we set up Canva (27 in the last month)
There were some issues (now resolved) creating an account for some invitees
So far, no reported problems with using Canva
Still space for a couple of dozen or more members of the team

4.2. Scheduling Conflicts and Grandfathered events Arlo Speer

A question has arisen concerning the criteria for designating dances as being "grandfathered". The Board has agreed to review the current policy as set out in Chapter 26 of the Procedures Manual and suggest possible changes.

Dave Western will prepare a re-draft of Chapter 26 for the Board's review.

4.3. Summer Breezes Co-Sponsored Dance Appendix G Dave Western

There was discussion about returning EOSARDA's 50% share of the profit. No action will be taken.

5. New Business

5.1. EOSARDA Business Cards Arlo Speer

The Publicity Committee had designed business-card-sized hand-outs to promote dancing. The cost of printing 100 cards would be \$19. The Publicity Committee sent this item for discussion, to tie up a loose end from the committee's work.



The board expressed concern over whether these cards would be used by clubs. The board did not support buying the cards.

5.2. Committee Work Plans Appendices C, E, H & I Committee Chairs

MOTION: Hutchinson/Brown that the workplans be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Shirley Brown will update Chapter 14 of the Procedures Manual.

Based on Shirley's revision, Dave Western will invite board members to identify problems encountered by new callers seeking federation and society bursaries for new callers. Armed with that information, Dave will approach the Ontario Federation and Canadian Society with suggestions to streamline the process of applying for support.

5.3. Trillium Award Recipients from EOSARDA Appendix J Dave Western

5.4. Dance Dangle Eligibility Shirley Brown

Clarification was provided with respect to activities that qualify for a dangle:

- Should demonstration dances qualify?
- Should dancing at new-caller training events qualify?

The Board agreed that both demonstration dances and new-dance leader training events should qualify for a visitation dangle.

Shirley will amend the Procedures Manual to make it clear that demonstration dances qualify.

5.5. Proposed Budget 2026/2027 Appendix K Mary Thurston

5.5.1. Revisions based on committee work plans were introduced into the budget as proposed. The changes would result in a projected loss of \$837.00

MOTION: Thurston/Hutchinson that the budget be revised as amended.

CARRIED

Mary will circulate a revised.

5.5.2. We have two GICs coming for renewal shortly, making them cashable now. It may be possible to reinvest them at a higher rate.

MOTION: Speer/Hutchinson that we convert the GICs and invest in term (locked in) certificates with different terms to maximise return. **CARRIED**

5.6. Arlo reminded Committee Chairs to propose any needed revisions to their committee's portions of Chapter 8 of our Procedures Manual – Standing Committees so that all needed changes can be incorporated into a single revision.

6. Next Meeting(s)

18 October is the 3rd Sunday in October.

Meeting adjourned 4:05 pm.

Appendix A: Opening Remarks



It's Autumn, and once again, we are on the cusp of a new dance year. The air seems cleaner, the nights are cooler, leaves are beginning to turn and dancing is starting up again. Not that it ever really stopped. There has been dancing at various locations around our region throughout the summer months including: Summer Breezes in Foresters Falls in June and Napanee's A Summer Evening and Dancing at the Fair both in July. There was even a special dance to welcome visitors from Germany. And of course, there was the National Convention in B.C. and the Montreal Mix in la belle province.

For many on this Board, the new year has already well underway.

- \$ registration packages have gone out to all Member clubs
- \$ Club Visitor Dangle applications are being processed
- \$ work on a new issue of Square Time is well underway and
- \$ the 2nd Annual Welcome Back Dance will be held in Ottawa next Saturday

Now we wait to see how the return to dancing goes

- \$ will most of last year's dancers return to the dance floor?
- \$ how will the new dancer recruiting efforts go?
- \$ will CallerLab's hopes for the new Square Dance syllabus be realized?

Last year our membership increased by 5%. The goal for this year is to do even better. The challenge for this Board is - What are we going to do to help our Clubs meet this goal? Today we will be looking at committee work plans for the new dance year. Hopefully they will provide some indication of how we are going to meet this challenge.

I call this meeting to order.

Dave Western

Appendix B: Financial Statements

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

Appendix C: Dance Committee

Including 2026-27 Work Plan

So far this year, the Dance Committee has been amazing. We have been working towards what we hope will be a very successful year. This committee has come together as a terrific team and been able to work together as a well-oiled machine.

The Welcome Back Dance is organized completely and ready to go Sept 26/26 in Ottawa. We have come in well under budget and expect to show a profit.

Welcome Back Dance Budget			
Expenses		Income	
Callers' Fees	\$400	Door Receipts	\$1600
Hall Rental	280	(80 Dancers @ \$20 each)	
Refreshments & Prizes	90	Share the Wealth (net)	40
Total Expenses	\$770	Total Income	\$1640
Total Profit	\$870		

As for future dances, we have three more planned including the well-established Christmas Dance on Dec 5/26 to be held in Prescott and Frosty Fling to be held Feb 6/27 also in Prescott. The hall has been booked for both of these dances and callers have been arranged. Both will come in well under budget.

We are also in the process of adding a fourth dance this year. We are looking at May 15/27, but at this point, the dance is only in its early planning stages.

Our expenses for the Dec and Feb dances, while not fully known yet, are projected to come in around the \$700 - \$900 mark, both well below the current budget. Both dances are expected to generate an income of \$1500 - \$2000. It would be reasonable to expect the same of the fourth dance.

Appendix D: Club Liaison

Visitation Dangles - Michelle Gravel

Deadline for submission for dance season ending August 31, 26 is September 30 and forms are already coming in. A Bulletin was sent out on Sept 2 which has spurred applications being submitted. As of Sept 13, I have received forms for 17 dangles broken down as follows:

Grenville Gremlins	2 gold / 1 silver
Limestone Dancers	3 gold
Meri Squares	3 gold / 3 silver
Mississippi Squares	2 gold
Napanee Pioneers	1 gold
Swinging B's	1 gold / 1 silver

As a result of the Bulletin, I received an email from Brain Crawford stating he has created a new website for the Mississippi Squares, which includes a new blog section and the first blog post covers the EOSARDA Dangle Program. You can view it here:

<https://www.mississippisquares.ca/blog>

An issue has arisen with the eligibility of “events:” qualifying for visitation purposes. Dancers are listing demos – not Club dances – as qualifying. The intent of the dangle program was to increase paid attendance to Club dances or special events like Frosty Fling , Spring Spree, etc.

- Attendance at any club other than the club where the dancer pays the EOSARDA registration fee. This also includes dancers who may dance with a second or third club on a regular basis – limited to one visit per club.
- Attendance at any workshop, special event, summer dance and/or convention, including outside Canada.

1. **Demos:** A couple of dancers have listed demos – not Club dances – as qualifying. Although over the years many club’s have hosted demo’s it has never been the practice to include this as a qualifying event and has not arisen until this year. Are demos considered “a special event” even though they are generally used to recruit or increase square dancing’s visibility in the community? And should we limit qualifications to one per year?
2. **Caller workshops:** Are Caller workshops considered a workshop for Visitation purposes, particularly when the dancers were invited and there may not have been a flyer published. NOTE: This year there was a new caller workshop (March 22nd) that WAS promoted on our EOSARDA calendar and was hosted by Napanee/Kingston/Belleville. When that request came through to me - I had unilaterally said it would apply as was promoted by EOSARDA as an event. That will need to stand for this season.

3. **Dance Year:** The dangle year is Sept 1st to August 31st. we know that some clubs have summer dances at which all dancers pay the fee to attend. Our definition does include summer dances so it would be a visitation. The fact that it is in summer does not change that it is a visitation so if they have attended one during the Sept - June timeline, they are not eligible to claim a second dance.

Shirley & Michelle need direction from the Board and then we need to clarify the wording if in fact both those items are to be considered part of the Visitation Dangle program and perhaps expand the definition above.

Recruitment Expenses/Caller Development Subsidy

Shirley Brown

- Information and requests for submissions will be sent out to all clubs by mid-October.
- There are outstanding submissions for Caller Subsidy from a new caller, Mikalaya Kent in Ottawa, applying to all 3 organizations. I have been in contact with her and approved all her forms BUT she needs to submit copies of the expenses in order for me to proceed which I requested on May 30 and am still waiting. Now that summer is over and she is back in Ottawa I have sent a reminder email.

Submitted on behalf of the Committee
Shirley Brown, Chair

Appendix E: Communication and Technology

With the addition of communication to the committee's responsibilities, the committee plans to continue ongoing work in its traditional areas while expanding EOSARDA's social media presence.

Zoom account – Arlo Speer, Committee Chair

- Projected cost: Licensing fee <\$300.00 (Due 01 July – \$259.79 in 2026)
- Continue making Zoom available as long as a demand for online meetings remains

Square Time – Gerry Johnson, Director

- Projected cost \$ 0.00
- Gerry has requested material (by the end of September) for a new edition in October
- Very little input gets provided, making it difficult to create meaningful content.
- When very little material is submitted, it causes us to question whether clubs or dancers see a need for Square Time or are interested in reading the editions.
- *(The board suggested extending the deadline for the new fall edition, making it easier for clubs to submit material once the work associated with restarting the new dance year.)*

EOSARDA Bulletins – Arlo Speer, Committee Chair

- Projected cost \$ 0.00
- We currently have 153 subscribers to our system.
- 143 EOSARDA Bulletins were issued in the past year.
- Approximately 47% of the messages are opened and approximately 5% of recipients click on links in the messages.
- Operation and maintenance of the current system is not proposed to change in the short term.

Facebook – Lamar Mason, volunteer

- Projected cost \$ 0.00
- Lamar will continue operating EOSARDA's Facebook site – work initiated by the Publicity Committee

TikTok and Instagram – Ron Gardner, Director

- Projected cost \$ 0.00
- Ron has established both TikTok and Instagram accounts for EOSARDA
TicTok : eosarda
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eosarda/>
- The plan is to collect videos and pictures and posters to promote square dancing.
- We need content that is lively and fun.
- Ron needs content from EOSARDA clubs to populate since he cannot be at every dance.
- Ron needs short videos, interviews, pictures, posters sent to generic email address:

eosarda@outlook.com

- Will continue to like and follow other clubs and individuals that follow us.
- Also, we need to share and “like” the posts as much as we can to get the word out.

Sound systems for loan – Geoff Clarke, volunteer

- Projected maintenance cost \$0.00
- EOSARDA has 2 Hilton 205 sound systems with Yak Stak speakers and tripod stands available for loan. Although over 30 years old, these systems still function. The systems are hardly used.
- One system is stored west of Ottawa; the other east of Ottawa.
- The committee plans no further maintenance on the systems. We recommend keeping the systems as long as they function and then disposing of them, unless any of our new callers wish to use them.

Website – Bob Summers, volunteer

- Projected cost website hosting and domain registration \$150.00
- The committee surveyed EOSARDA members about their use of the website and the type of information that is or would be useful to them.
- Our webmaster is working to incorporate the survey feedback.
- The committee will explore alternate formats and platforms as new needs or opportunities become apparent. Depending on the option chosen, additional cost may be incurred.

Appendix F: Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

The Federation's Board of Directors met on July 26 and, among other things, approved the granting of Trillium Long Service Award to Marilyn Collins from the Meri-Squares' and Robert and Sandra Lamarche from the Grenville Gremlins.

The Canadian Square and Round Dance Society has increased the maximum amount of a Dance Leader bursary from \$500 to \$750. All other details of the Bursary Program remain unchanged.

The Federation's By-law Review Working Group, which includes Arlo and me, has completed the analysis of the Federation's Constitution and Bylaws and has identified a number of amendments required due to:

- \$ mandatory requirements of the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporation act (ONCA)
- \$ optional requirements of the ONCA which require a policy decision and
- \$ provisions in the current Constitution and By-laws that require amendment to better reflect the Federation's existing policies, practices and procedures.

The Working Group is currently presenting its recommendations to the Federation Board through a series of three 1½ to 2 hour briefings.

Dave Western

Appendix G: Summer Breezes Co-Sponsored Dance

Earlier this year, Pembroke's Swinging Swallows approached the Board with a proposal for a co-sponsored dance to be called Summer Breezes. The event would see a square dance combined with a cruise on the Ottawa River and include a catered meal. The Board agreed to support the event, making Summer Breezes our first co-sponsored dance event since the pandemic.

Summer Breezes took place as scheduled in Foresters Falls, Ontario on June 20 and by all accounts it was a great success. (A copy of the club's post-event report is appended to this report.)

Summer Breezes attracted 55 participants, including visitors from Florida and Germany and realized a net profit of \$404.50 which, as per the cosponsored dance agreement, was shared equally between the Swinging Swallows and EOSARDA.

Congratulations to the club for an innovative and imaginative initiative.

Dave Western

Appendix H: Executive Committee Work Plan

Executive Committee Work Plan 2026/27

The Executive Committee consists of the Association's President, Treasurer, Registrar and Secretary. The committee is chaired by the President.

The Executive Committee is responsible for:

- \$overseeing the financial activities of the Association;
- \$administering the Association's club and dancer registration program;
- \$creating and maintaining a record of the Association's deliberations, decisions and activities;
- \$scheduling Board and Council of Dancer meetings, and setting their agendas;
- \$ensuring the election of Officers and the appointment of Committee Chairs;
- \$proposing to the Board nominations for honours and awards from the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation and the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society.

President

Persons responsible: Dave Western

- \$Manage the activities of the Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association and the Association's Board of Directors

Treasurer

Person responsible: Mary Thurston

- \$Prepare a Year-end Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Board's approval and presentation to the November 2026 Council of Dancers.
- \$Monitor progress against the Budget approved by Council for 2026/27; make regular reports to both the Board and Council on the state of the Association's finances; and make such suggestions for amendments to the budget as may be required during the course of the fiscal year.
- \$In February 2027 begin drafting a budget for 2027/2028 for approval by the Board in March 2027 and by the Council of Dancers in April 2027.
- \$Ensure that an independent review of the Association's books for Fiscal Year 2025/26 is conducted; and report the results of the audit to the Board and to the November 2026 meeting of the Council of Dancers.

Registrar

Person responsible: Barbara Englehart

- \$In August 2026 prepare and issue registration packages to all EOSARDA Member Clubs and Associations
- \$Review completed registration packages as received and ensure that any required revisions are made by the club
- \$Deposit all club payments in EOSARDA's bank account as they are received
- \$By October 31, 2026 submit a complete Registration report to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation along with payment of all appropriate fees
- \$Throughout the year, receive and process any additional dancer and club registrations as they are received
- \$Throughout the year, submit any additional dancer and club registrations to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federations with appropriate payments
- \$Make regular reports to the Board and to the Council of Dancers on club and dancer registrations

Secretary

Person responsible: Arlo Speer

- \$Prepare and circulate draft agenda of both Board and Council meetings in a timely manner prior to the meeting.
- \$Prepare and circulate draft Minutes of both Board and Council meetings in a timely manner following the meeting
- \$Ensure that copies of approved Minutes are posted on eodance.ca
- \$Assist the President in planning and organizing on-line Board and Council meetings

Trillium Awards Program

Person responsible: Dave Western

- \$Late summer 2026: receive Federation decisions re nominations for 2026; ensure that nominators are aware of the outcome and congratulate recipients; make arrangements with nominators, recipients and Federation for presentation of Awards.
- \$At the November 2026 Council of Dancers remind Club Delegates to submit any Trillium Award Nominations to Dave Western on or before the deadline of March 1, 2027
- \$On or before January 15, 2027 issue an EOSARDA Bulletin reminding clubs of the Trillium Award Program, the criteria for each type of Award and the nomination deadline.
- \$January - February 2027: review nominations as they are received; as necessary discuss possible amendments with the nominators and ensure that nominations have been properly formatted; circulate completed nominations to the Board for review; seek a Board decision for each nomination and advise nominator(s) of the Board's decision in respect of each nomination
- \$Forward approved nominations to Federation for consideration and advise nominators accordingly; respond to any request for additional information from Federation
- \$Late summer 2027: receive decisions on 2027 nominations from Federation; ensure that nominators are aware of the outcome and congratulate recipients; make arrangements with nominators, recipients and Federation for presentation of Awards.

Dave Western

Appendix I: Club Liaison, Recognition, and Awards Committee Work Plan

Club Liaison is responsible for ensuring the timely and accurate flow of information between the Association and member clubs. Among other things, it does this by:

- reviewing applications for subsidies for club new dancer recruiting activities and Dance Leader training; making recommendations to the Treasurer re payment
- reviewing and processing requests for OSRDF Bursaries;
- organizing the Board's involvement in annual New Dancer Celebrations;
- administering the Club Visit Dangle Program;
- ensuring that significant club anniversaries and other significant occasions are identified in a timely manner and duly recognized by the Board by presentation of a suitable certificate or other memento at the time that the club marks that event or anniversary;

SUBSIDY/BURSARIES REQUESTS -Responsibility - Shirley Brown

RECRUITMENT SUBSIDIES

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$3200 - last year \$2800 was paid out

There are also funds available from **Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Recruitment Bursary**. Although this program functions independently from EOSARDA's subsidy program, application for a Federation Recruitment Bursary is made via EOSARDA and may be made at the same time as an application for an EOSARDA subsidy.

LEADER BURSARIES

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1200.00 - None paid out last year – but ever hopefully ~

Bursaries are available first from EOSARDA - \$300, secondly OSRDF \$400.00 and lastly CSRDA - \$750.00. All applications must be submitted and approved via EOSARDA and will then be forwarded to each organization. Last year, despite e-Bulletins there has been and email communications, there was only 1 applicant and there are questions about her eligibility, and she has failed to answer emails.

CELEBRATING NEW DANCERS – Responsibility Shared: Michalle Gravel & Shirley Brown

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$ 160.00 – Last year there were 88 square dancers + 8 cloggers = 96 dangles 115.00 – assuming 100 new dancers plus \$45 for stationary supplies and postage.

VISITATION DANGLES - Responsibility: Michelle Gravel

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$ 45.00 - last year 26 were given out, however we have interest gaining in the program and anticipate increased demand

The EOSARDA Club Visit Dangle is intended to encourage and recognize visits to other Dance Clubs and participation in any number of other dance events. The club visit program includes visits to clubs outside the area covered by EOSARDA and/or Canada. It is awarded, upon application, to any registered dancer who completes the specific number of visits during a single dance year. (September 1 through August 31)

Silver Level: a dancer must, during a single dance year, undertake 5 "visits".

Gold Level: To earn a Gold Club Visit Dangle, a dancer must, during a single dance year, undertake 8 "visits".

RECOGNITION OF MAJOR ANNIVERSARIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Responsibility Shirley Brown

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$160.00 -Mileage for travel to attend special events.

Respectfully Submitted by Shirley Brown, Chair

September 19, 2026

Appendix J: Trillium Awards for 2026

As reported, the Federation's Board of Directors has approved the granting of Trillium Long Service Award to Marilyn Collins from the Meri-Squares' and Robert and Sandra Lamarche from the Grenville Gremlins.

The Gremlins have requested that the Award presentation for the Lamarches take place at 7:30 pm on November 2 in Kemptville. We need 2 volunteers to take this on. Note that mileage can be reimbursed.

The Meri Squares is tentatively considering presenting Marilyn with her award at their Christmas Party on December 10 Christmas party. However, she and her husband are waiting on a surgery date for a multiple bypass for Kevin. If December does not work, she may choose to get the award at the Meri Mingle on February 27 or at the club's end-of-the-year dance. The club will advise once a final decision has been made.

Dave Western

Appendix K: Proposed 2026/2027 Budget

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