

**E.O.S.A.R.D.A. Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2016
Citizen Newspaper Conference Room,
Baxter St., Ottawa
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm**

In attendance: Dave Western, June Tripp, Gavin Currie, Jim Sawtell, Barbara Englehart, Jane Trach, Jim Trach, Ronald Gardner, Dave Currie, Mary Anne Reinhard, Pierre Reinhard, Richard Sharman, Andy Himberg-Larsen, Bob Summers

Guests: Arlo Speer, Ziggy Segstro, Jean Clingin, Don Clingin

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

Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Charlene Gardner, Bruce Warner, Shirley Hull, Germain Hull

1.3 Approval of agenda

Addition of :

6.7 Fall Fest 2017 - discussion

6.8 July 1st Demo discussion

2. Opening Remarks

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

3. Previous Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes - November Board Meeting - Ron Gardner

As Amended Andy Himberg-Larsen, 2nd Dave Currie – Passed

3.2 COD minutes

Action: COD minutes will be reviewed before next Board Meeting.

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 – **Nil**

4.2 Dance Committee

Frosty Fling: Everything in place, Ribbons out, Mississippi squares will take care of registration.

1 PM setup EOSARDA board members should be there to help setup

Note: Gavin in keeper of Coffee machines

4.2.1.1 Committee Report

- Barbara Englehart - **Nil**

4.2.1.2 Swing into Spring 2015

- Andy Himberg-Larsen – **See Attached #3**

Discussion on the relationship Between Seaway Valley and EOSARDA.

they felt they had not support and not EOSARDA Members helping out

EOSARDA will be a silent partner/sponsor, SIS committee will keep all proceeds from event for next years event.

EOSARDA must offer help, we will have a working agreement between SV and EOSARDA

Dave Western: This is becoming a high profile event.

Ziggy: Why was there a \$15 cancellation fee?

Andy: They did this to make sure people were committed.

Motion: by Mary Anne Reinhard:

To accept the proposal presented by Andy Himberg-Larsen as read. 2nd Barbara Englehart **Accepted.**

4.3.1 P&P Committee - Mary Anne Reinhard - **See Attached #4**

4.3.2 Club Liaison Committee - Richard Sharman - **Nil**

11 ½ Page of Paid Advertisements
Request for Swinging Bees 40th anniversary

Action: Bob to add to Calendar

Remind clubs to remind us by Email on additions of Events on the Calendar

4.4 I.T. Committee - Bob Summers - **Nil**

4.5 OACA - Dave Currie - **Nil**

Teaching new Callers

4.6 RDTA - Jim Sawtell - **Nil**

They are trying to revive the group.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

~~5.1 Dance Dangle follow up (Item 4.2 November Minutes) — Dance Committee~~

5.2 EOSARDA on Facebook (Item 4.4 November Minutes) - Ron & Charlene Gardner

EOSARDA Facebook presence:

There is no real Facebook page, there are a number of local people on the current unofficial Facebook page. The current page is run more like a personal interest page on all dancing in the area with jokes and less meaningful posts for square and Round dancers. We should look into having our own page where we can monitor what goes on it and make it more official looking.

We can make more monitors to maintain the current page.

Q: Dave Western: should we have an EOSARDA page?

We should ask for volunteers from other clubs to get someone to create and maintain if we do.

Action: Richard and Bob will send out notification and request for volunteer to create and maintain a EOSARDA Facebook page.

Action: Add Arlo Speer to MailChimp list

5.3 “Where’s the Dance?” (Item 4.4 November Minutes) - Richard Sharman & Bob Summers

Richard sent out information on this website to clubs. **Closed**

5.4 Young Dancer Initiative

5.4.1- Steering Committee Report - Dave Western **See Attached #5**

Reports are Due by the End of January.
Harbor lights asked for a presentation
Swinging Swallows Pembroke asked for Information

5.4.2 Young Dancer Initiative - Directors’ Reports - All Directors
Nothing reported.

Action: Directors to bring up to clubs, they then should bring their proposal to EOSARDA board.

Andy: Maybe we could give demos in schools

Dave Western: We need a plan to be able to implement this. We need someone to coordinate this.

Barbara S: We could have a plan to approach schools, lunch hour, afterschool

Dave Wester: We need a plan, something based on a long term strategy.

5.5 Scheduling Events (to accommodate grandfathered yearly events) - Bob Summers
We need to accommodate the Grand Fathered events.

It is up to the clubs each year to submit their plans.
Possible guidelines: Submit for the next 4 years, events only get a 10 months lead time. Where grandfathered events can have unlimited time.

Discussion: we looked at 6 month or a 10- 12 month window. Most agreed on < 10 months for regular events.

Dave Western: We should go to the 12 – 10 Month window for Grandfathered events. And post any other event if less than 10 months.

Discussion Tabled for Next month

6. New Business

6.1 Graduation 2016 - Club Liaison
We need new Coordinators for this year.

6.2 The Future of Round Dancing in Eastern Ontario - Dave Western - See Attached #6
Dave read his report: Do we have a problem??

Ziggy Segstro: Presentation two issues.

- 1) He feels Square Dance groups should be Feeding into Round Dance clubs. How do they encourage interest from the Square dance community?
Other groups they are targeting: Ballroom line dance.
Could promote as Easy Ball Room Dancing. Possible to give Demos in Clubs.
- 2) Encourage those to go beyond easy rounds
Need cooperation from the easy round dancers.

** There is a need or Cues in the area we went from 11 to 1 active caller at the moment.

Jim Sawtel: not all dancers want to move up.

Ziggy: we should give demos to pull them up and encourage them to move up.

Dave Western: There is no easy way to transition up to higher levels.

Andy: Teaching rounds while teaching Square dancing can be a bit overwhelming for teaching clubs.

Discussion on how we can help the round dance community function similar to the square dance community. How can the RD apply the model the SD teach and encourage dancers to move up.

- Have Cues adlib more
- Have goofer nights – allowing dancers to Cue
- Promote through Young Dancers Initiative program.

Bob Summers: there is no place to go learn, time available is very difficult

Ziggy: How does square dance groups get new Callers??

OACA – there is a lot of work to train new callers.

Richard: new events coming up to expose new callers to call, doing showcase and get exposure.

Ziggy: concern about coverage and funding available.

Dave Western: EOSARDA will cover some costs if a plan can be put in place.

Roundo Lab (??) they do not provide much free teaching sessions, very costly.

Don Clingin: Discussion on how Square Dance Callers are trained.

Gene Clingin: if you can call (Square Dance) you should be able to Cue, maybe we can encourage the spouses of Callers can become cues.

Mary Anne Reinhard : In order to teach you need to be able to Dance rounds. If there is less interest there will be less people qualified to teach. Most callers feel that with more experience before, they would make better Cuers.

Perhaps we can pull in more people .

Ronald Gardner: could EOSARDA propose to send a subsidized round dance teacher to Square dance clubs to give demos. And promote from within?

Dave Western: We have a difficult time to get round dancers on the board to represent the interests of the Round dancers. Half the people on the board do some round dancing but would be nice to have someone to represent more of the interest of round dancers on the board.

Suggestion: Introduction to Round Dancing training sessions in a central area.

- Need a proposal Cost and time
- Weekend maybe at parkdale or St Pats, Tom Brown Areana.

Action: Round dancers come up with a proposal to attract new round dancers, teach weekend and propose to EOSARDA Feb 21 / 2016

6.3 Promotion of out-of-region dance events (cruises, conventions etc) - Dave western - NC

6.4 Summer Magic vs Summer Caper - is this a conflict? - Bob Summers

The board has assessed the conflict and has determined there is no conflict so both events can be promoted. It is sad to see that this may have some impact on the attendance of one or the other event.

6.5 Trillium Long Service Award nomination - Dave Western

Board Agrees with the nominations

We should have merit awards submitted soon, look for people we can nominate.

6.6 Location of the April Council of Dancers - Dave Western

Prescott

6.7 Fall Fest 2016 - Barbara Englehart

Meri squares asked if we were bringing it back?

There is a lack of enthusiasm from the clubs at the spring COD.

Action: We can look into bringing back Fall fest in the Future.

6.8 July 1st Demo discussion

Mary Anne Reinhard: Are we interested in giving a demo somewhere during the Canada day celebrations.

Action: We need more information before making this decision - Mary Anne Reinhard

7. Other Business - Nil

Submitted by
Ronald Gardner
Secretary

Next Meeting:
February 21, 2015
At Citizen Newspaper Conference Room,
Baxter St.,Ottawa
Board Meeting: 1:30 – 4:30

Reports:

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

Opening Remarks - January 2016 Board Meeting

January 16, 2016

Happy New Year all, I hope that you had a very good holiday season.

Like many of you, Pearl and I celebrated the arrival of 2016 on the dance floor, first at the Gremlins' New Year's Eve Party and then on New Years Day at the Bay Waves' Masquerade Ball. If you missed either of these two events you missed a couple of great parties. And just last week Mississippi Square hosted the 27th Annual Halfway Dance. Not only was this another terrific party, but it attracted an even larger crowd than last year. Clearly 2016 has started off with a bang.

As we move into the second half of the 2015/16 Dance Year, there are a number of exciting dance events on the calendar. I hope that you are all planning on attending as many of these as possible. When you do, please remember to wear your EOSARDA Badge to show the Board's support.

Given the number of up-coming dances in our region, it would be easy to conclude that all is well in the square and round dance world. There is no doubt that we in Eastern Ontario are fortunate to have so many enthusiastic, hard working volunteers delivering so many dance events.

But some of our smaller clubs are struggling to stay alive and the Round Dance community in particular is facing some difficult challenges. We will be discussing this particular problem during the course of the afternoon. Any long-term resolution of this problem will have to come from within the Round Dance Community. Accordingly, I have invited all of our Cuers and several prominent Round Dancers to join in this discussion and would like to welcome those who have been able to attend today's meeting.

Today we also need to begin planning for Graduation 2016 and to begin looking ahead to the 2016/17 Dance Year.

We have a full agenda before us this afternoon, so let's get down to work

Attachment #2 - Submitted by Charlene Gardner
Treasurer's Report October

I would also like to inform you that the Capital Steppers recruitment fund has been all used up. In fact, we have given out \$ 1106.34 in recruitment bursaries so far this dance season. At this time I may not make the board meeting as I have another meeting at 3pm on the same day.

**Treasurer's Report January
11/2016**

Bank Balance

Chequing	\$14,160.83
GIC	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total	<u><u>\$24,160.83</u></u>

Outstanding cheques

#1488 - Gavin Currie	\$41.82
#1489 - Ottawa Citizen	\$28.25
#1490 - Bob Summers	<u>\$39.96</u>
Total	<u><u>\$110.03</u></u>

Actual Book Balance \$24,050.80

Attachment #3 - Submitted by Mary Anne Reinhard

Publicity Report for January 2016

Since our last meeting some of our group work has begun with Charlene having sent out an email to the clubs asking for their 3 top methods of recruitment and we have already received replies from two clubs at this time.

A Mailchimp was sent out to the Clubs to notify them that the Frosty Fling ribbons would be available at the Halfway Dance.

I have made contact with Karin Nickischer who kindly posted both the flyer and a pdf link of the Frosty Fling Flyer to the Eastern Ontario Square Dance Facebook page. She would be happy to have members of the page post to it.

Mary Anne Reinhard
Publicity Chair
Jan. 14 2016

Attachment #4 - Submitted by Andy Himberg-Larsen

SWING INTO SPRING REPORT – JAN 17, 2016

The committee held a meeting on Nov 22, 2015.

All contracts for callers/cuer have been signed. Caller contracts are in Canadian dollars and the cuers will in US dollars.

Saturday brunch will be held at the school as in past years. Contact with the school staff will be held after the labor dispute. Sunday's brunch first choice is going back to Bobby's. Other venues will be looked at.

We will be looking at buying US dollars if the exchange rate improves.

A discussion was held in regards to the relationship with EOSARDA. We were all disappointed that no EOSARDA board members were assisting us at SiS 2015, which brought this whole relationship under scrutiny. There is no written record outlining the terms of the initial agreement between SVSRDA and EOSARDA, all arrangements were verbal. The memories of the parties involved seem to indicate an ongoing arrangement of sharing the profits/deficits, but nothing was established as absolute. The SiS committee then decided that we work really good as team and will continue as an autonomous committee reporting to SVSRDA and EOSARDA. All profits would be held the committee as a fund to draw from, this would alleviate going to one of the organizations for working capital. Deficits would be taken from the fund prior to contacting the parent organizations. One thing we all agreed upon was that EOSARDA must have board members helping at the event.

Andy Himberg-Larsen

Attachment #5 - Submitted by Dave Western
Young Dancer Initiative Steering Committee Report
January 16, 2016

The Steering Committee met early in November to flesh out a plan for moving forward with the Young Dancer Initiative.

By e-mail and again at the November Board meeting, all Directors were asked to raise the topic of the Young Dancer Initiative with their respective clubs and to report the results to the Board in January. I am looking forward to hearing at least some of the Directors' reports later this afternoon.

At the November meeting of the Council of Dancers, we made an audio-visual presentation on the Young Dancer Initiative to the assembled delegates. This was well received, with some lively discussions taking place. Club reps were asked to begin discussing the Young Dancer Initiative within their clubs. They were also advised that members of the Steering Committee are available to meet with club executives and dancers to brief them on the Young Dancer Initiative and to encourage their involvement in the project.

A Young Dancer Initiative display was also set up at last week's Halfway Dance in Carleton Place.

Subsequently, Harbour Lites has invited the Steering Committee to meet with the club in Prescott on Wednesday, January 27 and to make a presentation on the Young Dancer Initiative. I have also received a request for information on the Young Dancer Initiative from the Swinging Swallows of Pembroke and am awaiting further developments.

Hopefully more clubs will be following up on this as the winter progresses. If not, the Steering Committee will be taking a more proactive approach and will be contacting the clubs with a request to set up a meeting.

It is important to bear in mind that implementation of the Young Dancer Initiative in any particular community has to be a local undertaking. Neither the Steering Committee nor this Board is in position to implement this project without the hands-on help of local resources working to deliver the program.

If this local support is not forthcoming, the project will not succeed.

Attachment #6 - Submitted by Dave Western

Why is Round Dancing diminishing within EOSARDA?

1. Dwindling numbers of dancers and cuers due to health and age

...for example, in the past ten years, the Round Dance Teachers Association has dwindled from **11 cuers** to **2 cuers**.

Here are the statistics:

- (a) **Four cuers** have passed on: Jo-Ann Edwards, Ralph Morin, Don Cowan, and Bill Cibula.
- (b) **Three cuers** have retired due to age or ill health: Daphne Pearson, Kim Hamilton, and Dorothy Tweed.
- (c) **One cuer** has moved out of the country: Bill Burton.
- (d) And that leaves **two active RDTA cuers today**: Jene Clingin, and Gerry Sawtell.
(Note: There are currently three other cuers who are not interested in being part of RDTA: John Mowle who was a long time past member of RDTA, Donna Stewart and Susan Connors who were both members for a very short time.)

2. Age of Dancers (many are now snowbirds & miss a good portion of the dance year)

3. Dancers prefer to dance rather than Learn to Cue

4. Lack of Commitment

5. Is there really a need... where can we find numbers to warrant a new class?

6. Hall Rentals with suitable floors for Round Dancing are escalating in cost which is then reflected in fees to dancers.

7. Generally there is a lack of interest in Round Dancing.

8. Round Dancing is not visible at most EOSARDA Square Dance Clubs. Yet most of the current Round Dancers began Square Dancing before taking up Round Dancing.

Seaway Valley has a couple of clubs that do incorporate Rounds in their Square Dance Programs... Cornwall Swingin' B's and Riverside Gypsy Squares both include Rounds with their Square Dancing.

An attempt to recruit cuers was made.

A MiniLab was held here in Ottawa partly to focus on helping new cuers and to encourage up and coming cuers. Other areas of Ontario had beginning cuers attend and receive help. But there was not even one from EOSARDA. I understood there were some dancers with Capital Carousels who were interested in becoming cuers... however, the MiniLab did not seem to produce any new Ottawa Area cuers.

Role of RDTA:

RDTA is an organization that in the past has had members who were not just cuers but also interested dancers... people who were interested in furthering the Round Dance cause. We used to play an important role within EOSARDA, but one by one, our responsibilities have been taken away.

(eg. Cuers from RDTA used to be on a rotation so that members of RDTA all took turns cuing at EOSARDA dances if they so desired. And cuers used to be paid by RDTA through EOSARDA).

Currently, the organization is very small. There seems to be great apathy among Cuers and/or others who simply are not interested in coming to a meeting a few times a year to discuss Round Dancing. The future of RDTA is at risk at this point.