

**Meri Squares 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 9:00 pm**  
**All Saints Westboro Church**  
**347 Richmond Road, Ottawa**

**Minutes**

1. **Call to order.** The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 9 pm. The President, David Shackleton, welcomed everyone. There were 41 people in attendance. As such, quorum was met.
2. **Approval of the Agenda.** There being no additions or changes, David called for a motion to approve Agenda. Moved by Lee Wariner and seconded by Colleen Barnes. Carried.

David advised that Meri Squares is a member run club and that the Executive is doing what the members want and report back each year at the AGM.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the April 10, 2024 Annual General Meeting.** David asked for any additions or changes. Marilyn Collins asked for a correction to the reference of “Into the cold” to “In from the Cold” and offered to continue to be a contact person for the next year. Seeing no further changes, Robert Milburn moved to approve the minutes seconded by Lamar Mason. Carried.
4. **Business Arising from the Minutes.** – N/A

5. **Reports (Appendix B)**

- a. **President** – David Shackleton (see President’s report). David highlighted that the club is very successful and that we are one of 3 clubs, in the area, who dance more than once per week. He further stated that we initiated SSD 3 years ago and that we are growing every year. We will have graduated over 60 new dancers since we started SDD. David highlighted that a very big project this past summer was the implementation of our new website, to better assist members.

David gave thanks to all the Executive advising that that he has sat on many Executives and that the Meri Squares Executive is an exceptional and dedicated team providing high quality work and thanked all. He then wished to highlight that many of the current Executive have served for 6 years recognizing Gerry Lelievre as Treasurer, Colleen McEwan in Membership, Michelle Gravelle as Secretary and Pat McLachlan and Jacques Chesnais as Publicity Chairs and the last year as Vice President Couple. David remarked that when we started SSD we were concerned that there was no SSD representation on the board and now he

is please to advise that going into the new Executive, it will be made up of 5 SSD dancers and 6 Plus dancers and very happy to see SSD stepping up. Lastly David thanked all members, volunteers who step up in a variety of roles, the Executive, our callers, John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen and closed with noting that we are a happy, successful club.

b. **Past President** — Vacant

c. **Vice-President** – Pat McLachlan and Jacques Chesnais (See Vice President’s Report)

Pat advised that the Vice President position is an interesting role where you serve for 2 years and then move into the role of President. However, she advised that many are reluctant to take the role of VP on. Pat advised, that due to her health and impending treatment, she and Jacques would be stepping away for at least 6 months and that Lamar Mason would step into the President role. Pat encouraged members to consider the VP role and said that it is interesting and you do whatever the President asks.

Pat further spoke about her pet project, the clothing sale, and expressed her desire that this continue. Pat also spoke about the need to have a volunteer write articles for the EOSARDA Square time publication. Again, an easy function that takes about 2 hours and supplemented by photos from Michelle.

d. **Secretary** – Michelle Gravelle (see Secretary’s report). Michelle acknowledged that her main job is to record the minutes of all meetings and that they are always interesting. Other roles included supporting the web team with the new launch and that she did the local Rogers TV interview for a 3rd year. Michelle advised that she has now been Club Photographer since fall of 2015 and takes photos for the joy of the membership. She encouraged all members to go on the website and to feel free to download any photos. Michelle advised that it was time for her to step down as secretary and thanked Colleen Barnes for putting her name forward. Michelle advised that she enjoyed her time as secretary and will step into the Publicity role for the next year.

e. **Treasurer** – Gerry Lelievre (see attached 3 financial reports) Gerry started with the Report Summary advising that our fiscal year runs May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Gerry noted total assets of (\$17,670.75). Our estimated income is (\$20,209.49) and estimated expenses of ( \$17,561.02) for a profit of (\$2,648.47). We had success with the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dance, Meri Mingle, best ever clothing sale and the SSD program continues to attract new members.

Gerry then moved to the more detailed 2025 AGM Income Expense Report noting we started the year with a bank balance of \$ (9,866.12) and saw income of (\$20,209.49) mostly due to membership dues and expenses of \$(17,561.02) with

the majority of expenses being caller fees (\$9,315) and hall rental (\$3,562.48). Income less expenses is (\$2,648.47) with an estimated balance April 30<sup>th</sup> of (\$12,514.59) and a GIC at (\$5,156.16.)

Gerry then noted the 2025 AGM yearly financial comparison that total assets in 2023/24 should have been \$15,203.28 (.15 difference).

Gerry asked for any questions from the floor. Susan Mailer congratulated the club on the professional reporting and that as a new member the report was well written, easy to read and total faith that all money was well accounted for. Her concern was the reference to Non Profit status and should we use alternative wording so that our status was not in jeopardy. Lamar spoke to this question and advised that Meri Squares is an individual run club and not registered as Not for Profit whereas EOSARDA is registered as non for profit and we fall under EOSARDA. Lamar thanked Susan for the question and appreciated the opportunity to clarify the club's status. David further stated that the Executive's financial policy is that we try to do slightly better than break even. Covid set us back we have endeavoured to build back up. David noted that this is currently a healthy place for us to be.

Gerry Lelievre moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report and financial statements. Lee Wariner seconded. Carried.

- f. **Membership Coordinator** – Colleen McEwan (see Membership report). Colleen reviewed the membership numbers over the past year. Last year there were 67 members and this year 70. Colleen further stated that there was a group of 11 dancers who graduated at the end of the fall session and we expected to have another 11 graduate at the end of April. The Plus dancers has only increased by 3 dancers and many of the previous Plus dancers do not participate mainly due to health issues. Many Plus dancers attend both Tuesday and Thursday which accounts for the larger number of squares on the floor Tuesdays. Many members register by session but we also have a number of nightly dancers. Meri squares continues to be encouraged and challenged by our dedicated callers, Wendy and John on a weekly basis. Colleen concluded by stating that the dancers of Meri Squares are a group of active, enthusiastic individuals who enjoy modern square dancing.
- g. **Publicity Coordinators** – Vacant
- h. **Social Coordinators** – Joyce Fleury & Susan Vail (SSD) and Sandy Rosen (Plus) (See Social Report) .

Susan and Joyce commented that they have a great team on Tuesday nights who assist and that you are all a lovely group. They advised that Susan (Dulude Canteen) is very easy going.

Sandy advised that his main job is to have the coffee and snack in order. He advised that the Keurig machines seem to be working to facilitate prep and clean up and waste. He thanked all the volunteers who help each week. He also advised that he ensures that the Décor is available for theme nights. (it is currently sorted and stored at his house).

Pat MacLachlan thanked Robert Milburn for all his time and effort in providing extra décor for various theme nights which adds much fun to the events.

- i. **Caller Couple** – Wendy VanderMeulen and John Charman. (See caller report) Wendy advised that she loves teaching and gave a special thanks to all the plus angels who regularly turn out to support the SSD group. John advised that the weather played havoc with Thursday Plus dancers but we needed to be safe.
- j. **Member at Large** – Lynn Wilson (See Member at Large report)

David advised that the Member at large position was important as we started SSD. However, now that we have 5 SSD Dancers on the Executive, the role of the Member at large will not be required and Lynn will be stepping down. Lynn advised that she was happy to help get additional resources for the SSD dances on the website and that she enjoyed sitting on the Executive.

David asked for a motion to approve the Officers' reports as submitted. Moved by Susan Mailer and seconded by Lee Warriner. Carried.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2025-2026** – President (see attached report).

David read the slate of officers and asked each person (not already seated at the head table) to come forward and be seated so all could know who they were.

The Meri Squares Executive for 2025-2026:

President: Lamar Mason  
Past President: David Shackleton  
Vice-President: Vacant  
Treasurer: Gerry Lelievre  
Secretary: Colleen Barnes  
Membership Coordinator: Colleen McEwan and Marie Andree Auclair  
Publicity Coordinator: Michelle Gravelle and Annette Farrow  
Social Coordinator SSD – Joyce Fleury and Susan Vail  
Social Coordinator Plus – Sandy Rosen

Call for nominations from the Floor: David then asked for a call to nominations from the floor.

As there were no nominations from the floor, David asked for acceptance of the Slate of Officers. Moved by Lee Wariner and seconded by Rosalyn Blackett that the Meri Squares Executive for 2025 – 2026 be accepted. Carried.

**7. General Discussion:**

David opened the floor for any discussion.

Coffee at Dulude:

Lamar Mason asked the membership for their input on if the SSD group was happy with the coffee at Dulude. The response was in favour.

Expressing thanks to the Executive

Don Farrow, stated that as a new member, he wished to express his thanks to the club and to the Executive for all their assistance and variety of methods to ensure that new dancers were progressing, including access to videos, coaching and especially how kind and patient all the angels are.

What's happening in the fall?

Susan McCormick raised the question to refresh group on what is happening in September. David advised that the new Executive will take over and will meet during the summer. September will be offering a Plus Teach on Thursday nights. It will follow the same format as mixed tips for learning Plus and Full Plus. September will also see a new SSD program launched.

**8. Adjournment.** David adjourned the meeting at 9:23 pm.

To read any of the 2025 AGM reports, please go to <https://merisquares.ca/wp/agm-reports/>