

Agenda - EOSARDA Board Meeting - January 15, 2017

Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017

Time: 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Place: Ground Floor Board Room, Ottawa Citizen's Building, Baxter Road, Ottawa

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Regrets

- Dave Western

Shirley (Germain) has a health problem and will be out for a while, Ron, Charlene, June, Rob

1.3 Approval of agenda

2. Opening Remarks

- Dave Western

-See Attached #1

3. Previous Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes - November Board Meeting

- Ron Gardner/Dora Boersma

1st Marie, 2nd Bob

3.2 Acceptance of Minutes - November Council of Dancers - Ron Gardner/Dora Boersma

4. Special Business

Nomination of new Director (Arlo Speer)

- Dave Western

-See Attached#2

5. Reports

5.1 Operations Committee

5.1.1 Treasurer's Report

- Charlene Gardner (Written Report) Approved

-See Attached #3

5.1.2 Registrar's Report

- Barbara Englehart

-See Attached #4

5.2 Dance Committee

5.2.1 Committee Report

- Barbara Englehart - nothing

5.3 P&P Committee

- Dave Western - nothing

5.3 Club Liaison Committee

- Richard Sharman

- See Attached #5

5.4 I.T. Committee

- Bob Summers - nothing

5.5 OACA

- Dave Currie - there are four new callers

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Swing into Spring

- Dave Western

EOSARDA sponsors this dance with the Seaway Valley group in Cornwall

7. New Business

7.1 New Bulletin System

- Bob Summers/Arlo Speer

The Bulletin System is being replaced by a Broadcast system. This is an easier way of sending out messages to the Clubs. Mailchimp is labour intensive and sometimes problematic. We now use a PHP system (a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML), rather than Mailchimp.

- 7.2 Additions to Procedures Manual - Dave Western
Comments on chapters 3 and 25 are due in three weeks.
- 7.3 Replacing Charlene as Treasurer - Dave Western
Need to transfer to Simply Accounting. We will ask Charlene to write out her responsibilities for The Board.
- 7.4 Scheduling of April Board and Council Meetings – Dave Western
As the third Sunday in April is Easter, we will aim for the second Sunday in April in Prescott
- 7.5 Graduation 2017 - Initial discussion - Richard Sharman
1) letters have gone to all the Clubs
2) Club visits will be scheduled
- *EOSARDA will give Basic dancers a free pass for either Frosty Fling or Fall Fest.
- 7.6 Definition of “Event” - Bob Summers
Dave will re-circulate the Council of Dancers directive on conflicts.

8. Other Business

Note: the next EOSARDA meeting will be held on the third Sunday in February (February 19, 2017) from 1:30 – 4:30 pm. It will be held in the Ground Floor Board Room, Ottawa Citizen's Building, Baxter Road, Ottawa.

Attachment #1: Opening Remarks.

- Dave Western

January 15, 2017

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

Pearl and I celebrated the arrival of 2017 on the dance floor, at the Gremlins' New Year's Eve Party. Yesterday evening we, along with some 330 other dancers attended the 28th Annual Mississippi Squares Halfway Dance, which means that we are already halfway through the 2016/17 dance year.

As we move into the second half of the 2016/17 Dance Year, there are several exciting dance events on the calendar, including Frosty Fling and Swing into Spring 2017. I hope that you are all planning on attending as many of the events as possible. When you do, please remember to wear your EOSARDA Badge to show the Board's support for the event.

Last year at this time I said to the Board

“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.”

Unfortunately, the situation has not improved in 2016/17. If anything, we have lost ground somewhat in both square and round dancing. The preliminary data from our registrar appears to show a slight decrease in the number of both square and round dancers. We will find out today if this is in fact the case.

The dancer situation is exacerbated by the loss of two experienced dance leaders, Andy Himberg-Larsen and Gerry Sawtell and possible further reductions in the number of active Callers in our region.

Faced with these challenges, our newest Callers have stepped up to the plate and along with our more experienced Callers are doing a terrific job of filling the gaps. Thus, we have seen some encouraging growth in a couple of clubs. Last night for example, the Grenville Gremlins could fill a bus to take them to the Halfway dance. But Rounds continue to struggle.

This Board is also facing some serious challenges going into the new year. We need, on a priority basis, to find someone to train as our next Treasurer. Charlene has offered to work with anyone who comes forward, but her free time is limited and will become more so as time goes on.

As for our Directors, I am very pleased to welcome Arlo Speer to our ranks. However, Shirley Hull is facing serious health issues, which will take her and Germain off the team for a few months at least, and Richard and Benoit are going to be unavailable for unspecified number of weeks - or perhaps longer.

Richard has taken steps to ensure that Square Time will continue to be published during his absence, but we do not yet know if we should find a new Editor for next year.

A couple of other Directors are having difficulty finding time to deal with their Board-related responsibilities. For example, it is proving very difficult for me to carry out my responsibilities as Chair of Publicity Committee along with my other duties.

Today we also need to begin planning for Graduation 2017 which will be upon us before we know it and I am certain that Dance Committee will want to finalize arrangements for this year's Frosty Fling. So, let's get to work.

Attachment #2 Nomination of New Director

- Dave Western

Under Paragraph 8 of EOSARDA's By Laws, the Board may fill any vacant position on the Board. We currently have several such vacant positions and Arlo Speer has volunteered to fill one of them. May I have a motion to nominate Arlo as a member of EOSARDA's Board of Directors for the balance of the current Board's term of office.

Attachment #3 Treasurer's Report

- Charlene Gardner

Information available upon request

**EOSARDA 2016-2017
REGISTRAR'S REPORT AS OF JANUARY 15, 2017**

	As of Jan., 2017	As of Jan.,2016	Difference	Difference from April 2016
NEW SQUARE DANCERS so far 101 are new to the activity	129	100	29	14
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	643	678	-35	-38
NEW ROUND DANCERS	10	0	10	0
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	51	58	-7	-7
NEW LINE DANCERS	27	25	2	2
RETURNING LINE DANCERS	24	25	-1	-1
TOTAL TO DATE	884	886	-2	-30
 CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	 21	 27	 -6	 -6
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	905	913	-8	-36
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	30	30	0	0
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE	3	4	-1	-1

ISSUED: January 15, 2017

Attachment #5: Club Liaison Report

- Richard Sharman

Club Liaison Report, January 2017

One request for reimbursement for club recruitment was received and approved.

Work on edition 63.1 of Square Time is underway, will be taken to the printer this Friday and available for pickup on Saturday 28th January. This will be the first official online issue. The number being printed is significantly higher than we anticipated when the proposal was discussed several months ago. At that time, we were printing approximately 240 and guessed that the number of print requests could drop to as low as 40; the number for this run is 110.