

## Meeting Record

### EOSARDA Board

*Sunday, 18 February 2018  
1:30 - 4:30 pm  
Ottawa Citizen Board Room  
Baxter Road  
Ottawa, Ontario*

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Gavin Currie	François Desmarais	Robb Dunlop	Ann Davelaar
Arlo Speer	Bob Summers	Dave Western	

#### **ABSENTEES:**

Barb Englehart	Bob Pitruniak	June Tripp
Rene Dick	Ron Gardner	Jim Sawtell

#### **1. Call to Order**

- 1.1. Agenda accepted as circulated - Dave Western
- 1.2. Opening Remarks -- attached as Appendix "A" - Dave Western

#### **2. Previous Minutes**

- 2.1. Approval of Minutes of 14 January 2017 Board Meeting - Robb Dunlop  
**MOTION:** Currie/Summers that the minutes be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**
- 2.2. Acceptance of Minutes of 19 November 2017 Council of Dancers - Dave Western  
Dave will circulate the revised draft of the Council of Dancers record.

**ACTION: All board members are asked to review the Council of Dancers record as quickly as possible and advise Dave of any needed changes.**

#### **3. Reports**

- 3.1. Treasurer's Report - Dave Western  
Treasurer's Report attached as Appendix B  
Financial Report attached as Appendix C
- 3.2. Registrar's Report – attached as Appendix D - Barbara Englehart
- 3.3. Dance Committee  
3.3.1. General – attached as Appendix E - Barbara Englehart  
3.3.2. Swing Into Spring – attached as Appendix F - Arlo Speer
- 3.4. Publicity & Promotion Committee – no report - Dave Western  
Dave and Rene have agreed that the committee's focus for the rest of this year will be on the Publicity Network.
- 3.5. Club Liaison Committee – attached as Appendix G - Ann Davelaar
- 3.6. Information Technology Committee – attached as Appendix H - Bob Summers
- 3.7. Ottawa Area Callers' Association – no report - François Desmarais

**MOTION:** Dunlop/Summers: that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

#### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1. Requirement to file financial statements (Item 4.3 January 2018) - Dave Western  
Deferred until 25 March 2018 board meeting
- 4.2. Dance Leader Compensation (Item 4.4 January 2018) - Barbara Englehart  
Deferred until the future of Fall Fest is determined.
- 4.3. Fall Fest - Cancellation Notice (Item 4.5 January 2018) - Dave Western  
Comments received from dancers and dance leaders re the future of Fall Fest attached as Appendix I  
Dave will re-draft a poster to be sent to dancers indicating that the Board has suspended Fall Fest 2018 pending a decision by the Council of Dancers.  
Dave will send the re-drafted poster to Board members for review before distributing it.

**ACTION: All board members are asked to review the revised poster as quickly as possible and advise Dave of any needed changes.**

- 4.4. EOSARDA Funding Formula (Item 4.6 January 2018) - Dave Western  
Subject to discussions between the President and the Treasurer, the board agreed that we should change the timing of our budget cycle. Consensus was that it makes more sense to present a projected budget for the coming fiscal year at the April Council of Dancers meeting (in preparation for the coming year), rather than in November (mid-way through the new year).  
There was also consensus among the Board members that we would be prepared to operate at a deficit for the coming year rather than increase registration fees for 2018-2019.  
Specific changes suggested included:
- Budgeted amounts should reflect what we realistically expect to spend on line items, rather than the maximum amount we have set aside for particular purposes
  - Budgeting no funds for the Young Dancer Initiative (since none of the budgeted funds have been used over the past years)
  - Funds from the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation be re-assigned for other activities to promote dancing in our area
    - Attached as Appendix J is letter from the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation that outlines the disposition of the \$4,000 received in 2015.

**ACTION: The President and Treasurer will review the budgeting issue and report back by the 25 March 2018 meeting.**

- 4.5. Funding for New Club start-ups (Item 4.7 January 2018) - François Desmarais  
While at this point the Board is not prepared to establish a formal programme to support new club start-ups, the Board is prepared consider any individual requests for assistance from any new clubs trying to establish operations.

4.6. Trillium Awards (Item 4.8 January 2018) - Dave Western  
With one exception, the agreed upon Trillium Award nominations have been finalized and sent to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation.  
Work continues on completing the outstanding nomination.

4.7. New Dancer Celebrations (Item 5.1 January 2018) - Ann Davelaar  
We will offer new dancers free tickets for Frosty Fling with no mention of Fall Fest. Ann will circulate a list of club celebrations for Board members to attend on behalf of EOSARDA.  
**ACTION: All board members are asked to review the list of club celebrations, identify those events for which they could represent EOSARDA and respond to Ann by 28 February.**

4.8. Use of EOSARDA Sound Equipment (Item 5.2 January 2018) - Bob Summers  
[Chapter 21](#) of the Procedures Manual (relating to use of our sound equipment) has been revised.

## 5. New Business

5.1. Registering non-club affiliated dancers - Dave Western  
Not all dancers belong to specific clubs. Some dancers choose to dance at different clubs at different times without registering with any particular club. Therefore, they have no mechanism to pay EOSARDA fees through any club.  
**MOTION:** Summers/Currie – The EOSARDA Registrar is authorised to register dancers who are not affiliated with a particular club. **CARRIED**

5.2. Hearing Assistance Equipment - Dave Western

5.2.1. A dancer from Pembroke has asked for a source from which hearing assist equipment can be obtained. [Chapter 19](#) of the EOSARDA Procedures Manual provides the required information.

**ACTION: François will pass this information to the dancer in question.**

5.2.2. Some dancers have commented that hearing assist equipment is not available at some EOSARDA open dances and that callers and/or cuers are not able or not willing to connect hearing assist transmitters to their equipment.

The Board reiterated our policy that hearing assist services must be available at all EOSARDA open dances.

**ACTION: Dance Committee is to ensure that contracts with cuers and callers who serve at EOSARDA open dances include a requirement for hearing assist transmitters to be available and used.**

EOSARDA has hearing assist transmitters and other sound equipment available, if needed at open dances.

## 6. Next Meeting

1:30 Sunday 25 March 2018, Ottawa Citizen Board Room

## **Appendix A: President's Opening Remarks**

Over the last few months I have put forward some deliberately provocative ideas about Fall Fest and about funding EOSARDA itself, with the hope that this would get the members of this Board thinking seriously about the problems that we are facing and looking for creative solutions for addressing them.

In April we will be facing another Council of Dancers at which this Board is supposed to put forward our suggestions as to where do we go from here.

Collectively, we have already decided that we are going to recommend that Fall Fest be cancelled. Not all Directors are in agreement with this decision, but it is clearly the wish of the majority on this Board. If Council agrees with us, all well and good. If not, we need to have a Plan B ready to go since there will be very little time to give effect to Council's decision. And I submit that simply doing more of the same all over again, will not suffice.

Similarly we need to reach a consensus on what to recommend as far as the on-going financial health of this Association is concerned.

Do we maintain the status quo?

Do we increase membership fees?

Do we reduce or eliminate some or all of our subsidy programs?

Do we look at a new funding model?

How do we deal with unregistered dancers?

Do we introduce mandatory membership ID or maintain the present honour-based system?

Are there any innovative solutions that would better address the problems we are facing?

Over the next two months we need to decide where the Board stands on these issues.

To do that we need input from all of you and we need to vigorously, but politely, debate these ideas around this table. So please, don't hold back. Your ideas may be the ones that carry the day, or they may not. But even if they don't, they may well generate the spark that produces the ideas that do.

## **Appendix B: Treasurer's Report**

### **1. Current results**

Attached is my report that provides Board members with a year to date month-by-month summary of our revenues and expenses. This report also shows Board members the numbers for last year's operations so comparisons can be made quickly. This report also shows Board members the current year's budget figures so Board members can measure our year to date results against our budget. Please be sure to print this report in landscape mode – it is MUCH easier to read that way!

Please note that the latest bank statement I have received is for Dec 2017 so this data is reconciled (accurate) to 31 December 2017. I include the known financial activity until 07 Feb 2018 but there could be bank account activity (bank fees, rejected cheques etc) since 31 December that I do not yet know of.

### **2. Comments**

To repeat what I said at the Jan meeting, the reason for a negative figure in the EOSARDA dues for December is the refunds I made to clubs who overpaid their dues – it does happen. You will notice that activity is again positive (income coming in) for EOSARDA dues in Jan.

I include the revenue and expenses recorded so far for Frosty Fling. If you do check the Frosty Fling numbers, you will see expenses of almost \$900 already against revenue of \$1363 so it will probably pay for itself but not be a large profit source. Please note that I have not yet received the school rental expense or any other expenses that may yet come in.

Bob Pitruniak  
Treasurer, EOSARDA

## **Appendix C: Financial Report**

This information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request.

## Appendix D: Registrar's Report

	As of Feb 2018	As of Feb. 2017	Differenc e from Feb.2017
NEW SQUARE DANCERS so far 105 are new to the activity	120	131	-11
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	583	648	-65
NEW ROUND DANCERS	2	10	-8
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	51	51	0
NEW LINE DANCERS	31	27	4
RETURNING LINE DANCERS	25	24	1
<b>TOTAL TO DATE</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>-79</b>
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	27	27	0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>-79</b>
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	31	30	1
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE	3	3	0

## Appendix E: -- Dance Committee Report

### FROSTY FLING 2018

The Frosty Fling took place Saturday, February 3, 2018.

Callers: John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen

Cuers: Jean & Don Clingin

Ribbons: \$10 in Advance - \$12.00 at the door.

Light refreshments were served ... Sweets & fruit, coffee & tea.

Taggerwear provided an assortment of dance clothing and shoes.

The dance was attended by 125 dancers represented by 16 Clubs and 1 association as follows:

EOSARDA	3
Adams Aces	2
Bay Waves	2
Capital Carousels	1
Gremlins	4
Harbor Lites	10
Kanata Squares	6
Lockits	14
Meri Squares	22
Mississippi Squares	19
Opeongo Squares	2
Stonebridge Squares	5
Sunshine Squares	4
Swinging B's	8
Swinging Swallows	12
The Cookie Club	2
Village Squares	9

Although the dance was successful, we need to look at how we can increase the numbers for 2019.

### FALL FEST 2018

Future of Fall Fest to be determined at the Council of Dancers meeting in April.

## **Appendix F: – Swing Into Spring Status Report Status Report for SVSRDA & EOSARDA**

The *Swing Into Spring* committee's work over the past month has been dedicated to getting the word out about *Swing Into Spring 2018* at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott Friday to Sunday, 04 - 06 May 2018.

In addition to our webpage ([http://www.eodance.ca/SIS\\_home\\_page.php](http://www.eodance.ca/SIS_home_page.php)) and FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottSIS>), our promotional campaign involves: mailings to previous attendees who have not yet registered, messages to local club contact persons, notes to nearby clubs and organisations, EOSARDA Bulletins, as well as an article and advertisement in Square Time.

Thank you to Mary Anne Reinhard (of Bay Waves and Riverside Gypsy Squares) and Gerald & Marlene Casselman (of SVSRDA and Harbour Lites) for their help distributing *Swing Into Spring* information at the Half Way Dance when weather and travel issues prevented some of our committee members from making it to the dance. The committee also appreciates the support of EOSARDA and SVSRDA and asks representatives from those organisations who visit area clubs for celebration dances or other functions to promote both *Swing Into Spring* and SVSRDA's Mother's Day Dance by taking along registration forms and schedules and mentioning the dates, location and what a fun those two events are.

With three months yet to go, we currently have 32 dancers registered – that's a bit over 20% of the way to our expected (and last year's total) number of registrations.

The committee has established a bank account with the Bank of Montreal in the name "Swing Into Spring". As of mid-February, the balance on hand in this account is slightly over \$6,000. Our conservative budget for *Swing Into Spring 2018* projects a modest profit of \$150 for this year's event.

A second joint meeting with *Swing Into Spring* committee and the presidents of SVSRDA and EOSARDA is planned for Saturday 24 February 2018. The purpose of this meeting will be to reach consensus upon a procedures document that will become part of the operating procedures for each of EOSARDA and SVSRDA and guide the committee's operation into the future.

Submitted February 2018, by  
Arlo Speer, Liaison to EOSARDA & Regina Gerhard, Liaison to SVSRDA

## **Appendix G: -- Club Liaison Committee**

### **Club Recognition - Trillium Long Service Awards**

Dave Western, very kindly offered to do the paperwork for me concerning this year's Trillium Long Service Award Nominations. The nominations have been forwarded to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation for their consideration.

### **Club Visit Dangle Program**

Five dangles, 3 Gold and 2 Silver, were handed to a Mississippi Squares Club representative at Frosty Fling on Saturday, February 3, for distribution. One Gold dangle was also given at that time to the Ottawa Date Squares. This brings the total of dangles for 2016-2017 to 30, that is, 25 Gold and 5 Silver.

Harbour Lites	9
Meri Squares	1
Mississippi Squares	14
Ottawa Date Squares	1
Swinging Bs	3
Village Squares	<u>2</u>
Total	30

A Bulletin will soon be sent out to clubs, reminding their Executives to encourage members to send in their completed Application Forms as soon as possible, if they wish to receive 2017-2018 dance dangles.

### **New Dancer Celebrations**

With the expectation that Fall Fest 2018 would be held, a free ticket listing a choice between Fall Fest 2018 and Frosty Fling 2019 was prepared, pending Board approval.

One hundred CSRDS pins were ordered and received from Beth McGifford, the Treasurer of the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society. The bill was sent by her to our Treasurer for payment.

A series of emails was sent to participating clubs, and two long-distance phone calls were made, as part of the effort to collect all necessary data for potential upcoming visits to be made by some of our Directors wishing to take part in New Dancer Celebrations.

A chart has been drawn up and will be emailed out, so that Directors may report their choices for visits as soon as possible.

Ann Davelaar

## **Appendix H: -- Information Technology Committee**

### **EOSARDA Bulletins (reported by Arlo)**

- 20 Bulletins sent in January 2018
- 112 subscribers on our EOSARDA Bulletins distribution list
- 50% to 72% of our Bulletins are opened by recipients — the industry average is around 17%

Response time:

- 35% sent on day request received
- 25% sent the day following receipt of request

### **eoDance.ca Website (reported by Bob)**

#### **Square Time Page**

There apparently were two pages describing Square Time

- One page which describe deadlines, contact information, etc., has been on the site for many years.
- A new page had been recently created to list the issues that you can read on-line along with some other information

These have been combined into a single page with all the information about Square Time in one spot.

#### **Committee Page**

A new page and associated menu items have been created to list

- Information about EOSARDA Standing Committees, and
- A listing of the committees and the members of each.

#### **Cancellation Notice**

Swinging B's had to cancel their Valentines dance due to the forecast of freezing rain.

Cancellation notice was put on the eoDance Calendar and on the front page in the morning as soon as the decision to cancel was made. A pattern file that could be modified for any future cancellations has been put into place to make the process easier in the future.



to. Involuntary 'sitting' creates resentment!! And I'm talking about 'rounds between squares' – the round dancers can either sit or dance!!

## 2) TRYING TO SATISFY EVERYONE? –

Following up on #1, trying to provide 4 levels of dancing in 2 halls creates the scenario I'm describing & perhaps 'past experience' (at previous EOSARDA dances) has led to dancers deciding "no, I don't want to sit half the time". When you look at the Halfway Dance in comparison, they had 3 halls, 3 Callers, 3 levels – a perfect match whereby dancers could 'chase' where they danced AND had the option to dance all the time if they wanted. No sitting unless voluntarily. As well, if a newer Plus dancer was having trouble they could also 'fall back' to the Mainstream hall & continue to dance, etc. True, with a '2 level' hall, that 'fall back option' exists, however you've still got that 'sitting' option issue for those that can't fall back.

## 3) WHAT LEVELS THEN?

Well, we have Basic & Mainstream for Frosty Fling (but here again we have one hall, 2 levels!!), so, what should we have for Fall Fest? Given the current diversity of the EOSARDA dancers as of today, we have a challenge as to 'what level' should we offer? We've lost a lot of Plus dancers in recent years, noting that only Meri Squares, Mississippi Squares & Sunshine Squares provide regular weekly Plus dancing and even then, they're getting only 'around' 3 squares at each dance. Even at the most recent Halfway Dance we had somewhere around 6-7 Plus squares on average, which is a 'far cry' from just a few years ago. Plus used to be "the level" that you'd see at most dances – such is not the case today. So where did our Plus dancers go? Well I think that many of them have moved onto Advanced, and also, a lot of them have 'retired' from dancing due to age & all the things associated with that. At this point in time, Plus is no longer "the level" and without having anything to 'compare' (dance wise), I'm not sure what "the level" really is. Some might suggest Advanced, but I'm not totally convinced that would be the case, although if you compare the number of squares in our clubs' Plus halls (average 3) versus Advanced (average 4), it certainly 'leans' towards Advanced, but even the number of Advanced squares is on the decline. To be honest if I was going to put on a dance today in the Fall time frame, I would shoot for a 3 hall venue & make it Mainstream, Plus, & A1. But that requires a venue with 3 halls, a commodity not readily available at many of your schools we once used!! My guess is that's been the limiting factor in the recent Fall Fest planning – only 2 halls available?

## 4) CALLERS MOVE, DANCERS DON'T

There's no question that dancers often have their 'favourite' Caller to dance to & often 'follow' them from hall to hall. That's fine & that's normal. But also Callers like to call a variety of things and not be "stuck in one hall" for the duration of a dance. At the last FF, from what I understand, the Callers stayed in the same hall throughout the dance calling the 2 programs they were assigned. Not sure why that was? Was it the Dance Committee that decided that? Was it a Caller request? Perhaps an experiment? I certainly 'heard' dancers commenting on that aspect of FF & they were not 'positive' comments. Callers should move from hall to hall – level to level, thus providing the dancers with a variety of dancing experiences. Dancers stay in 'their' hall, Callers move.

## 5) CONFLICTING SCHEDULING

Yes, I know the decision was made to not impose on the Clubs etc. but I have to wonder how long we're going to ignore the fact that we have fewer dancers than ever to share amongst our dancing events. And, by intentionally scheduling an EOSARDA dance on the same day as a club event, we're really not helping to bolster the EOSARDA dance attendance. Sure, you can argue that A2 Dancers" (some) wouldn't want to dance at a lower level – perhaps so, But, by creating the conflict you guarantee that dancers will chose their favourite dance! Remove the choice & perhaps they'll decide to attend the EOSARDA dance rather than sitting at home? Speculation, sure, but.....

#### 6) FOOD vs ?

Sure I've heard the comment about 'EOSARDA doesn't provide food', but I seriously doubt that dancers attend that danc' because of the food or not attend because of lack of food! Granted when a club puts on their own dance (such as Halfway), all club members pitch in to provide the food experience at the end, but that's always been the nature of club dances. So the fact that an EOSARDA dance doesn't provide a banquet at the end has no bearing on the attendance.

#### 7) CALLERS

Reflecting back over previous years at Fall Fest, there certainly has been some really great Callers imported for the dance. But as the years have progressed, the costs of same versus the dance attendance have dictated a change such that we're now using local callers for the dance. One might argue that dancers get tired of hearing the same Callers all the time & that's why they stay away from FF? Perhaps, but the Callers at the Halfway Dance have been the same for several years, & still the dancers attend! So is it the Callers? I don't think so.

#### 8) VENUE

I think perhaps that the format of Fall Fest has grown old & that dancers are perhaps bored with the same old? Then why does Halfway Dance succeed so well, isn't it same old – for 29 years? Yes, perhaps, but the big difference is that for this Club event, the club members get out into the dance community and advertise it very well!! Visitations, banner napping, & the like drum up business and it's starts early! So dancers get into the mood of Halfway very early because of the enthusiasm of the promoting club. There's no comparison for EOSARDA dances! Similarly, if you look at Swing into Spring whereby you have imported Callers/Cuers & present a program that's attractive to the dancers, they will come. Further, the other influences for this particular weekend event is the ambiance associated with staying at local motels/hotels & the fellowship generated by that. Fun & Fellowship is obvious! And one more is Summer Magic, whereby the whole thing is an attractive package of fun & fellowship for all. Fall Fest would be hard pressed to compare! And perhaps that's where we're at these days? Are dancers looking for a venue that provides more fun & fellowship – something different, than the same old type of dance such as Fall Fest? Perhaps it's time to move on??

>>>>>

#### Comment #5

Understandable about deferring FF 2018 as the planning needs to be taking place now & without feedback from the dance community to guide you, I think the wise decision is to hold off again. I certainly hear you on 'build a better dance' (and they will come?) but unless you get a lot of



## Appendix J: – Disposition of Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Funds



**THE ONTARIO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE FEDERATION INC.**  
Friendship Set To Music

April 21, 2015

To The President

Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association

### Distribution of funds

At the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Inc. meeting of March 18 a motion was made and passed to distribute funds to the three Associations. The amount is \$ 4000.00 to each association. These funds are to be used to promote square and round dancing within the association's area. We would only request a report on how the funds have been used and what if any success was achieved.

Per

Wayne Hall

President Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation