

**Minutes of the EOSARDA Board meeting, April 27th. 2014
St Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall, Prescott**

Attendance: Bill Ableson, Gavin Currie, Barbara Englehart, Roger Frappier, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Pierre Reinhard, Mary Anne Reinhard, Bob Summers, Bruce Warner, David Western.

Regrets: Nancy Morgan

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 11 h 10

1.2 Approval of Agenda as circulated.

2.0 Minutes of February meeting approved as recirculated,
Moved by Chuck, Seconded by Bruce.

2.1 Minutes of March meeting approved as circulated,
Moved by Chuck, seconded by Bruce.

3. Opening Remarks - Dave Western

I don't have much by way of opening remarks today.

As you all know, we are less than 3 months away from hosting Festival 2014. Thanks to the hard work of our members, it is going to be the biggest and best dance event that this region has seen in the last 10 years. We will be hearing more about Festival in the course of the day, but that is not what I want to speak to you about right now. I want you to think ahead to the post-Festival period.

There are three possible scenarios we may face at that time. From best to worst they are:

\$ Festival has made a significant profit for the Association, making money available for a serious recruiting effort over the next few years.

\$ We have essentially broken-even and we are in no better or worse financial situation than we are right now.

\$ The Festival has incurred a significant deficit and as a result our financial resources have been seriously depleted. (Possible but not probable.)

Whatever the outcome, the Board of Directors for 2014/15 will have to deal with it. Today I want to begin the dialogue on this both within this Board and with Council.

This afternoon we will be electing a new Board of Directors for 2014/15. Roger has advised that for personal reasons he will be unable to continue to serve on the Board after this year. I want to thank him for his hard work over the last couple of years and assure him that he will be sorely missed. I believe that all of the other Directors intend to stand for re-election. If that is not the case, please let me know before this afternoon's meeting.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Operations committee

No report.

4.1.1 TREASURERS REPORT AS OF MAR 16/14 – BRUCE WARNER

Information available on request

4.1.2 REGISTRAR'S REPORT - Barbara Englehart

New square dancers	198
Returning square dancers	658
New round dancers	5
Returning round dancers	67
New line dancers	39
Returning line dancers	11
Total	978
Cuers and callers	42
Total membership	1020
Clubs to date	34
Associations	4

4.2 DANCE COMMITTEE – Gavin Currie

Weather was poor for Frosty Fling which probably accounted for the low turnout.

There will be an addition to the Procedures Manual concerning the cancellation procedures of association dances in cases of inclement weather including instructions to refer to the web site for possible cancellation.

4.3 Publicity and Promotion/Club Liaison Committee - Nancy Morgan

No report

4.4 IT Committee - Bill Ableson

Last year at this time I volunteered as the IT Director for EOSARDA, and was immediately presented with the problem of determining which web site to use: the EOSARD.CA site then supported by Pat Gauthier, or the newer eoDance.ca developed by Bob Summers.

At that time both sites had a small number of errors, and the data was inconsistent between them. Also there was real confusion among dancers and club representatives as to which site was really the authorized site for the EOSARDA organization, and they did not know if they should be sending update information to Pat, Bob or both.

There was little to choose between the two sites in terms of content, but a more complete analysis indicated Bob's was based on a more flexible technology than was the EOSARDA.ca site, and Bob would be able to provide a higher level of maintenance at no cost to EOSARDA than could Pat.

The decision was taken by the board to select eoDance.ca as the official web site for EOSARDA, and with the gracious co-operation of Pat Gauthier, the changes were made to point the EOSARDA.ca and EOSARDA.com URLs to the eoDance.ca site. This was completed in Jan 2014.

Since then there have been a number of enhancements to the site.

The home page contains articles on recent dance events and reminders of upcoming events as well as other articles of interest to the dancing community.

Under the 'More' option, there are copies of all bulletins sent out by EOSARDA to clubs, there are editorial pages, there are discussion forums where users can post comments on any topic of interest, plus pictures, videos and other info for new and current dancers and clubs. There are even jigsaw puzzles!

As you can see, the site has become more complex, with changes required on an on-going basis to update club information, advertise special events, and to keep dancers current with news of interest to those in the square, round and line dancing communities.

In order to reduce the load on the webmaster, our project for the current year is to implement a database behind the site, and provide clubs with means to enter most of their changes directly. We realize this will not be possible for all clubs, but if even the majority can take advantage of these features, it will free up Bob's time for work on enhancements.

The database required for this has already been designed, but a number of issues related to security need to be resolved before we can begin the implementation. This will proceed in three phases.

First, the database will be created and populated with the current data, and the affected pages will be converted to load their info from the database instead of having it typed in directly to create the page.

Second, input forms will be developed to make entering data into the database more efficient. These forms will initially be used just by the webmaster and a few others until they are thoroughly tested.

Third, these forms will be made available to club representatives so that they can enter their data directly in the future. This will require that we issue a user ID and password to a representative from each club which will allow them to access these special pages on the site to edit their own club's information.

Although work can begin on the project immediately, I do not expect anything major to be done until after Festival 2014.

4.5 OACA Report - Bob Summers

Their last meeting was held on April 6 and Bob Summers was selected to represent OACA on the EOSARDA Board. At the moment, there are not enough callers to take over when someone is sick and cannot call.

4.6 RDTA Report

No report

4.7 FESTIVAL 2014

- **Dave Western**

Registration is up to 906 dancers and they are coming in at the rate of 3 or 4 per day. Day passes will be available and this is now being publicised. Numbers for our region are low in comparison to our membership. Thirteen vendors have confirmed their presence and more to come. The fashion show is on track and will hopefully attract outside visitors. Friday will be a good day for visitors. Dave gave us a preview list of the vendors which have committed.

There is an outstanding problem which remains to be settled for the transportation of the flooring.

5. Unfinished Business

5.1 Procedures Manual

Drafts of the following sections are still outstanding:

- 5.1.1 Registration Procedures – Registrar
- 5.1.2 Posting information on eodance – IT Committee
- 5.1.3 Booking of the Citizen's Boardroom - ???
- 5.1.4 Recognition of Major Anniversaries and Accomplishments
- Club Liaison Committee

5.2 Use made by OACA and RDTA of EOSARDA grants - Bruce Warner

OACA uses the grant money mainly for rental accommodations for meetings and also collects \$20.00 from each member. This comprises the whole of the OACA budget.

5.3 Graduation (Up-Date)

As of today we have 124 new graduates.

5.4 Organizational Chart - Nancy Morgan

Nancy is away but the chart will be presented to Council of Dancers this afternoon.

5.5 Agenda for Council of Dancers: As circulated.

6. New Business

6.1 Nominations for 2014-2015 Board of Directors - Dave

Everyone is staying on except for Roger who has notified he is stepping down.

6.2 Processing of Festival Funds for new Graduates - Bruce

After a long discussion, it was concluded that we ask that the refund be given to the Board.

6.3 EOSARDA and the Autumn Recruiting drive - Dave

No additional suggestion provided.

6.4 Travel expenses for Federation Officers

A discussion took place on whether Federation should pay for expenses of representatives when they become Officers of the Federation. What is the present practice?

7. Adjournment at 12 h 45

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Frappier