

**Minutes**  
**EOSARDA Board Meeting, Sunday, April 17,2011**

**Attendance:**

Cora Caldwell, Don Clingin, Jean Clingin, Gavin Currie, Barbara Dennison, Paul Dennison, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Nancy Morgan, Bob Summers, Bruce Warner, Linda Warner, Dave Western, Pearl Western  
Bill Shields- sitting in for Andy Himberg-Larsen

**Regrets:**

Andy Himberg-Larsen, Karin Nikischer,

**1) Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

- a) The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM
  - b) Approval of agenda
- The draft agenda was approved. (Appendix 1 )

**2) Opening Remarks- Dave Western**

I am becoming very concerned about future of our organization.

Recently I attended the final event ever for the Town and Kountry Kickers. I have been advised that Spinette's and Spinning Spurs are closing. Apparently Perth, Brockville and Pembroke are all experiencing difficulties and are not certain at this time whether they will operate this coming fall. These are all recruiting clubs. Their loss will significantly reduce yearly intake and will shortly begin to impact Plus clubs

The question is, what can we do about it?

If we do nothing Square Dancing in Eastern Ontario will be dead within 5 years. Round Dancing may not last that long due to a lack of Cuers.

We have a number of initiatives underway including Project Young Dancer, the Eagles and the New Caller Initiative, but we need to keep looking for new and better ways to appeal to a wider audience. We also have to begin thinking very seriously about fall recruiting drive.

I will raise this issue at today's Council of Dancers.

**3) Approval of Minutes, March Board Meeting - Pearl Western**

Chuck moved that the minutes be approved. It was seconded by Gavin.

**4. Reports**

**a) Operations Committee**

**i) Financial Report - Bruce Warner**

-- available on request.

**ii) Registrar's Report - Linda Warner**

This is the final report for the year 2010/11 as far as memberships and insurance coverage is concerned. This year there was a slight decrease from the past year and this is certainly understandable due to the aging population of square dancers.

As of this date there are: 34 registered clubs,  
4 registered associations  
1081 registered dancers including 33 callers and cuers down from 1182  
in 2009/10

There are 45 new dancers included in total registrations down from 88 in 2009. Overall, we are down 101 dancers this year.

I have prepared a chart which shows the membership at the various dance levels that is available for any who wish this information.

Nancy requested that these numbers be posted on the web site.  
Bob would like to see it posted as history.

#### **b) Dance Committee - Gavin Currie**

I am happy to announce that we have added two members to the Dance Committee. Robert and Jean Read, who dance with Rhapsody Rounds and Take-a-Step Rounds, have agreed to join. As always, we would be happy to welcome additional members.

#### Fall Fest 2011

Fall Fest will be held at Sir Robert Borden HS on Oct 29. Don Moger has agreed to call and we are in the process of engaging other callers and cuers. The Dance Committee is working on program details. Meri Squares have agreed to be the support club for the event.

#### Frosty Fling 2012

Mother Teresa High School has been booked for the event on Feb 4

#### Jamboree 2012

Jamboree 2012 will be considered on the same basis as Jamboree 2011 i.e. it will be a dance organized jointly by EOSARDA and a member club, with EOSARDA covering any loss and any profit being split between EOSARDA and the club. A joint organizing committee would be set up to run the dance. Expressions of interest will be accepted by the EOSARDA Dance Committee up until June 15, 2011. Meri Squares has indicated an interest, and I have spoken to Marilyn Collins. The current executive wishes to leave the decision to the incoming executive and so further discussions will be delayed until June.

#### **c) P,P and P Committee - Barb Dennison**

We are passionate in our search for "ways & means" that will attract people to modern square

dancing. We advertised “open houses” through the media in September, we participated in the Summer Games in 2010 & square dance information is listed on Facebook, Dance-Ottawa.com, Kijiji, the EOSARDA website & articles, on modern square dancing, have been written for the Citizen “Wrap”.

Ottawa will be hosting the 2014 Canadian Square & Round Dance Convention in 2014 so watch for more publicity & promotion for this great event.

People **are** interested in modern square dancing. Several invitations have been received this year. These “invites” are requests for Callers to entertain or to teach square dancing at events throughout the area. Our invitation list is as follows:

### **April 2011**

Wabano Dance Native Friendship Centre	Caller Francois Desmarais
Westend Villa	Caller David Currie
Montfort Hospital Fund Raiser (Eagles Event)	Caller Francois Desmarais
Nepean High School	Caller Francois Desmarais

### **May 2011**

Cumberland Museum (Eagles Event)	Callers John Charman & Wendy VanderMeulen
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### **June 2011**

Lindenlea Community Association	Caller Graham Ingram
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Many of these events present opportunities to promote Modern Square Dancing. If you hear of an event or special occasion please recommend modern square dancing - as their entertainment. It is guaranteed to be fun!

Barb added that there should be a list made of names of people who are interested in square dancing so that they are not lost for the Fall.

Billi added that the name and number of the local clubs should be given to any interested people so that they can make contact.

Bob suggested that the A,B,C method will get people in. Wendy has tried it for drop-ins.

Barb suggested having dances for people who may be interested so that they can start dancing during the year (such as the requests that David gets during the year).

### **d) Club Liaison Committee - Bob Summers**

### Awards

EOSARDA is planning to present congratulations and a certificate to the Captital Steppers in May for their upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

### Graduation 2011

This season has been a poor one in terms of the number of new dancers that we managed to attract. Back in the fall of 2010 we were looking at just slightly more than 40 new dancers. Well something happened between then and now because this spring the clubs have told us that they have 55 new dancers.

These clubs are right in the midst of celebrating the first year of dancing with their new dancers. EOSARDA Directors have visited, or will be visiting, these clubs to celebrate with them, to offer congratulations and to present them with a Canada Pin, an EOSARDA brochure and a free admission pass to the Fall Fest dance in September.

### **e) IT Committee - Bob Summers**

One of the areas that seemed intriguing was some form of Bulletin Board or Discussion Group software. It had the potential to allow clubs to post information directly on the website without needing to go thru a webmaster. We also saw possibility of using the same features in a private mode to organize communications among Board Members and among Committee Members.

Two different versions of Discussion Group software have been installed. The first one seemed promising but couldn't deliver on some aspects of email notification of posts. A second software package has been installed and we are trying to understand to see if it will do what we want.

As another possible website feature, Web calendar software is being looked at. One version seems to offer the prospect of allowing clubs to post their own events to the website.

The evaluations continue.

### **f) Festival 2014 - Dave Western**

Wendy VanderMeulen will make the Festival 2014 presentation at Council of Dancers. May 4 the Festival Board will meet at the OCC. The July 21<sup>st</sup> Countdown to Festival 2014 Dance is posted and ribbons are made up. There is a concern about the type of flooring, as it is low pile carpet. The suitability of the flooring will be tested at the Countdown Dance. This will enable us to determine whether temporary wooden floors will be required at the Festival. The Festival Board is still not complete, we need more volunteers. Volunteers do not have to be registered for the Festival.

### **g) OACA Report - Dave Western**

The OACA is organizing a dance for April 30 to celebrate graduation. The new OACA Chairs are Paul and Judy Adams. Paul will be the OACA representative on the EOSARDA Board for next year. Andy will continue to serve on the Board as a Director and will continue to be the Board's equipment manager.

#### **h) RDTA Report - Jean Clingin**

The RDTA doesn't see how a conversion workshop from phase 3 to phase 4 is possible. The individual cuers think that the transition happens at the club level as the dancers progress. Daphne is willing to take the first ½ hour of the Thursday club and deal with this. In the end they gave their blessing for Jean & Don to do the workshop.

We are wondering about the Fall Fest flyer in Square Time – no mention of Fest at all. Is this a new dance or Fall Fest? [Nancy advised that this was a printer's error and that the flyers being distributed do not contain this error.] We feel the flyer is a misrepresentation when it says local cuers when not one of us has been approached. Speaking of Square Time, Don Pearson feels it is disgraceful that the cover has a photograph of the callers at Frosty Fling but the cuers are not in the picture. Also they recommend that Fall Fest work a year in advance when hiring staff.

John Charman will have a beginner round dance class in the Fall.

#### **i) Hearing Assistance Working Group - Barb Dennison**

##### Deluxe FM Transmitters & Receivers - December 2010 to April 2011

The final Results are as follows:

FM Deluxe Transmitters sold	21
FM Radio Receivers sold	34

29 receivers were sold individually. In addition, each FM Deluxe Transmitter sold includes one receiver. Therefore the number of receivers purchased by dancers, callers, cuers in this campaign = 51.

Our receiver order has been shipped & should be here next week.

Thank you to the Clubs and a special thank you to the club leaders for taking the time to “talk it up” and for making this project, truly, a success.

Delivery was made simple as everyone chipped in to help.

Bruce made a motion of appreciation to Barb for the amount of work she has done on this project. The motion was unanimously accepted.

#### **j) EOSARDA Eagles - Dave Western**

In addition to dancing at the Cumberland Museum on May 28, there is a second engagement in Orleans for the Montfort Hospital. There are 33 Eagles so the group is now full.

Nancy requested to see the plan for the demo by Francois. Literature should be made available for follow-up at these events. A contact name and number is desirable.

Pearl suggested that at an Eagles' event, a list of all the clubs up and running and contact names and numbers be available.

Nancy would like to see a definite set-up for the Eagles. Dave pointed out that every request is different. Barb felt that each group would help promote square dancing in some way.

#### **h) Project Young Working Group - Barb Dennison**

Further to last month's report David Western has been in touch with both Callers Paul Adams & Graham Ingram. Both, I believe, are willing to meet with the committee and to share their expertise - but not willing to be part of the working committee. This is understandable of course.

Callers Paul Adams & Graham Ingram have done a marvelous job, over the years, working closely with the School Boards in Ottawa. Now it is our turn to become involved with the Ottawa School Boards.

The Committee members will be David Western, Barbara Dennison, Pearl Western & Gerry Sawtell. Our objective is to have the Board of Education include Square Dancing as part of the Physical Education program – at least at the Middle school & Young Teen level.

Fortunately, for us, Callers Paul Adams & Graham Ingram have been teaching dancing to this age group for many years.

There are challenges – e.g:

Determine how to train the Phys Ed teachers

How to deliver the dance program (music, calls etc.)

How to convince the Board that this is a great idea

How to motivate the schools re interest in modern square dancing

How to retain the kids, interested, once the lessons are over (This is the Callers biggest frustration).

A couple of these items should not be too difficult as Callers Paul and Graham have introduced dancing to the schools for many years.

School Boards will be the **first** step. If we can persuade the schools to include Modern Square Dancing as part of their Phys Ed program – that will be a major first step with a very large audience.

If we wish to see this “fun & friendship” continue to grow – then we must do our utmost to make this project a large success.

### **5. Old Business**

#### **a) Graduation 2011 - Bob Summers**

(see the Club Liaison report)

Pins and cards are available to be distributed to the Board.

Bob re-raised the issue of the graduation in Belleville. He suggested the Board should cover overnight accommodation for Dave and Pearl for doing this as it is a 3 hour drive for them.

Dave pointed out the Board's Travel Directive already makes provisions for reimbursements of reasonable travel and accommodation expenses. He added that there is also a provision for reimbursement of reasonable business expenses (stamps, paper, photocopying etc). Mileage for today's out-of-town meeting can also be claimed.

Requests for reimbursement are at the discretion of individual Directors. The request must be supported by receipts.

Bob suggested billeting of out of town dancers for special dances in Ottawa. It could be reciprocated.

**b) Phase 3 to Phase 4 RD Workshop - Gavin Currie and Jean Clingin**

As stated in its report, RDTA doesn't see how this is possible. It should be at club level. Daphne will use the first half hour of her Thursday morning club to work on this.

Dave said only retired people would be able to dance Thursday morning. Dave added that Daphne had said to him that a couple of weekend workshops could also be beneficial, and pointed out that there will be a conversion workshop at T and D by Jerry Callan.

Don and Jean are willing to do the workshop in July or August. Dave asked if the Board would be willing to support it on a cost recovery basis, with the Board hiring the cuers, renting the hall and taking the risk. The Board agreed with this proposal.

Dave asked if this workshop could be launched during Fall Fest? The Board was of the opinion that early Fall would be better as dancers could use the new info in their regular club dancing. Foxtrot and Rumba would be the top dance terminology to work on. Jean agreed to look further into this after T&D.

**c) Agenda Council of Dancers - Dave Western**

There were no changes to the draft agenda for today's Council of Dancers.

Dave advised that Karen will not be back in the Fall and that Bill Shields has agreed to serve on the Board. Directors were asked whether they intended to serve on the Board for 2011/12. All present replied in the affirmative, and Andy has already indicated that he will also continue to serve as a Director.

Bob suggested using Skype for Bill as he is in Pembroke, a fair distance. Bill said that he prefers to be physically present at Board meetings.

**d) Review of Articles 4 and 5 of the Constitution - Dave Western**

Deferred to next Board meeting.

**e) Trillium Award Nomination - Dave Western**

The nomination has gone forward. Peter Piazza says the nomination will be kept confidential at

Federation.

## **6. New Business**

### **a) Accounting Software**

Bruce has a concern about the old accounting program being outdated as the program won't run on his new Operating System. He suggested buying a new program for \$600 for accounting purposes or buying an old drive. His old drive is not reliable. Bob suggested buying an external hard-drive. Dave suggested buying another drive and the new software package. Bob suggested print-outs or discs instead of keeping the old data. If there is software under \$200, the Board suggested buying it. Bruce could live with a \$69 drive.

Nancy moved that Bruce research and purchase an accounting software package up to \$200 that is compatible to his system. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **b) The Future of "Square Time"**

Nancy said the printer has claimed that he had been under-charging us. The bill has escalated by \$350. Should the method of printing and distribution be changed? It is now \$2 an issue at present for members. There will be no profit unless we up the cost to members. Maybe it should be distributed by PDF. Perhaps another printer should be checked out. Cutting back on the number of pages would not appeal to the dancers. The printer wants to recover their old costs.

\$1200 should be the cost. Perhaps the clubs should solicit advertising. Barb suggested Algonquin may be able to do this at a cheaper rate.

David suggested increasing the cost to \$10 for the subscription.

Nancy will make calls to find a new printer. This will not be presented at the Council of Dancers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM

## **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.



**Appendix 1**  
**Amended Agenda - EOSARDA Board Meeting - April 17, 2011**

Date: Sunday, April 17, 2011

Time 11:00- 1:00

Place: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall  
425 Center St, at Dibble  
Prescott, Ont

**1a. Call to Order**

**b. Approval of agenda**

**2. Regrets and Opening Remarks – Dave Western**

**3. Approval of Minutes, March Board Meeting – Pearl Western**

**4. Reports**

- a) Operations Committee
  - i) Financial Report - Bruce Warner
  - ii) Registrar's Report - Linda Warner
- b) Dance Committee - Gavin Currie
- c) P, P and P Committee - Barb Dennison
- d) Club Liaison Committee - Bob Summers
- e) IT Committee - Bob Summers
- f) Festival 2014 - Dave Western
- g) OACA Report - Andy Himberg-Larsen
- h) RDTA Report - Jean Clingin
- i) Hearing Assistance Working Group - Barb Dennison
- j) EOSARDA Eagles - Dave Western
- h) Project Young Working Group - Barbara Dennison

**5. Old Business**

- a) Graduation 2011 - Bob Summers
- b) Phase 3 to Phase 4 RD Workshop - Gavin Currie and Jean Clingin
- c) Agenda Council of Dancers - Dave Western
- d) Review of Articles 4 and 5 of the Constitution - Dave Western
- e) Trillium Award Nomination - Dave Western

**6. New Business**

- a) Accounting Software
- b) The Future of Square Time

**7. Other Business**