



EOSARDA COUNCIL OF DANCERS MEETING

APRIL 19, 2009 Leslie Hall, Kemptville

1. Call to Order - 1:35 PM

Attendance was 47 from 26 clubs. Quorum verified.

2. Amendments to/approval of draft agenda

- add "Theft"

- add "Dance Scheduling"

3. Opening Remarks - see attached

4. Approval of draft minutes of November Council of Dancers Meeting

- addition of 6 (m): After some discussion the Council voted unanimously that Square and Round Dance Week should be repeated in 2009 and rejected the board's recommendation that the next Square and Round Dance Week not be held until 2010.

- the amended minutes were adopted (Chuck Langtry/Don Clingin)

5. Reports

a) Financial Report

As of this date the bank balance is \$11,706.06 with O/S cheques of \$1209.15. This results in a book balance of \$ 10,496.91. There are no unpaid bills outstanding.

- Peter Courdin - has a budget been established for 2009/10? No, but one will be established in early May

b) Registrar's Report

Over the past year clubs and yes, even associations, are still not advising us of changes for contact personnel in order that we get general broadcasts and timely information to these groups. We are currently working on a project which may help alleviate this situation...stay tuned for further details.

As in past years I am asking that those who wish a copy of this report advise me and I will e-mail it to you.

Status as of Apr 19, 2009 : There are 39 clubs , 4 associations, 39 callers and cuers, and 1206 members.

All clubs and associations have been registered, and we welcome our newest member of the family ... "Richmond Squares" who started with us in December 2008 as "Seniors and Singles" under the direction of Joanne Braaksma and caller Ivan Barron.

c) Update on SRDW 2009 - see attached

- Publicity - Helgi Goodman

Publicity for SRDW is in the early stages of development. An email was sent to all EOSARDA Clubs asking for their appointment of a representative onto our committee. This person to represent the views of the Club or area for SRDW publicity. Todate only 4 responses received - 3 positive and 1 tentative.

Feedback from 2008 SRDW said that impact of our activities diminished as we moved further away from Ottawa. This is a valid response. Yet how do we reflect outlying Club opinions, if we don't get responses from them.

The intent of Publicity is:

1. Development of media publicity promoting SRDW. This will focus on newspaper, radio, but not on TV, due to costs.
2. Development of Club type admats - posters, brochures, handouts etc. Admats will be on the EOSARDA website. The format is Microsoft Word. Those wishing to do so will be able to download these and then personalize these with who/what/when/where to meet any Club event.

A stronger internet presence is required. I'm not referring to our website, but to interactive sites, such as facebook, twitter etc. I'm not the person to do this. I'm seeking a volunteer, who would bring these skills to our committee.

Note: Three persons volunteered for the publicity committee at this C of D meeting.

-Demo Dances - Ziggy Segstro

These will again be held at Bayshore and St. Laurent Malls. This year they will be held on the same day, Sunday, September 13th. The St. Laurent Mall has confirmed our participation at the same location; the main floor by the food court. An insurance certificate has been issued. Although Bayshore has confirmed our participation the location within the mall has not been determined. Last year's location (main floor in front of the Bay) is no longer available, so two alternative locations have been suggested. Dancer sign-up sheets have been distributed to the clubs and many have been completed and returned to me. Club participation sheets to the "teaching" clubs have also been distributed. Callers and cuers for both locations has been arranged.

d) OACA - Andy Himberg-Larsen

- Summer dancing for Basic dancers will be on Thursday evenings (7:30 - 10:00 PM) at the Alexander Community Centre starting May 7th to July 30th.

- Wendy Vandermeulen will be having 2 caller workshops. They will be held on May 8/9 and May 15/16 week-ends. She has 4 attendees at this time. At conclusion of the workshops, there will be a dance at which the new callers will have the opportunity to practice what they have learned.

Wendy's plan to teach square dancing at the two Ottawa universities with competition has been postponed. The new plan is to start at one university and has been passed on to Brian Crawford for implementation.

e) RDTA - see attached

6. New Business

a) Changes to EOSARDA Dance Dangle criteria

Three handouts were available to the attendees. Some comments were:

- great but - why calendar year
- 2 of 4 EOSARDA dances (not 3 out of 4)
- prefer 3 out of 4
- for the total of 9 - perhaps 3 club visits and 6 dances

Anne Graham moved and Geoff Crawford seconded that the criteria for a dance dangle be:

2 of 4 EOSARDA dances, and 3 Special dances, and 3 club visits

Motion was carried

The next item was the format of the application form. The format approved by 30 of the attendees was the "generic" one which did NOT include examples of Special Dances.

The suggestion was made that flyers/brochures for Special Dances include the notation that it was a "Dangle Dance".

b) Discussion - EOSARDA Dances and related policies (are they needed, do they meet our dancing needs, costing, length of dances, advertising). Some of the

comments during the discussion were:

- affirmative - dances should continue
- dances should be fun - no politics
- there are too many dances
- during a 6 week period during March/April, there were 28 dances
- volunteer clubs - share the profit with EOSARDA
- the dances should make money
- perhaps some of the clubs should give up a dance/give up the money?
- Jamboree - May or April?
- changing dances may affect our new dangle policy

- too many dances? - dancers don't have to go
- Jamboree - how to make it better
- how about some competition such as a dance off? Mainstream - square is out when it breaks down - this may encourage competition
- different callers
- EOSARDA dances should be different than club dances
- too many speakers - they speak too long
- competition - winners/losers - morale

The general consensus after this was that the EOSARDA dances should continue

c) National Square and Round Dance Convention 2014 - Wendy Vandermeulen

Wendy mentioned that she had heard a rumour that the Halifax convention next year may be the last Canadian convention as there appears to have been no interest in hosting one after Halifax. If there were to be one after Halifax (1012) it is western Canada's turn to host it. She suggested that we (EOSARDA) host the convention in 2014. She therefore submitted the following motion:

That the Council of Dancers approve the bid to hold the Canadian National S&RD Convention in 2014 in Ottawa;

that the convention be called "Festival 2014";

that the EOSARDA Board of Directors be requested to establish a Festival Committee, with Wendy Vandermeulen as Chair, with the power to organize, staff, receive money, spend money, and enter into contracts, and;

that the Festival Committee be required to provide reports to every EOSARDA Board Meeting and Council of Dancers Meeting until December, 2014.

Seconded by Peter Courdin

Discussion comments:

- 2012 - no city yet? Winnipeg?

- Gerry Sawtell - Festival 2014 will have to be run/organized without the assistance of the current cuers. Out of 10 cuers, 7 are over 80 and one is not interested

- volunteers only - C od D to approve

- Ontario Federation will support - so will the Society

- no aspenite floor

- tentative budget has been set - it is self-financing

- registration forms have been created

- this is a commitment to have the convention

- funding - little up-front money is required

- London convention - \$47,000 profit after Society received its share

- considered Carleton University? No - downtown better location; easier to feed people downtown with the selection of restaurants

- really exciting! Why not?

The vote was 35 in favour; 2 opposed

7. Election of Board of Directors for 2009/10

The following current members will continue for the next year:

Bruce & Linda Warner, Gavin Currie, Jean & Don Clingin, Chuck & Billi Langtry, Carol & Bob Milne, Ziggy Segstro, Bob & Marguerite Summers, David Western, Andy Himberg-Larsen, Nadia & Bill Flynn.

There were no volunteers to add to the Board.

Moved that these members be approved - Harold Moore; Seconded Wendy Vandermeulen. Carried

8. Election of EOSARDA Representatives to Ontario Federation

- a 4th representative would be ideal. There are four meetings a year; only one of which is held in conjunction with a major event such as T&D. Travel expenses to

that meeting are covered by EOSARDA.
No volunteers came forward.

9. Club Round Table

- Daphne Pearson explained the situation where the Rhapsody Rounds Cancer Benefit Dance and the Village Squares Bunny Hop were held on the same day. Unfortunately the church was not available to reschedule the Cancer Benefit Dance to another date. This dance raised approximately \$1,500.

- Geoff Clarke - this would be his last C of D meeting

- club representatives provided details of upcoming activities. Check Square Time for details

- Bruce Warner - he has been authorized to issue registration certificates which should speed up the process

10. Theft

- a GPS unit was stolen from a locked vehicle at a recent dance. Apparently, thieves are now able to duplicate the electronic signal generated by key fobs when the vehicle is being locked. It was suggested that vehicles be locked when exiting the vehicle or via the key to prevent such thefts.

11. Dance Scheduling

- in order to prevent or reduce conflicts of dance dates, clubs are reminded to inform Square Time as soon as possible of dance dates for publishing in the Dance Calendar.

President's Remarks

Council of Dancers - April 2009

Welcome

I would like to welcome you all to the April Council of Dancers and to thank you for coming out on this beautiful Sunday afternoon. I hope that you will find the meeting interesting and informative.

At the back of the room you will find a draft agenda for today's meeting, a copy of the revised Minutes for the November Council of Dancers which is different from the version on the EOSARDA web site and a three page document concerning the EOSARDA Dance Dangles. If you have not already done so, you may wish to pick up a copy now.

Approval of Agenda

Are there any additions or deletions to the proposed Agenda? [There were two additional items proposed from the floor - Theft and the Scheduling of Special Club Dances].

Then let's get things underway.

Thanks to Board Members and Federation Representatives

This has been a very challenging year for the EOSARDA Board of Directors. In January, we were thrown into a bit of a turmoil when Wendy Sauv  was obliged to step side as President of EOSARDA for health reasons. I am very proud of the way in which my fellow Directors responded to this unexpected turn of events. While there was some inevitable confusion, this was quickly dealt with. The Board reconstituted itself and has since undertaken a number of very important initiatives. I would like to thank all of the Members of the Board of Directors for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication.

While most Directors have indicated a willingness to continue to serve on the Board in 2009/10, eight Members of the Board are retiring from the Board. They are:

- Elizabeth Defalco
- Brian and Ann Gibbs
- Ken and Laurie Ingram
- Ed and Pat Mills and
- Wendy Sauv 

I would like to thank them all for their time, talents and effort. It has been a pleasure working with all of them. They are leaving gaps on the Board that will be hard to fill.

Square and Round Dancing in Eastern Ontario and indeed across North America is in a state of crisis. The number of dancers has been dropping steadily as dancers age and drop out for various reasons and the number of Callers and Cuers has also been dropping. If we do not turn this around, we risk reducing our numbers to the point where the number of dancers will be non-viable.

Your Board feels that recruiting new dancers, Callers and Cuers is our most pressing need at this time. There are a number of initiatives currently underway to help us reach this goal. We will be discussing several of these this afternoon. But if your Board is to succeed, we need your help. It is imperative that the retiring Directors be replaced by new Board Members willing to do what is needed to keep us moving forward.

We constantly hear that non-Ottawa based clubs feel that EOSARDA is too Ottawa-centric. I don't believe that this is the case, but the best way to ensure that the Board is responsive to your needs is to become an EOSARDA Director. If you want the Board to be more in tune with your needs, this is your chance to make that happen.

We only have 8 Board meetings a year plus the two Council of Dancers, which most of you attend anyway. Most of our work is done over the internet via e-mail. Hopefully we will have a full slate of Directors after today's meeting, but if we do not, please go back to your clubs and look for suitable candidates to serve on the Board. No reasonable offer of service will be refused.

I would also like to recognize Tom Edwards, who is stepping down as one of our Ontario Federation representatives in order to take on new executive responsibilities with the Mississippi Squares. Thank you Tom for your hard work and dedication to Square and Round Dancing. Our loss is Mississippi's gain.

I would also like to thank Karen Remy, Peter Courdin and Peter Graham for their hard work as EOSARDA representatives to the Ontario Federation.

Year-End Review

Your Board of Directors has had a busy and successful year.

§ It began the year last September with the first ever Square and Round Dance Week. We kicked off the Week with the Hospice Dance in Kemptville. This was followed by demo dances in 2 major Ottawa malls and the Pembroke Mall, the Taste of Dance and the Welcome Back Dance. There were also lots of club activities such as Open Houses, chili suppers etc, which while many of these were the normal Club start up activities, contributed significantly to increasing the profile of Square and round dancing in Eastern Ontario. In many ways, these club activities are the most important part of Square and Round Dance Week. The result of all this activity was that not only was the 10% annual drop off stemmed, but for the first time in a

number of years we increased our membership by 3.6% over previous year.

- § The Board also organized and successful ran the August Affair, Fall Fest and Frosty Fling, with Jamboree still to come.
- § We were able to obtain the services of a professional web designer, Pat Gauthier, as Web Master, and as a result we now have a new web site - EOSARDA.com - and the domain names EOSARDA.com and EOSARDA.ca have been officially registered thanks to her efforts.
- § The Minutes of Board and CoD meetings are now posted on the web site.
- § As you will already know if you have read the latest edition of Square Time, to improve efficiency and effectiveness, we have restructured Board by creating 6 Standing Committees
 - the Operations Committee;
 - the Finance Committee;
 - the IT Committee, which looks after our new web site;
 - the Publicity, Promotions and Publications Committee (Triple P Committee);
 - the Dance Committee, which is composed of the four EOSARDA Dance Coordinators and other interested Board Members; and
 - the Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards Committee, which has done much to ensure that significant Club Events are duly recognized without having to request the Board to do so.

Current Activities

- § We are in the process of wrapping up this year's graduations of new dancers. It is my understanding that a Board Member will be present at every graduation in the region this year. The Board has decided to offer our new dancers a free pass to either this year's Jamboree or to Fall Fest in September. These passes are being handed out to all new graduates, as identified by the clubs;
- § Of course Jamboree 2009 is coming up very soon now;
- § planning for both the August Affair and Fall Fest is underway;
- § we are well into planning Square and Round Dance Week 2009; and
- § we have undertaken an in-depth review of all of the Association's policies, practices and procedures in order to ensure that they continue to meet our Members' needs. You will begin to see the first results when we discuss dance dangles and EOSARDA Dances in a little while.

Dance Scheduling

We have recently seen a number of conflicts with special dance schedules. We will be putting permanent dance schedule in Fall Square Time and all major dances are listed on EOSARDA web site. However, this information is only as good as that provided by clubs. So we need clubs to provide us with information about their special dances at the earliest possible moment and, while some conflicts are perhaps inevitable, to do their best to avoid scheduling conflicts

We have a full agenda today, one which I am sure will generate lots of discussion. So without further ado, let's get on with the meeting.

P, P and P Committee Report on Square and Round Dance Week '09

This year's Square and Round Dance Week will take place between September 12 - 19.

Planning for the week is already well underway. The Square and Round Dance Week Organizing Committee meet with representatives from a number of Dance Clubs last February. The meeting was well attended with a number of very good ideas for Square and Round Dance Week activities being put forward.

The Kick-off event for Square and Round Dance Week 2009 will again be the Hospice Dance in Kemptonville on September 12. Steve Macphee has a report on that event.

The Hospice Dance will be followed by a series of Demo Dances in Ottawa, Pembroke and perhaps the 1,000 Islands Mall in Brockville. Ziggy Segstro has a progress report on the Demo Dances in Ottawa.

It looks like there will be lots of Club activities during the Week. These include: open houses, chili suppers, and Demo Dances in smaller Malls and shopping areas. Club representatives might wish to discuss their plans for Square and Round Dance Week 2009 during the Club Round Table at the end of this meeting.

Taste of Dance (Ottawa) is being planned for Saturday Sept 18. It will once again be held at St. Patrick's High School in Ottawa. There is also a possibility that there will be a Taste of Dance held in the Seaway Valley, although this has yet to be confirmed.

Helgi Goodman from the Mississippi Squares has a report on advertising initiatives for the Week.

I am pleased to announce that our representatives to the Ontario Federation have succeeded in obtaining a grant from Federation of \$2,500 on matching basis (\$1 for \$3).

Our goal is once again to increase EOSARDA Membership by 5%.

We cannot do this without your help.

Let's all pull together and make it happen.

Dave Western

Chair

P, P and P Committee