

**E.O.S.A.R.D.A. Board Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2015
Citizen Newspaper Conference Room,
Baxter St.,Ottawa
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm**

In attendance: Dave Western, Bruce Warner, June Tripp, Gavin Currie, Jim Sawtell, Barbara Englehart, Jane Trach, Jim Trach, Shirley Hull, Germain Hull, Charlene Gardner and Ronald Gardner Dave Currie, Mary Anne Reinhard, Pierre Reinhard

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2015
Time: 1:30 - 4:30 pm
Place: Ground Floor Board Room, Ottawa Citizen's Building,
Baxter Road, Ottawa

1.1 Call to Order @ 13:33

12 Regrets

- Dave Western

Richard Sharman , Andy Himberg-Larsen, Bob Summers, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry

1.3 Approval of agenda

Addition of :

6.3 Troubling Developments - Dave Western

6.4 Operating Budget - Dave Western

2. Opening Remarks

- Dave Western - **See Attached #1**

3. Previous Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes - Sept Board Meeting - Ron Gardner
As Amended Jim Trach 2nd June Tripp - Passed

4. Reports

4.1 Operations Committee

4.1.1 Treasurer's Report

- Charlene Gardner - **See Attached #2**

4.1.2 Registrar's Report

- Barbara Englehart - **None Attached**

13/30 clubs registered.

Will send out past due notifications to clubs.

4.2 Dance Committee

60 Anniversary Dance:

Backup location for 60th Anniversary if needed.

Dangles ordered, 37 tickets sold to date, asking for clubs to confirm attendance.

Complaint from the Round Dance community,

Setup at 1pm Bell High School.

4.2.1 Committee Report

- Barbara Englehart - **See Attached #4**

4.2.1 Swing into Spring 2015

- Andy Himberg-Larsen - **Nil**

Dave Western called Seaway valley and discussed the situation with them. Helen will report back to the EOSARDA board after their board meeting and before COD meeting.

4.3 P&P Committee

- Mary Anne Reinhart - **See Attached #5**

Not met with Committee yet

Eodance not linked to Festival 2017

4.3 Club Liaison Committee

- Richard Sharman - **See Attached #6**

Club visit Dangle 30 gold, 5 silver Cost 83.05

- 4.4 I.T. Committee - Bob Summers - Nil
- 4.5 OACA - Dave Currie - **See Attached #4**
Discussion on Club 50 program
- 4.6 RDTA - Jim Sawtell – Nil
They are trying to revive the group.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 5.1.1 Trillium Award Nominations (6.2 January Minutes) - Dave Western
Looking for recommendations for 2016 nominations.
- 5.1.2 Posting of Previous Minutes (3.1 February Minutes) - Ron Gardner & Bob Summers
Sent to Bob to update, will verify that they have been done.
- 5.1.3 Young Dancer Initiative (5.1.8 May Minutes) - Dave Western
- 5.1.4 Working Group on Scheduling Conflicts (5.1.5 September Minutes)- Bob Summers

Motion: See Attachment #10 - Submitted by Gavin Curry

Comments:

- Peterborough has asked to post dances, Some find this is hogwash, some feel we should forget this
- Some Dances are named the same as other Dances and Cause confusion.

Question: Do we need a presentation at the COD on this issue?

- 5.1.5 Rollover of GiC's (4.1.1 September Minutes)- Charlene Gardner
- 5.1.6 Insurance Certificates (4.1.2 September Minutes)- Bruce Warner
Will be available at request to Bruce Warner mid November
- 5.1.7 Revised Flyer 60th Anniversary Dance (4.2.1 September Minutes)- Barbara Englehart
Done.
- 5.1.8 Invitations to Society and Federation (4.2.1 September Minutes)- Dave Western
Done, both will be there.

6. New Business

6.1 Draft Committee Budgets

- 6.1.1 Operations Committee - Dave Western - **See Attached #8**
- 6.1.2 Dance Committee - Barbara Englehart
60th \$2700 Cost, Expecting mostly a loss on this dance.
Frosty Fling – Same Expectations as last year. -\$850
- 6.1.3 Club Liaison - Richard Sharman - Nil
- 6.1.4 I.T - Bob Summers – Nil
Website, do we need to renew or update cost of sites and storage?
- 6.1.5 Publicity and Promotions - Mary Anne Reinhard
We need to spend more on publicity, Other years we have spent up to \$3000.

ACTION: Vice president Bruce Warner to get new name tags for those on board that need them.

6.2 Agenda for November Council of Dancers

What should we talk about.

ACTION: Mary Anne Reinhard will Coordinate with Gavin Curry to get Coffee and Tea for Meeting
Many Volunteers to bring cookies. (did not get a list of names)

6.3 Troubling Developments - See Attached #8

Question: what do we need to do to get more dancers out to dances?

Question: Fall Fest, are we doing it next year, will be discussed at COD.

Question: should we have higher Level only dances?

Discussion on Club 50 program, Advantages and Disadvantages.
It is a development that EOSARDA should be aware of.

RDTA – how can we help RDTA to rebuild?

Question: should we split round and square dances?

6.4 Operating Budget - See Attached #9

Discussion on budget for 2015-2016

ACTION: Charlene to Circulate the Budget to be approved at the Board meeting in November.

7. Other Business - Nil

Submitted by
Ronald Gardner
Secretary

Next Meeting:

Nov 18, 2015

At Citizen Newspaper Conference Room,

Baxter St., Ottawa

Board Meeting: 11:30 – 1:00

Council of Dancers 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Reports:

Attachment #1 - Submitted by Dave Western – Opening Comments:

Our main item of discussion today will be preparing for the November Council of Dancers. This is the first opportunity for the new Board of Directors to meet with our share holders and to explain to them what we have done and are planning to do.

One of the most important things we have to do for the November meeting is to present a budget for the new dance year. That is why at this meeting we will be taking a look at the draft budgets of the five standing committees. The committee budgets are the building blocks that Charlene will use to put together her overall budget for the Association.

But putting together a coherent committee budget can be difficult. The major difficulty is that many Committee Chairs only began working on committee issues in September and still don't have a good handle on what they have to accomplish this year, but here we are asking them a month later to forecast committee expenditures and revenues. This can be a daunting task.

We need to keep in mind that a budget forecasting exercise is only a best guess at what might be going to happen this year. If and when plans change or mature, additional funds may be required or additional revenues realized. The Board, on a case-by-case basis, has the authority to authorize additional funding where it judges appropriate and addition revenues are always welcome.

The next thing we need to do is set the agenda for the Council meeting. In doing that we need to think about trying to convince clubs to attend the meeting and what kind of things they would like to discuss. This can also be quite a challenge.

Of course we will need to talk about such things as the Young Dance Initiative and Scheduling Conflicts. What else should be on the agenda? Put on your thinking caps, we will return to this subject later this afternoon.

Attachment #2 - Submitted by Charlene Gardner
Information available upon request

Attachment #3 - Submitted by Barbara Englehart
Nil

Attachment #4 - Submitted by Dave Curry
REPORT TO EOSARDA from OACA

Oct.18 2015

Our monthly meeting was duly held on Oct.4th 2015, at which time...

A warm welcome was extended to Adrian and Marie Vingerhoeds, our newest caller couple who completed Callers school in Peterborough with Joe Ubelacker last spring.

Congratulations were extended to François regarding his interview which resulted in an article in the Kitchissippi Times on Sept. 17th past, and to Wendy regarding her new recording career.

After some discussion regarding precedent setting, it was decided to honour Keith Watters and future retiring callers with a plaque to celebrate their contribution to local square dancing over the years.

It was noted that Andy will be handling the caller scheduling for the 60th Anniversary Dance. A straw count of new dancers to the Basic level gave a total of between 43 and 55 with the Mississippi Squares 19 being the most impressive. It must be the rural air and a vibrant community that is responsible for such a good turnout, certainly not Brian and Amy's hard work, nor the dedication of the 25 volunteers who publicized the amazing Mississippi squares over the summer. Well done!

A lengthy and thorough discussion of the Basic Club 50 experimental program ensued in light of our decision last year to reduce our Callerlab program taught in the first year to 40. Seeing as we don't yet have the results of the "reduce to 40" initiative, we decided that it would be foolish and confusing to the dancers to change our announced goal.

Geoff then spoke to us regarding his OACA web site initiative and was asked by the group to proceed for it is a good idea. It was asked if the historical section could include tributes to deceased callers, The point being brought home by Alf Marin's passing.

Geoff then reported that Callerlab has made no changes to the Basic, Mainstream or Plus programs.

François then informed the group that, after surveying a cross section of dancers in his area, he would like to set up an afternoon program, at a time and place to be determined, to accommodate those dancers wanting extra practice or who were unable or unwilling to attend evening sessions.

After break, the floor was turned over to our guest, Dave Western, who showed us the power point program regarding the Young Dancer Initiative which he intends to use when visiting local clubs, both square dance and community service, as well as schools. The presentation outlines the rationale and the vision and should lead to active discussion of the idea. It sure worked for us. He then requested us to work to find a place where we could plant the first seed. From there, it hopefully will spread by word of mouth and the social media to result in a program expansion. The intended start up date is the fall of 2016, although Jan. 2016 is possible if circumstances permit.

Attachment #5 - Submitted by Mary Anne Reinhard

I am eating humble pie as I'm late (feel like the rabbit in Alice in wonderland!)

I have noticed that there is no link from our main page (eodance) to Festival 2016 which doesn't seem fair as we had asked other Associations to feature Festival 2014. The Club listings on the Ontario Federation is also extremely out of date as they are still listing the Good Time Squares in Brockville. It is noted that they link doe lead back to our current Club listings on Eodance. (Dave has suggested that we wait until we have all the registrations in from the Clubs and then ask our Ontario Reps to look into this).

I did send an email out late this week to a couple of the members of the PR Committee and as mentioned in my budget I think it would be useful to put together a package of publicity materials for each club. It should be noted that many clubs are handling their own publicity very well but might benefit from some generic material and we may be able to source some costings for bulk printing and then divide by the participants. We may also be able to supply clubs with print ready PDFs that they can modify as needed and then print.

Mary Anne Reinhard

Attachment #6 - Submitted by Richard Sharman
Club Liaison Report

Several broadcast messages were sent with no reports of problems this time.

Square Time issue 61.3 was distributed this week. The only major problem was that one picture that was embedded in a .docx file didn't appear when I opened the document (so it didn't get included). In future I will request that people submit pictures separately rather than embedded in the document (or advise that there are pictures).

The danglers have been ordered but not received yet. I have ordered 35 (30 Gold and 5 Silver) which is just slightly more than the current number on Mary Ann's list (29 Gold, 3 Silver). At that quantity the price should be $73.50 + \text{tax} = \$83.05$.

Richard

Attachment #7 - Submitted by Bob Summers

Attachment #8 - Submitted by Dave Western

Troubling Developments

Part 1 - Dance Levels at EOSARDA Dances

Next Sunday we are going to be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of EOSARDA. Unfortunately, it seems that many of our oldest active members, the very people we should be acknowledging on Sunday, will not be at the dance. Why? Because they, like many of our most accomplished square dancers, would rather dance A-2 that afternoon, than attend a Basic/Mainstream/Plus dance.

Similarly, many, if not most, of our advanced Round Dancers or Choreographed Ballroom Dancers as they prefer to be called, do not want to attend a dance featuring only Easy Rounds and apparently will also not be in attendance at the 60th Anniversary Dance.

To make matters worse, we are planning to honour Don and June Cowan at the dance for their devotion and long service to the round dance movement. Yet it seems that most of the people in our association who best knew and respected Don and June will not be present since they fall into the experienced dancer category mentioned above and have opted to stay away from an event that holds little attraction to them.

Now I know only too well what most of our Callers and Cuers would say if I were to raise this issue with them (again). They will tell me that all of our dancers can dance at the lower levels but that only a select few can dance at the higher levels. They will add that our experienced dancers should be eager and willing to dance at the lower levels as a show of support to our newest dancers, and they will conclude by telling me that the lower levels of both squares and round do not have to be boring.

These points are perhaps true, but they are totally irrelevant. They ignore human nature; they ignore the fact that no matter what someone else may think is the right thing to do, the vast majority of advanced square and round dancers do not and will not attend a dance featuring Basic, Mainstream and Easy Rounds Dancing; and they ignore the fact that to advanced dancers, Basic, Mainstream and Easy Rounds are boring.

One could simply shrug and say that this is their loss, but it is also EOSARDA's loss since we are losing both dancer support and potential revenues. This might be an acceptable trade-off if our newest dancers supported these dances. But the simple fact of the matter is that they do not. Every year we put on a dance, Frosty Fling, aimed squarely at our new dancers and every year we are disappointed when the new dancers fail to attend in any appreciable numbers.

The end result is a dance attended by less than 15% of our registered dancers, and that is simply not good enough. In my opinion, a regional dance that cannot attract at a minimum 200 to 250 dancers is a dance that is not meeting the needs of our membership.

The challenge for this Board and for our Dance Committee is to first of all determine whether there is a need for any EOSARDA dances and, depending on the answer to that question, either get out of the business or find a way to better meet the need.

The status quo is no longer acceptable.

Troubling Developments
Part 2 - Square Dance Standards

I don't know how many of you have heard of Club 50. It is a new approach to basic square dancing that is being tried in some parts of North America. I will ask David Currie to briefly explain what it is all about.

>>>>>

[Dave Currie's explanation]

>>>>>

Now Club 50 may turn out to be the way of the future, but at this time it is an experimental program that has not been endorsed by CallerLab. The potential problem that it poses is that we could end up with two tiers of dancers in our region, ones who have completed the traditional Basic/Mainstream program and those who have only done Club 50. Unless the latter take some additional lessons, they will not be able to dance at other clubs or at Open Dances since they will not know all of the Basic and Mainstream Calls, nor will they be able to participate in the Club Visit Program.

Until recently this was a hypothetical issue only. However, at least one of our clubs, with the support of the SVSRDA, has decided to try the Club 50 approach. This has raised some concern within the OACA since the Callers had collectively decided to try a different approach this year based on teaching only 40 moves in the Basic program.

My concern here is not to try to stifle innovation, goodness knows that we need to keep trying to find better ways to do what we do. We do, however, have to be careful that in trying to re-invent square dancing we don't inadvertently destroy it. One of our strongest points is the mobility offered to dancers who literally can dance anywhere in the world thanks to the standardization imposed by CallerLab. If we lose that mobility and if we begin to splinter into smaller and smaller sub-groups, we lose the very thing that we are trying to save.

So let's experiment by all means, but let's make sure that we take appropriate measures to ensure that all dancers receive appropriate training so that they can fully participate in all regional events .

Troubling Developments
Part 3 - Round Dancing in Eastern Ontario

For a variety of reasons, and unlike most jurisdictions in North America, most Square Dance clubs in Eastern Ontario do not incorporate Round Dancing into their regular club nights. Where clubs have a Round Dance component, they tend to do Rounds on a separate night and in other cases, Round Dance Clubs operate as separate entities.

There is nothing wrong with this model, it is simply different from the pattern that we see elsewhere in North America.

There is, however, concern that all is not well with Round Dancing in our region. The problem is the declining number of active Round Dance Cuers. At the present time, there are only three Cuers active in the city of Ottawa, and I believe that we only have one other active Cuer in the region. As Jim has reported, the RDTA has experienced some difficulty in getting itself organized this year, which has resulted in some difficulty in communicating effectively with all members of the Round Dance community.

We need to support the RDTA's efforts to re-invent itself and to encourage the recruiting of new Round Dance Cuers across the region.

Attachment #8 - Submitted by Dave Western

		Anticipated expendures	Expected Revenues
President	Sympathy cards and postage	\$25.00	\$0.00
Vice President	Hall rentals	\$247.75	\$0.00
Treasurer	Bank fees	\$24.00	
	Interest		\$80.00
Registrar	Registrations Society and Federation fees		
	Postage		
Secretary		\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$296.75	\$80.00

Attachment #10 - Submitted by Gavin Curry

Motion to COD: **by Gavin Curry, 2nd Ronald Gardner 9 yes, 1 opposed, 2 abstained**
In the absence of Bob Summers, I move that the Board approve the following response to the Council of Dancers motion (April 2015) to have EOSARDA appoint a Scheduling Coordinator to reduce scheduling conflicts:

“The Board will encourage clubs to avoid holding events of any kind on the same date as another event.

The Board defines a conflict as follows: when one event will likely significantly impact the attendance at another event on the same date. We recognize that this is subjective in nature. A club’s regular dance date is not considered as an “event” and events only conflict with other events. Note that this does not mean eliminating all choices on a particular date. Events that cater to different audiences may be acceptable if the dance levels or styles do not overlap or are not adjacent.

The Board agrees that events announced prior to other events have priority; in addition, the Board will create a list of grandfathered events based on their past yearly history and reserve those dates for their use.

The Board will implement the Scheduling Coordinator function as a shared responsibility among those who are responsible for the three advertising functions: web calendar, broadcast emails and Square Time magazine.

When there is a potential conflict, the Board will withhold its advertising of the event in conflict. This means restricting the posting to the web calendar, sending of broadcast emails and printing in Square Time.

I move that the Council of Dancers approve this proposed approach.”