

**Minutes of EOSARDA Board Meeting, January 20.2013
Main Floor Boardroom at the Ottawa Citizen's Building in Ottawa**

Attendance;

Dave Western, Chuck Langtry, Bob Summers, Paul Adams, Judy Adams, Billi Langtry, Elizabeth Wollaston, Peter Wollaston, Barb Dennison, Lauraine Smith.

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.
- 1.2 Regrets were: Roger Frappier, Andy Himberg-Larsen, Nancy Morgan, Bruce Warner, Linda Warner, Gavin Currie.
Dave informed the Board that Bruce Warner was in the hospital and will be sending a card on behalf of the Board.
- 1.3 & 3 Move by Elizabeth Wollaston and seconded by Billi Langtry that the agenda and the minutes of the November 18, meeting be approved. Carried

2. Opening Remarks – Dave Western

Good afternoon and welcome to 2013. Twenty-thirteen! Who'da thunk it? But here we are.

Pearl and I welcomed in the New Year on the dance floor with the Grenville Gremlins whose numbers that night were sadly depleted as many dancers were laid low by the flu. This was Pearl's first time dancing since her left knee was replaced in October and I am pleased to say that she did very well, dancing both Squares and Rounds for the better part of two hours. A couple of weeks later she was on the dance floor again, this time at the Halfway Dance. And we are back to Lock-its, where we are polishing up our A-1 which got a little rusty over the past 6 months and looking for a place to learn A-2.

Speaking of the Halfway Dance. There were over 320 dancers in attendance, a slight increase over last year. And, did you notice the age of some of our newest dancers? The Kanata Squares had a whole square of 20 something, who were having the time of their lives and they were not the only young dancers on the floor. What a welcome sight that was! When I spoke to several of the younger dancers they said that they were very excited to be at the dance and that they just loved Square Dancing. I told them to tell their friends! I don't want to be overly optimistic, but could it be that we have finally turned a corner and that we are now on an up-tick?

We certainly cannot rest on our recruiting laurels despite the number of new dancers recruited this year. Retention and recruiting have to continue to be the order of the day. But it does seem that we may be beginning to see some progress.

And speaking of good news, I hope that you all saw our regional square dance ambassador, Paul Adams on CTV News a couple of weeks ago. Nice job Paul, well done.

Another thing happened at the Halfway Dance while we were sitting at a table enjoying Mississippi's usual idea of a "light snack". One of the new Basic Dancers at the table said that naturally he had spent most of the evening in the Basic Hall, but at one point he had gone down to the Plus Hall to "See the Pros in action". He was obviously much impressed by what he had seen and was looking forward to the day when he would be good enough to join "the Pros". Need a reason to support our local dances even if they are not geared to your current skill level? There it is, leadership by example.

Of course things are not all good. The conflict between Society and Federation continues unabated, as I will discuss a little later this afternoon; registrations for Festival 2014 is still sub-

optimal; we still need more people to help keep that ship on course; and even with our wonderful increase in new dancers this year, we are still down slightly over last year.

So all we need to do for the balance of the year is

- keep things on an even keel,
- keep our dance programs interesting and exciting, work harder than ever at recruiting new dancers and retaining experienced ones
- look at recruiting new Callers and Cuers to replace those who will be retiring, and
- get everyone in the region firmly behind Festival 2014 while at the same time, making sure that we all keep on Dancing.

No problem - eh?

4 Reports

4.1 Operations Committee

4.1.1 General – Dave Western

The RDTA still has not appointed a representative to the Board, nor have our appeals for additional Directors brought any positive results. Nancy is going to publish a “Wanted Poster” in the next issue of Square Time.

4.1.2 Treasurer’s Report

Information available on request.

4.1.3 Registrar’s Report

The number of registered dancers has increased by 2 to 980.

Four applications for EOSARDA Dance Dangles for 2012 have been received. The dangles have been purchase and will be presented at Frosty Fling.

I am advised that registration applications for EOSARDA, the Board of Directors and Festival 2014 have been submitted to Society and have been accepted. However, there is an on-going conflict between Society and Federation over Federation’s decision to obtain its own insurance policy. Both the President of CSRDS and the Membership Director resigned over this issue. However the Membership Director has since been reinstated.

Society is proving intractable in its demand that Ontario drop its own insurance and accept that being offered by Society. Ontario is not prepared to accept this ultimatum. The matter is unresolved at this time.

That being said, we are assured by Federation that all of our clubs and registered dancers are duly registered with Federation and are covered under the provincial insurance policy.

It should be noted that only EOSARDA, the Board of Directors and Festival 2014 have been registered with Society, individual dancers have not, although they are registered with Federation.

Unlike in the past, Federation will not be issuing individual dancer registration cards. Certificates of insurance, if required, may be obtained through Bruce Warner. Also, anyone needing a membership statement for purposes of dancing while in travel status can get one from our Registrar.

4.2 Dance Committee

4.2.1 General – Paul Adams

FROSTY FLING 2013 The dance will take place at Mother Teresa High School on Feb 2. The callers will be John Charman and Brian Crawford and the cuers Jean & Don Clingin and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. Nancy Morgan has prepared a poster and Marguerite Summers has distributed ribbons. More information is available on our web site. The price will be \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the door. Helgi Goodman of Mississippi Squares has kindly agreed to ask club members to volunteer to help out with registration and share the wealth.

FALL FEST 2013 Once again, the Dance Committee is proposing to hold Fall Fest on the last Saturday of October, October 26, and we are seeking confirmation from the Board for this date. Given the problems with St Patrick's High School last year we are exploring other possible locations for the dance. The following leaders have agreed to participate: callers Tim Crawford (Burlington, ON) and Geoff Clarke; cuers David Goss & Ulla Figwer (Westford, MA) and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. The program is tentative at present, but we plan to have dancing in the afternoon from 2-4 pm and in the evening from 7-10 pm The Board confirmed the date for Fall Fest and was suggested that the Dance Committee develop a system to identify the "New Dancers" who attend the dance.

4.2.2 Swing into Spring – Dave Western

Swing into Spring 2013

The Dance Leader line-up for Swing into Spring 2013 has been confirmed. They are:

Squares

Robert Hurst from England
Matt Worley from Virginia
John Charman
Geoff Clarke
Andy Himberg-Larsen
Bob Summers
Wendy VanderMeulen

Rounds

Steve and Irene Bradt from Pennsylvania
Jean and Don Clingin
Gerry and Jim Sawtell
Pat Black and John Mowel

Lines

Dave Western

The dance workshop schedule has also been set and copies have been distributed to the Board (see attached). Note that The Bradt's two Round Dance clinics will be 3 hours each, while the other Round Dance clinics will each be 2 hours long. All of the Square Dance and Line Dance workshops are scheduled to last approximately 50 minutes

While dancers are encouraged to pre-register for Swing into Spring 2013, we will not be pre-registering for workshops.

Brochures and registration forms for Swing into Spring 2013 were available at the Halfway Dance and a registration form was published in the last issue of Square Time. **We need to ramp up our advertising and get out to clubs to encourage dancers to register. Club visits by all Directors would be most appreciated. If you are willing to visit one or more clubs, please**

let Nancy know.

4.3 P & P Committee – Barb Dennison

Publicity reaches out to both new dancers and to all our current dancers. Our goal is to attract new dancers and to retain existing dancers. Please remember the old adage: If we continue to do what we have always done, we will continue to get what we have always got.

For 2013 the recommendation is as follows:

To provide radio advertising for the 10 days prior to “Open houses” in September of 2013. The most popular station during the day is Magic FM 100.3 There is a great deal of work on this one. We have a contact at the station that will assist with many of the required details.

Newspaper advertising: In 2012, a small colorful add appeared in west end papers advertising square dancing. This ad was a success. The recommendation is to have this ad appear in all EMC papers across EOSARDA in August 2013.

We still have to get a cost associated with the radio and paper advertisement.

This publicity program for 2013 requires a website up & running. We require a website address where the public can obtain “open house” information.

This project will be ongoing for a couple of months. Updates will be provided at each EOSARDA meeting.

Should the results of radio & newspaper advertising be successful in September then we would pass our findings and results on to the Website Renewal group.

Moving on: Some interesting information from Dale Bennett with Square Dance Central & the nest: He is an avid square dancer with a deep desire to promote our activity and reverse its unfortunate decline. This group is making great strides. The information document will be distributed at the next meeting.

4.4 Club Liaison Committee – Nancy Morgan (read by Elizabeth Wollaston)

Awards, Anniversaries and Celebrations: *No anniversaries or celebrations were reported

MailChimp: Seven Mail Chimps have been sent since our last meeting with a consistent 65% open rate. The bad news is we lost Fiddle and Bow from Greenfield Park through unsubscribe.

New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy: A request for subsidy has been received from Mississippi Squares. It has been reviewed and will be given to Bruce shortly. There was also a request received from Harbour Lights

Graduations: Over to Chuck and Billi.

Square Time: We distributed 330 Square Time in December but sadly, the new numbers for subscription are 285.

4.5 I.T. Committee

4.5.1 General – Peter Wollaston

The Website has been updated, and our webmaster has been posting events and changes. I am behind on my monitoring of the site, and the minutes of EOSARDA and Council of Dancers meetings have still to be posted. I will bring it all up to date shortly.

4.5.2 Website Renewal Committee Project – Peter Wollaston

I am pleased to report that the Working Group has been meeting regularly, and have been working very well together. Bruce attended the last meeting, and offered some new insight. We are in the process of putting together our Marketing Plan, and are starting to put some meat on the bones. We are building a multi-tiered Recruitment Plan, centered on the website, with a new image encapsulated in a bright and attractive logo.

We are preparing to submit our funding proposal to the Trillium Foundation for the next intake date, and so far the pieces are coming together nicely. Once we do obtain funding, we intend to involve the clubs in putting some parts of the actual campaign together, so that they, too, are involved and can participate in the campaign.

4.6 Festival 2014 – Dave Western

For personal reasons, the Financial Chair has resigned from the Festival Board. Wendy is looking for a replacement.

A new on-line registration process, which will include on-line payment of registrations through a Pay Pal account, is current begin set up and should be operational within the next few weeks. While the cost of registration for Festival increased on January 1, the lower price will be retained temporarily for on-line registrations.

There have been some troubling signals coming from Society re Festival 2014. In a recent message to the Society Board, copied to Wendy VanderMeulen as Chair of Festival 2014, Eric McCormack, the Acting President of the CSRDS, called for a telephone conference of the Society's Board to discuss:

“the major problem regarding Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation's (OSRDF) membership in the CSRDS and the fate of Festival 2014.

Eric went on to say:

“If an amicable agreement in [the insurance and membership] matter can [not] be reached for 2014, how long should we wait for a commitment from the Ontario Federation for full membership before making a decision to 'cut our losses' and terminate Festival 2014?

I informed Federation about this message and there was a subsequent exchange of e-mails between Federation and Society.

Federation stated:

“As far as Festival 2014, there is a 3 way agreement in place between the Society, the Federation, and the Association (EOSARDA). It does not give more power to one group than the other, although I would imagine that the Association could make a termination decision. The most important section of the Letter of Agreement is the paragraph that states "in the event of official notification from the Committee of a possible financial loss position (each party) would participate in a Joint Action Committee that may make needed money saving changes in the proposed program..." etc. To my knowledge the Festival Chair has not indicated that there will be a financial loss, and I have no reason at this time to think otherwise.”

As previously reported, EOSARDA, the Board of Directors and Wendy VanderMeulen have all

- Provide flexibility and expand powers for directors, officers and members – protect directors and officers from personal liability
- Follow the structure of the Ontario Business Corporations Act
- Make certain that the Corporation is operating with objects that are primarily not for profit in nature
- Restrictions on commercial activity – there are currently no restrictions on commercial activity which may be carried out for not-for-profit purposes
- Enhance corporation governance and accountability
- Align with legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions

Similar to the Ontario Business Corporations Act, new not-for-profit corporations will file Articles of Incorporation as opposed to Letters Patent.

Existing not-for-profit corporations will be required to file articles of amendment to amend the letters patent, supplementary letters patent, by-laws and special resolutions in order to conform to the new Act.

One change is that the term for directors will be reduced from 5 years to 3. There will also be changes in how members relate to their organizations, but these rules are still being written. Organizations will have 3 years after the new Act comes into force to file to make these changes, which will be mandatory.

5.3 Up-dated List of Club contacts for Web Site – Dave Western

Peter will check with Linda for the update

5.4 Geographical Limits of our region – Dave Western

Two callers from Quebec are asking why the club Ace Deucy has been allowed to register with EOSARDA, when they are situated in Quebec. According to our Constitution there are no grounds to reject their application and consequently, Dave will advise the callers.

6. New Business

6.1 Graduation 2013 – Billi Langtry

A list will have to be established as to what Board Member will go where. Billi will prepare the packages which will include things like a brochure, pins, and certificates. Move by Bob Summers, seconded by Elizabeth Wollaston that we provide the graduation dancers with a free pass to Frosty Fling 2014. Carried

6.2 How to Hype Council of Dancers – Dave Western

There was a discussion on this subject but it was decided to defer it to the next meeting.

7. Other Business

None

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.