

## **Minutes - Council of Dancers - April 17, 2010**

### **Attendance:**

### **Board of Directors:**

Cora Caldwell, Don Clingin, Jean Clingin, Gavin Currie, Barbara Dennison, Paul Dennison, Bill Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Nancy Morgan, Bob Summers, Bruce Warner, Linda Warner, Dave Western, Pearl Western

### **Club Representatives:**

Adams Aces - Paul Adams  
Capital Steppers - Peter Courdin, Karen Remy  
Dynamite Tay Dancers - Peter and Barb Joynt  
Good Time Squares - Elizabeth Wollaston  
Got Lines - Dave Western  
Grenville Gremlins - Nancy Morgan  
Harbour Lites - Regina Gerhard, Pearl King, Marcia Johnstone, Shirley Hull, Germaine Hull, Gerard and Marlene Cassalman  
Limestone Dancers - Bob Summers  
Lockits - Billi Langtry, Pearl Western  
Meri Squares - Moe and Joannie Demers, Richard Sharman  
Mississippi Squares - Marilyn Sellers, Tom Edwards  
PJ's - Judy Adams  
Rhapsody Rounds - Gavin Currie, Chuck Langtry  
Round Tuit Dancers - Gerry Sawtell, Jim Sawtell  
Seaway Squares - Harold and Marian Moore  
Spinettes - Keith Watters, Rita Watters  
Sunshine Squares - Ransom Nixon, Shirley Nixon  
Swinging B's - Roger Frappier, Jules Bazinet  
Swingin' Saints - Dorothy Tweed, Rusty Saunders  
Swinging Swallows - Bill Shields  
Take-A-Step Rounds - Jean and Don Clingin  
Town & Kountry Kickers - Cora Caldwell  
Trackers - Sue and Fletcher Thomson, Ken Phillips  
Village Squares - Leslie Goodwin, Valerie Goodwin  
Wendy's Elegant Eights - Wendy VanderMeulen

### **Regrets:**

Andy Himberg-Larsen, Karin Nikischer,

### **1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks - Dave Western**

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 PM.

Dave welcomed the delegates to EOSARDA's April Council of Dancers, and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting which was also the Association's Annual General Meeting for 2011. Dave said that the Board was very pleased to be meeting in Prescott and wished to thank Shirley and Germaine Hull for their help in locating a suitable meeting place

Dave said that it was necessary to confirm that a quorum of members was present and asked if everyone had signed in? He said that under the Constitution a quorum of the Council is 25% of Member Clubs.

Dave requested the Registrar to confirm that there are 34 clubs registered in EOSARDA this year and that a quorum is therefore 9 clubs. The Registrar confirmed this and also confirmed that a quorum of members was present.

Dave explained that under the Constitution and by-laws every registered club may have up to 2 votes on any issue before the Council, but no delegate may vote more than once on any issue. No one who is not a club delegate may vote. He stated that Directors have no vote before the Council unless they are also club delegates

He asked that when addressing the Council, delegates identify themselves and the club which they represent.

Dave said that we are coming to the end of the 2010/11 Dance Year, that dancer training has gone well, and that we have approximately 45 new Graduate dancers across the region.

He noted that we have had a series of exciting and successful dances and was pleased to see that dancer support for most of these events seems to be holding firm and the dancing year was not over yet, as there were still a number of dance events to come. He thanked all those dedicated volunteers working behind the scenes to make it all possible and said that he was looking forward to a successful summer dance season.

He asked that delegates continue to encourage dancers to support our local dances & dance events.

## **2. Amendments to and Approval of the Draft Agenda - Dave Western**

The draft agenda was amended at the request of Peter Courdin to include under New Business the creation of a master list of dancers. (**Appendix #1**)

## **3. Approval of Minutes of the November 2010 Council of Dancers - Dave Western**

The draft minutes had been previously circulated via e-mail, had been amended on the basis of comments received and the revised Minutes had also been circulated. Gavin Currie moved that the amended Minutes be accepted as circulated. The motion was seconded by Roger Frappier and received unanimous approval..

## **4. Reports:**

**a) Operations Committee**

**I) General - Dave Western**

The Board has initiated a review of the Constitution and By-laws with a view to ensuring that they remain relevant and reflect the way the Board's operations have evolved over time. The Board hopes to report on the results of this review at the next Annual General Meeting.

We have a new Editor of Square Time - Nancy Morgan. Thank you to the retiring Editors, Chuck and Billi Langtry, for their many years of hard work and dedication.

The EOSARDA Eagles Square Dance Team up and running and there are three active working groups: Hearing Assistance, Web site Renewal and Project Youth. You will be hearing more about the activities of these working groups during the course of the afternoon.

You will also hear from our Publicity and Promotions Committee about the many efforts underway to promote Square Dancing to wide-range of groups in our region.

Gerry Sawtell asked if the Eagles are specifically square dancers. David said that they are, but that we could also have a Round Dance demo team if there are cuers and dancers willing to volunteer to organize and participate on such a team.

**ii) Financial Report - Bruce Warner**

-- available on request

Peter Courdin asked how the GIC's are invested and if there was any money being made on these investments. Bruce will follow up on this with Peter.

**iii) 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 in memberships from the past year. 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.

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

**b) Publicity, Promotions and Publishing 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!

**c) Dance Committee - Gavin Currie**

Since the last Council Meeting, there has been one EOSARDA dance: Frosty Fling was held on February 5, 2011 at Mother Teresa High School. Callers were Paul Adams and Brian Crawford and cuers Jean Clingin and Gerry Sawtell. The support club was Village Squares. Attendance was good with 170 dancers attending and the dance made a profit. In addition, the sale of used clothing raised almost 800 dollars for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Thanks to Billi and Chuck Langtry, and all those who helped them, for organizing a very successful dance.

With regard to Jamboree 2011, at the CoD Meeting in April it was agreed that Jamboree would become 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. Proposals were to be accepted by the EOSARDA Dance Committee up until June 15, 2010. The Committee did not receive any expressions of interest from member clubs who would be willing to organize the dance jointly with EOSARDA. Consequently, this dance will not be held in 2011. I should

mention, however, that the OACA have decided to hold a graduation dance on April 30 at St Pat's.

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 will be held at Mother Teresa High School on Feb 4.

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.

We are always happy to welcome additional dancers to the Dance Committee and I am happy to announce that Robert and Jean Read, who dance with Rhapsody Rounds and Take-a-Step Rounds, have agreed to join us. If any one here is interested, I would be pleased to speak to you. Dance Committee members do not have to be members of the EOSARDA Executive.

#### **d) Information Technology Committee - Bob Summers**

A position paper was presented to the Board of Directors at their meeting in February. The report highlighted some of the weaknesses of the current website and outlined some possible strategies to build on what we have and make the site even more useful to our members, our visitors and potential new dancers.

At that meeting, the Board decided to form a subgroup to further discuss the website options and directions. Some headway has been made in this regard but we are not all fully engaged yet.

We've secured a secondary website to try out ideas, and play with menu and navigation systems.

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.

Wendy VanderMeulen asked if there was a date in mind to have the new web site up and running.

Bob replied that a target date had not yet been established.

#### **e) Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards Committee - Bob Summers**

##### **Awards**

EOSARDA is planning to present congratulations and a certificate to the Capital Steppers in May at 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.

#### **f) Hearing Enhancement Working Group - Barb Dennison**

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 comes with one receiver. Therefore the number of receivers purchased by dancers, callers and cuers in this campaign is 51.

Thank you to the Clubs and a special thank you to the club leaders for taking the time to “talk it up” & for making this project, truly, a success. Delivery was made simple as everyone chipped in to help.

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

#### **g) Ottawa Area Callers Association (OACA) -Wendy VanderMeulen for Andy Himberg-Larsen**

The end of another dance season is upon us again. The OACA members have been very busy all season putting dancers thru their paces, teaching classes and club members new ways to do old things. Also our new callers have been busy learning their skills, calling at every opportunity and have attended caller school and had training sessions at our meetings. They have progressed a long way and are doing really well.

OACA and RDTA held a very successful Grey Cup Dance in November and will be having the dance again on November 26, 2011 at St. Pat's high school.

Upcoming events – Basic dancing for our newly graduated dancers will be held again this year at the Churchill Senior Centre, corner Richmond Rd and Churchill, commencing May 5 running to mid-July, check Square time for timings. Please encourage your new dancers to attend, as this is a great opportunity to keep up their skills. Everyone is welcome to come to these dances, experienced dancers are a big help and as the old saying goes the more the merrier.

The OACA is holding a dance April 30 at St Pat's High School to celebrate the square dancers who have just graduated. Clubs, please encourage all your grads and club members to attend this celebration.

This will be my final report as Caller rep to the Board, after 3 years I will be handing over the gavel to Paul and Judy Adams who will be chair for OACA for the coming year (s). Have a good summer and see you on the dance floor.

#### **h) Round Dance Teachers Association (RDTA) - Jean Clingin**

The RDTA held their fund raiser for The Heart and Stroke Association in February and raised \$910.00.

Rhapsody Rounds is holding a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 1<sup>st</sup>, dinner/dance at Parkdale United Church - \$30.00 per person – information available before dance season ends.

Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> a workshop will be held at Parkdale United Church by Pat Black & John Mowle. They will be teaching phase V All That Jazz – foxtrot. If not enough interest it will be cancelled. 7:00 – 9:30 pm.

Take-A-Step Rounds will be wrapping up Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> with a party, everyone welcome.

Gerry Sawtell asked if there was anyone asked to cue rounds at Fall Fest this year. Gavin said no one has yet been asked. Gerry pointed out that the ad in Square Time said local callers and cuers would be there. Gavin apologized for this and said that dance committee would be speaking to local cuers very shortly.

David explained that there was a printer's error in the ad for Fall Fest in the last edition of Square Time. The word "Fest" had been omitted although it is in the flyers that have been

distributed and was in the printer's proof for the ad. David said that the EOSARDA would not in fact be presenting Fall this year.

### **I) Festival 2014 - Wendy VanderMeulen**

The countdown to Festival 2014 really is on! It's exactly 39 months from today 'til opening ceremonies (that's 1187 days).

Many of you know that I was at the Grand Opening of the Ottawa Convention Centre on Wednesday evening. It is a great facility! It made me want to have the Festival THIS weekend. I just can't wait to get in there and experience it.

Well, the first opportunity comes for the Board on May 4<sup>th</sup>, when we will have a private tour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, which is what we have booked for the Festival. I'm sure the rest of the Board will also be pleased with what they'll see. (IF any of you also want a private tour, just jump up RIGHT NOW and volunteer to be on the Board - we still need a Facility Group Chair, Registration Group Chair, and Financial Group Chair.)

And you all know about the Countdown to Festival Dance on Thursday, July 21. Response to that dance has been phenomenal - you really all DO want to see the OCC! Limited ribbons were ordered because I just couldn't guess at what the response would be for a middle-of-the-summer dance on a weekday night. Well, 2 Clubs have already told me they've sold out of ribbons. Not to worry - just sell the ribbons you don't have for \$7 and keep track of those dancers. Submit the list to before the dance and they will be allowed in. Note that they have to pay in advance. Just putting their name on a list is not sufficient. If payment is being transacted at the door, the cost will be \$10 per dancer.

The invitation has gone out to all Callers and Cuers registered for the Festival, and we will see how many we have who will participate in this dance. It would be nice if some came in from out of town, but we'll see.

By the way, the carpet that is on the floor in the OCC is very danceable - if you wear proper dance shoes, ie. Flat-soled leather shoes. If you wear rubber-soled shoes, you will have a heck of a time. I'm just saying .....

Other items continue to progress: Andy "hyphenated guy" is in Las Vegas at CALLERLAB and will be talking to callers there to see how they can be encouraged to attend our event. We are investigating the possibility of hosting a Callers' School prior to Festival, and he is going to be asking some Callers if they are willing to come up for the School and stay for the Festival. Also, advertising has begun to go out, with our first ad appearing in the program for the New England Convention, being held in Maine the last weekend in April.

There's still lots of work to do, but we are confident and excited as we countdown the years, months, and days.



Peter Courdin asked if there is a need for volunteers in Detroit in June to promote the Festival. Wendy replied: "Yes, and anyone's who's going, I'd appreciate it if you would help out."

Harold Moore asked how many are already registered. According to the Festival 2014 Web Site, there are 254 people registered at this point.

Gerry Sawtell said Roundalab will provide a workshop before the convention.

Shirley Hull asked about the floor space if more than 20 squares show up for the count-down dance in July. Wendy said that a larger room is available if required.

**j) Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association - Wendy VanderMeulen**

The SVSRDA consists of clubs in the Seaway Valley area and clubs who wish to see dancing continue and succeed in the Seaway Valley area.

We recently had our Spring meeting and had our annual elections. We are pleased to have some new people on the Executive for the upcoming year – Teresa MacInnis is President and Helen MacCallum is our Secretary. Both dance with the Swinging B's in Cornwall and are relatively new to SVSRDA meetings. Harold Moore is our new Vice President and I remain as Treasurer.

The Seaway Valley hosts 2 open dances a year - a Christmas Dance (the second Sunday in December) and Mother's Day Dance (the first Sunday in May). Our Christmas Dance, which was scheduled to be held on December 12, 2010, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Freezing rain and rain were forecast, so we made the decision not to hold the dance, as we did not want people driving in that weather. Although we had to make the call 2 days in advance, in order to let the School know, it turned out to be a good decision.

Our annual Mother's Day Dance is coming up on Sunday, May 1. Paul Adams will be calling and Dorothy Tweed will be cueing. This is a Basic and Mainstream Dance with easy Rounds. The format is Basic – Round – Basic – Round – Mainstream – Round, etc., until the dance is over. This gives our graduate dancers a good amount of floor time

We are very excited to announce that our Mother's Day Dance in 2012 will have a very special guest caller – Nasser Shukayr, of Texas. To accommodate his schedule, the dance will be held on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, a week earlier than usual. Jean Clingin will be cueing Rounds for us. We are looking forward to a great dance that Sunday afternoon. Please mark your calendars now and plan to be there!

**k) EOSARDA Eagles - Dave Western**

I am pleased to announce that the Eagles are fully operational with 35 dancers and 3 callers (Wendy VanderMeulen, Andy Himberg-Larsen and Bob Summers). Membership is now complete, any other applicants are being placed on a waiting list.

The team has its first two engagements lined up;  
April 20 - Monfort Hospital Fund Raiser - Caller François Desmarais  
May 28 - Cumberland Museum - Callers Wendy VanderMeulen and John Charman

A Dance Team meeting was held on March 27, the Team decided on the following:

### **Team costume/colours**

White tops and black bottoms for both male and female dancers. Dancers are free to choose their style of dress. Ladies dancing as left hand dancers are encouraged to wear pants.

### **Kind of events**

There are no restrictions on the kind of events at which the Eagles will appear. However, where an event is to take place in a club's geographical area, that club will be given the first opportunity to participate in the event.

Where a club requests that the Eagles take part in a club recruiting activity, the club will be advised that they should have club members on hand to "work the crowd".

### **Dance Style**

While individual flourishes are encouraged, all moves are to be danced according to the standard definition.

### **CD's vs Caller?**

Whenever possible, the team will make use of a Caller. Preference is to use one of the team Callers. Where one is not available, efforts will be made to use another Caller. Only when all such efforts have failed will the team dance to a cued CD. The team Callers will make up a couple of cued CD's to be used under such circumstances.

### **Lead time**

Generally speaking we require a minimum of 48 hours notice in order to accept an invitation to participate in an event. There may be some circumstances in which shorter notice will be accepted, provided that sufficient people can be found to participate.

### **Decision to participate**

Team members are to let Dave know as soon as possible if they are willing to take part in a particular event. It is recognized that where long-lead times are involved, some changes in circumstances may occur. When this happens, dancers are to let Dave know as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to have a stand-by list of at least two dancers for each event.

Dancers who have volunteered for an event are encouraged not to drop out at the last minute. But when such circumstances occur, it is the dancer's responsibility to find a substitute dancer and advise Dave accordingly.

### **Should the team charge for its services?**

The dancers do not expect to be paid for participating in team events. However, there is an expectation that the team's professional Callers will be compensated for their efforts. While the team will not charge clubs to appear at club events, donations in the form of honoraria will be accepted.

The team will not take part in any event at which team members are expected to pay admission or to incur additional expenses which are not reimbursed by the event organizers.

### **Promotional Documentation**

Every effort will be made to ensure that material promoting square dancing will be on hand at all Eagles Events.

Harold Moore suggested that dancers not be dressed identically during the demos. He feels that different colors are preferable so audience can watch certain dance positions. Dave said that he would pass this information on to team members

Maurice Demers asked if EOSARDA will be doing recruiting demos at Bayshore. Dave responded that plans for the Fall recruiting drive have not been finalized, but that it is not likely that EOSARDA will sponsor demo dancing at Bayshore this year.

### **I) Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation - Peter Courdin & Karen Remy**

A total of 30 Square Dance Licence plates were sold in the calendar year 2010. It is requested that Association Newsletters and Publications advertise the benefits in terms of promoting square dancing from these plates.

There will be no increase in the Federation Membership Fees this year. The fee for the OSRDF will remain at \$1 per dancer, club, association, and caller/cuer.

The total membership for Ontario this year as at March, 2011 is 3854 vs 4244 for last year.

If Associations would consider building a data base of dancers, then Federation would consider paying for Data Entry. This initiative will be further discussed at the next Federation meeting after associations have commented on the proposal. (It is noted that this was previously tried and discontinued as no value came from this project).

Federation has approved recruitment grants submitted by various clubs from other associations. Non were submitted by EOSARDA clubs.

The OSRDF currently has investments of approx. \$38,000 plus \$10,000 in cash. Out of this, an amount of \$5,000 has been set aside in a reserve to be used exclusively for PR & Promotion. During the past year, \$3,800 was spent on 50,000 bookmarks to be handed out at the International Plowing match, and 200 to be sent to each club in Ontario to be used for recruitment purposes.

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Federation will be held at Brock University on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. All dancers are welcome to attend.

Jim Sawtell asked for the number to call about finances. He was told that the 1-800 number is staffed by Society.

Valerie Goodwin asked the purpose of the list requested by Peter. No answer was available.

Ken Phillips asked about the \$5,000 in reserve. How much was spent? Peter replied that \$4000 was spent last year.

Roger Frappier asked about the monies from the Plowing Match in London. This year it is in L'Original and a booth would be a good idea. Dave Western said we do not have a plan at this time for the plowing match this year.

Dave Western asked about the \$4800 spent on bookmarks. What was the goal and was it achieved? Peter said it was felt the bookmarks would be a good return from past experiences. Dave said that he felt that the bookmarks were too busy and therefore hard to read. He questioned their effectiveness. Peter said that the bookmarks had been very popular especially with smaller clubs but that there was no information on their effectiveness in recruiting new dancers.

## **5. Old Business**

None

## **6. New Business**

### **a) Equipment availability for dances - Dave Western for Andy Himberg-Larsen**

Clubs and association are reminded that EOSARDA has 2 complete sound systems available for use at dances. These can be obtained by contacting Andy Himberg-Larsen. EOSARDA also has 4 sets of hearing assistance equipment that can be made available for demonstration purposes or for use at dances.

### **b) Loss of entry-level clubs - Dave Western**

In the December 2009 edition of Square Time, I wrote,

“If we continue to sustain annual decreases of 10% in registrations, it will not be too long before clubs will begin to fold and EOSARDA ceases to function as a viable organization.”

And I asked for help with the Board’s efforts to turn things around.

Since that time, as reported by our Registrar, our membership has decreased by another 10%

Your Board has continued to work on this problem. but I have to tell you that the additional help that was requested has not been forthcoming. According to our by-laws, there should be a minimum of 20 Directors on the Association’s Board of Directors. This past year, there were only 15 of us and to date, no new volunteers have come forward. This lack of human resources on the Board is seriously hampering our efforts to get new initiatives going.

So what? As long as our clubs are healthy and doing well, who cares?

Well just last Wednesday, I attended the Town and Country Kicker’s last ever event. That club, once a vibrant and essential part of the fabric of the Eastern Ontario Square Dance scene, is no more. I understand that Spinettes and Spinning Spears will also be closing their doors this year, and I am hearing rumours that at least 3 more of our entry level dance clubs may not be back in the Fall.

It won’t be too long before the loss of these recruiting clubs begins to be felt by our Plus clubs as the source of their new dancers begins to dry up.

This situation is not, of course, unique to Eastern Ontario. It is being experienced across North America. But we cannot wait for someone else to tackle the problem. At our current rate of attrition, we, as an organization, will be out of business by 2016 at the latest.

As you have heard, your Board has a number of initiatives underway to try and stem the tide, and we are open to additional ideas.

But we cannot do it without your help. Many hands make light work, few hands produce burn out and apathy.

Later this afternoon you will be selecting a Board of Directors to lead us into the 2011/12 dance year. Please ensure that we have a full Board of people willing to help find solutions to this pressing problem.

If you have any ideas or projects in this regard, please contact me.

Maurice Demers from Meri Squares: Carlingwood had a demo and people joined. The Association should perhaps go to the Shopping Centres to promote square dancing.

Marcia Johnstone from Harbor Lites: Involved with 50 plus in Brockville - May 29 -Health day in legion in Brockville to promote activities. Marcia will organize a table with a video and dancers in costume to promote square dancing. Pearl Western asked about the costume. Marcia said one couple in traditional and another in prairie skirt.

Les Goodwin, Village Squares, said they did a demo at St. Laurent Shopping Centre and it didn't prove successful.

Dave said he has heard that a commitment for 3 to 4 months of lessons is too much for many younger adults. Perhaps weekend workshops would be speedier and club nights would be for honing dance skills. Wendy VanderMeulen said that while this might work for 30-year olds, older folk cannot do that. Age matters if you are having a good time in your own age group. She has done 4- hour sessions.

Maurice Demers asked why there isn't a system to have people join anytime. Wendy said it has been tried by Meri Squares and it was not that successful.

Richard Sharman of Meri Squares: Shopping centres are good opportunities to meet potential new dancers by chance. The start and finish dates could be changed such as January to April and teach the program. Start in the Fall and do it again until December.

Bob Summers said that when Basic, Mainstream and Plus are taught on the same night, dancing time for each level is reduced. The same is true if you are planning on allowing a 2nd wave of new dancers to start part way thru the dance season. In this case you would have Basic1, Basic2 and Mainstream levels to dance each night. Club members need to be onboard and realize that they will get less Mainstream dancing if you have multiple starts throughout the year. It can work, but there are costs that dancers need to be aware of and support.

Paul Adams, Adam's Aces: callers don't call Basic - that is the problem. You can start anytime, whenever you want. There's no rule that tells you when to start and end; how old you have to be. You only need a group of people willing to dance once a month etc. They may get to like it and then come to a class to do it regularly. Paul suggests that if any caller that is not calling Basics, and wants to call Basics to promote Square dancing, EOSARDA could help by renting a facility that that might be a gain to what we're doing now. Anybody who wants to be a caller needs to get 8 dancers and just start by telling them what to do.

Peter Courdin: Initiatives such as Peterborough's need to be spread around to all clubs, associations so that we are not re-inventing the wheel. Coupons were used by Peterborough for \$6 lessons. There were 50 new dancers. Dave said that he has already circulated the report and said it was available for anyone who is interested. Ken Philips said the Peterborough club had collapsed and that was the initiative to get a new club going.

Harold Moore: caller-run club, has some new dancers who have progressed.

Marcia Johnstone, Harbor Lites, is looking for the colorful book of dance moves because it is helpful. It is available on order still.

Roger Frappier, Swinging B's, said 5 women who joined stayed. 4 are Basic grads. Couple-oriented clubs are missing a whole segment of people who can participate. He suggested weekend workshops to learn 20 calls and master them.

Elizabeth Woollaston: Unfortunately, The GoodTime Squares is one of the clubs that will possibly be folding in September. We have been unable to elect an executive. We are losing one full square to the Swingin' Saints. That leaves us with one square plus two dancers, assuming that those remaining return in September. This situation will not be fun for the dancers or our caller Bob Summers. We have worked very hard the last two years trying to attract new dancers with no results. We have had people come out but not for more than one night. We have also worked hard trying to get other clubs to visit us on our Special Dance nights. We had an excellent turnout for Hallowe'en but not many for any other Special Dances.

All of the club members are devastated that the club may close. For one thing this would mean the end of the Alzheimer's Benefit Dance that consistently raises over \$2,000.00 per dance and has been enjoyed by many clubs year after year.

Due to the fact that we were having no success in recruiting new members, I did a survey to find out what people thought of Square Dancing and with only one exception, they thought that Square Dancers were old and wore big puffy skirts. My comment was that I didn't think I was old and I did not wear Square Dancing clothes! I admire dancers that wear Square Dancing clothes. Referring to two clubs that I am familiar with, the Grenville Gremlins and the Harbour Lights look great when they are wearing their club colours. I think we need to show that Square Dancing clothes are not mandatory but may be worn if the dancers would like to.

Peter Courdin says there are learning CD's available with 40 of the 50 Basic moves on it. They are useful to getting new dancers in the square dance community.

Bob Summers talked about single women in Peterborough and dividing them into men and lady parts. Certainly slow, old dancers do discourage new dancers from joining. Club decisions need to be made to stop negative look of their club. \$2.50 for a booklet called Do-Si-Do for his new dancers provided for his dancers. Quick-start workshops do work with angels. Going through the whole list of Basic calls can work in an hour with no music.

**c) Future of Square Time - Nancy Morgan**

To be re-discussed in November. The rising cost being the factor.

**d) EOSARDA reps at Club Graduations - Dave Western**

Dave reported on a complaint by a club president that EOSARDA reps don't pay when visiting for graduation and was upset by that. The Council felt that the Board members should be welcome as guests.

Harold Moore said that his club does not charge EOSARDA reps to attend graduation and would not do so. He said that he was told not to pay when he was a rep.

#### **e) Election of Board members**

The Board presented the following Nomination List for next year's Board of Directors:

1. Cora Calwell
2. Gavin Currie
3. Barbara Dennison
4. Paul Dennison
5. Andy Himberg-Larsen
6. Billi Langtry
7. Chuck Langtry
8. Nancy Morgan
9. Bill Shields
- 10 Bob Summers
- 11 Bruce Warner
- 12 Linda Warner
- 13 Dave Western
- 14 Pearl Western

All of the nominees have agreed to serve on the Board for 2011/12.

Jim Sawtell moved that the slate be adopted. Harold Moore seconded the motion. The list of nominees was unanimously approved.

Paul and Judy Adams will be the OACA's representatives on the Board for 2011/12, and Don and Jean Clingin will be the RDTA representatives.

Dave asked for additional nominations or volunteers. Marion Moore volunteered to be on the Board; Harold will join her.

Dave asked the delegates to go back to their clubs and solicit other members.

Bob Summers emphasized that experience is not a requisite.

#### **f) Election of Federation Representatives**

Peter Courdin, Karen Remy have indicated that they are willing to continue as EOSARDA's Federation Reps, as is Peter Graham may stay on. Andy Himberg-Larsen has asked to be replaced and Billi Langtry has agreed to serve in his place. Chuck Langtry has offered to serve as a spare.



Maurice Demers moved that the Council appoint Peter Courdin, Karin Remy, Peter Graham and Billi Langtry as EOSARDA's representatives to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation for 2011/12. Gavin seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**g) Creation of a Master List of Dancers - Peter Courdin**

Peter said that Federation is interested in creating a master list of dancers. He said that the master list would help and Federation would pay for the data entry. In the interest of time, Dave asked Peter to send the Board a detailed proposal that can be discussed at a subsequent Board meeting. Peter agreed to this.

**7. Other Business**

**a) Club Round Table**

Maurice Demers: surprise party for Earl Gregor on June 2 at Britannia Yacht Club  
Francois Demarais has prostate cancer and Meri Squares is having a fund-raiser dance to cover his medical costs

Harold Moore : Seaway Squares Grad Monday, April 18; money will be donated to Francois' cause.

Billi Langtry: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Capital Steppers May 7<sup>th</sup>

Wendy VanderMeulen: Wendy's Elegant 8 Dances in the Fall -DBD Mainstream on Friday nights-Maximum 3 squares

Shirley Hull: April 27- Western dance night for Harbor Lites

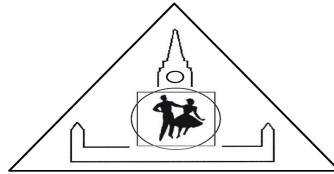
Nancy Morgan: ad in Square Time: Grenville Gremlins' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Valerie Goodwin: I would like to report that the Bunny Hop attendance this year was the same as last year's. However, last year we had a bus load from Montreal included in the total, which means we had 45 more local dancers attending this year. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Bunny Hop

**b) Date and location of next Council of Dancers**

Next meeting is November 20, 2011 at the Citizen Building.

**Appendix 1  
Amended Agenda**



**Agenda - Council of Dancers - April 2011**

Date: Sunday, April 17, 2011  
Time: 1:30 - 4:00 pm  
Place: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall  
425 Center St, at Dibble  
Prescott, Ont

1. Call to Order and opening remarks - Dave Western
2. Amendments to and approval of the draft agenda - Dave Western
3. Approval of Minutes of the November 2010 Council of Dancers
- 4. Reports**
  - a) Operations Committee
    - i) General - Dave Western
    - ii) Financial Report - Bruce Warner
    - iii) Registrar's Report - Linda Warner
  - b) Publicity, Promotions and Publishing Committee - Barbara Dennison
  - c) Dance Committee - Gavin Currie
  - d) Information Technology Committee - Bob Summers
  - e) Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards Committee - Bob Summers
  - f) Hearing Enhancement Working Group - Barb Dennison
  - g) Ottawa Area Callers Association (OACA) - Andy Himberg-Larsen
  - h) Round Dance Teachers Association (RDTA) - Jean Clingin
  - i) Festival 2014 - Wendy VanderMeulen
  - j) SVSRDA - Wendy VanderMeulen
  - k) EOSARDA Eagles - Dave Western Family
  - l) Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation - ??
  - m) Canadian Square and Round Dance Association - ??
- 5. Old Business**

None
- 6. New Business**
  - a) Equipment availability for dances

- b) Loss of entry-level clubs
- c) Future of Square Time – Nancy Morgan
- d) EOSARDA reps at Club Graduations – Dave Western
- e) Election of Board members
- f) Election of Federation Representatives
- g) **Creation of a Master List of Dancers - Peter Courdin**

**7. Other business**

- a) Club Round Table
- b) Date and location of next Council of Dancers