

DANCERgram

March 2023



THIS &
THAT

... for the latest news in the square and round dance community.

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SQUARE DANCE CLOTHING RUMMAGE SALE

April 26, 2023

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Broderick Recreation Center

6101 66th Ave N., Pinellas Park, FL

The sale is the same night and location as the Student Graduation!

Mostly Harmless

For those who don't know, Mostly Harmless was a hiker found dead in his tent on the Florida National Scenic Trail in the summer of 2018. **Mike Gormley** was the last hiker known to have seen him alive. Discover + channel made a documentary on the story, which Mike is a part of. They included a shoot of two of my hobbies, square dancing and Ham Radio.

Here is an update on the film shooting, part of which was made at Whispering Pines Village during our square dance class a year ago.

"Discovery +" has been involved in a merger with HBO and that caused a delay in the release of the film earlier this past Summer. They will be using the film, with others, as part of the kickoff announcement of their merger. The film now will be shown first at "The Florida Film Festival" at the Enzian Theater in

Maitland, Florida, on April 15th at 3:15 p.m. Another showing will be on April 18th at 6:00 pm. Tickets are expensive at \$125.

Mike was invited as a guest of the producer to go to the April 15th showing, but can't because I will be attending and calling at the Strawberry Travelers, Chapter 153, camping weekend in Cedar Key, Florida.

Assuming \$125 is too expensive for your taste, it would be mine, you can wait until it is released on streaming TV later this Fall. You can then watch it for the cost of the streaming service. The name of the streaming channel is unknown to me, as it will have a new name, not yet announced.

Mike will receive a personal link to watch the film himself and he assumes he can share that link with you, and will if allowed.

He doesn't know how much of the square dance class, or even Ham Radio, they will show.

The billboard title of the film is "They Called Him Mostly Harmless".



Local Cuer Recognized

Judy Barnhill's recent choreography of "B0B0Burning Up with Love", sung by the late Eddie Rabbit, has been selected as the Oregon "Round of the Month" for March. The choreography for the dance can be accessed through Judy's

and Dwayne's website <http://www.roundswithjudy.com> by clicking on the link for ROUNDALAB.

Reprint

Are You Working for or Against Us?

By Penny Green

What an odd title! What does that mean "are we working against each other"? When I hear people promoting only their club or only their lessons, the hair on the back of my neck just stands up and my blood pressure jumps just a few points.

When we are struggling so hard to keep our clubs running, to recruit dancers to our classes, just to recruit more dancers period, why would we be so narrow minded as to not promote square dancing as a whole?

When you are talking to anyone (young or old, married or single) about square dancing and the night of your club dance or class doesn't fit their schedule, don't stop talking. Keep talking and let them know there are dances and/or classes on other nights and tell them what they are and when they are. So what if you are putting people in someone else's club or class; you're getting us more dancers!

Don't rush new dancers into club membership before they have "graduated" from a class so that you "get them first" before they join another club. If you are truly practicing what you preach, that you are a friendly club and a fun place to dance, they will want to join without you pressuring them into it.

I know that a lot of you have shirts, jackets and caps that reference square dancing. How many of you wear them to other places other than dances or dance related activities? You have no idea how many times I get questions when I wear my jacket with the huge square dance logo on the back of it

When you schedule your classes, are you paying attention to what is going on in your area? Who else is having classes? What day and time of day are they having their classes? Do you make any attempt to schedule your class so that it doesn't conflict with other classes in close proximity to yours? When classes in the same area are on the same night, new

dancers are unable to attend more than once class if they want to. I always encourage new dancers to try to attend more than one class; this will help them better. Please be considerate when scheduling your classes so they don't conflict with other classes in your area.

We have to stop with this mentality of "we have to get dancers for our club and not worry about the activity as a whole." Do you tell Singles they can't come unless they bring a partner? Do you cancel a class because you have too many single women?

So back to the question, "Are we working against each other?" when we only recruit for our club and/or classes, when we are selective about who we recruit, when we "compete" with another club or class to gain participants, when a select few are out there constantly promoting the activity and the rest of the group is just sitting back complaining about how we are losing dancers, that we have tried everything, that won't participate in banner raids or visit other clubs and festivals/conventions?

It's time for everyone to step up and promote the ACTIVITY! When you are talking to anyone about square and round dancing, be knowledgeable about what is going on in your area and provide them with all the information. Always make visitors and solos welcome when they show up at your dances. Just because you have a greeter at the door doesn't make you a friendly club if all your members sit in their little groups and don't talk to these dancers, don't include them in your squares, etc. Attend the classes in your area and angel these new dancers, even if your club isn't sponsoring the class or you don't belong to a club. They need all the help they can get so they can learn faster and get out on the dance floor sooner.

What are you doing – working against us or with us?

Reprint from DANCERgram – February 9, 2009

Reprint

Guidelines for New Dancers

The following text is from Tel-Star, October 1995

1. Dance at other clubs. Your home club needs your support, and there should be a special place for the club where you learned to dance...but you are missing one of the great things about square dancing if you only dance with your home club. VISIT WITH OTHER

CLUBS in the area from time to time, and when on trips. But, remember that YOU ARE A VISITOR. It is suggested that you call or write before visiting, as dancing schedules and locations are subject to change. This is important if you are traveling...or if adverse weather is expected such as during the winter months or during “tornado or hurricane season”.

2. Belong to a club. Clubs are needed to organize and establish a means of enjoying the fellowship of square dancing. To survive, they need an active membership where everyone helps. Volunteer...don't wait to be asked.
3. Dance to other callers. During lessons, you tuned into the caller who taught you, and you will always have a special place for him or her. Every caller has a different style...that is part of the fun.
4. Dance in the front of the hall. The tendency for the new dancer is to hide in the back of the hall, where he thinks the caller can't see his square break down. A good caller watches the whole floor...including the back squares. Don't be afraid to dance in the front square.
5. Dance with experienced dancers. Sometimes an outreached hand from a more experienced dancer is all your square needs to keep going. Everyone dancing today was a new dancer at one time, and can remember how it felt.
6. Touch hands after every move. Establish your position by touching hands after every move. If you're lost, at least you'll have company. As one caller I heard years ago say..."AT&T" – reach out and touch someone".
7. Keep Dancing. To use all the information you have learned, and to make it become second nature, it is important to practice, practice, practice.
8. Be aware of your level. Look for dances advertised at the level you know.
9. Stay at your level for a while. The level you dance has nothing to do with how good a dancer you are. It has to do with how much time you are willing to devote to your hobby. You may never choose to move to another level, and that is fine. Don't make a choice until you have danced Mainstream for at least one full year, and don't let anyone rush you to go to a higher dance level!
10. Square dance for fun. The odds are pretty good that someone is going to make a mistake (even a caller makes one sometimes!). Don't worry about whose fault it was...it doesn't matter. Regroup, and keep smiling.
11. Finally...jump right up when the music starts. Get in the first open square, don't pass one up! Introduce yourself, smile, and have fun! Thank everyone when the tip is over.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – March 2013

USDA Dancers Insurance Program

Every square dance organization needs General Liability and Accident Medical Expense coverage while conducting and sponsoring dance activities. As closely as safety rules are followed, accidents can and will happen. This insurance program, especially designed for USDA dance groups, provides Accident Medical insurance, which helps protect club members from financial loss due to a covered accidental bodily injury, and Liability insurance, which protects the club and its members and association officials from financial loss due to unforeseen incidents which may develop into litigation against members and dance organizations.

Liability Insurance

Limits of protection:

\$1,000,000 combined single limit of liability for bodily injury and property damage per occurrence (subject to a \$100 property damage deductible per claim) while participating in scheduled and sponsored dancing activities. \$100,000 limit for damage to premises rented to you.

Who is covered:

The club and its members while participating in club or organization sponsored and supervised dancing activities? Liability coverage applies in the United States, its territories or possessions.

Accident & Medical Insurance

Limits of coverage:

\$10,000 Usual and Customary Accident Medical Expense, including Dental \$10,000, Accidental Death Benefit \$10,000, Accidental Dismemberment Benefit (loss of both hands, both feet, sight of both eyes, or any combination thereof), \$5,000 Accidental Dismemberment Benefit (loss of one hand, one foot, sight of one eye).

Note:

Coverage is excess to any other valid and collectible medical insurance covering the same accident. Coverage provided for covered medical expenses incurred within 52 weeks of the accident up to \$10,000 for all eligible expenses as stated in the Policy.

Who is covered:

Club members will be insured while participating in any regularly scheduled and sponsored dancing activity worldwide, including group travel (10 or more club members) in a vehicle commercially licensed for transportation of

passengers and operated by a person holding a valid operator's license for such vehicle, while being transported to or from a covered dancing activity.

What is covered:

Accidental bodily injury sustained by an insured person while participating in dancing activities sponsored and supervised by a recognized club or organization.

Period of coverage:

The insurance year is January 1 through December 31. Coverage becomes effective for individual clubs under the policy on the day the application and premium for insurance is received by the USDA National Insurance Coordinator. There is no pro-rate provision. This is necessary due to the large administrative expense of maintaining different policy dates.

For Information about USDA Insurance or USDA, E-Mail at: Insurance@usda.org or Info@usda.org

[USDA Insurance Policy Renewal Portal](#)

[Insurance Program Frequently Asked Questions](#) Answers to Questions that have been asked about the Insurance Program

[Insurance Program Information Flyer](#) in Adobe.pdf Format

[Insurance Forms & Information](#) (With Electronic Fill in Forms)

[USDA 2023-2024 Accidental Medical Insurance Policy](#) in Adobe.pdf Format

[USDA 2023-2024 General Liability Insurance Policy](#) in Adobe.pdf Format

Contact Our Florida Federation Insurance Chairman:

Carol Poole
386-717-0870 (C)386-734-5295 (H)

NOTES:

1. The free student insurance is for beginner dancers (not a former dancer that has not danced in years). It is not for advanced or challenge classes.
2. For a club to apply for insurance, they must have eight (8) members.
3. The minimum fee is \$45 even if the dancers are insured through another club.
4. Caller and Cuer insurance only cover them and their equipment. It does not cover the dancers or damage to the facility.

BMI/ASCAP

When Do I Need A License For Myself, Rather Than for A Club?

If you run dances or weekends of your own, you'll need a license for yourself. Where can you get licensed? You have some options: Deal with the licensing organizations yourself, join CALLERLAB, to get a license through CALLERLAB. BMI & ASCAP aren't set up to deal with individual callers, but they'll license clubs for about \$25 per dance each – if you buy a year's worth of licenses in advance.

Joining CALLERLAB gives you both licenses, insurance, plus access to CALLERLAB's support and education services. Or you can get a license from CALLERLAB without becoming a full member. As a Licensee Member, you pay just the BMI & ASCAP fees plus a \$25 administrative charge! Being licensed thru CALLERLAB covers you when calling club dances & weekends, your own dances & weekends, and calling at all festivals, except State and National Conventions. Those conventions must get their own licenses. You're also covered if you do rounds or Country Western dances as part of your overall square-dance program.

If Clubs Are Responsible, Why Do They Want Me To Have A License?

Not all clubs belong to dancer federations, so there's no good way for clubs to deal with BMI & ASCAP as a group. When the issue arose, club leaders got worried. BMI & ASCAP were threatening legal action, and the club leaders would be personally liable for hefty copyright penalties. The idea of paying \$20,000 per song is pretty frightening! CALLERLAB's deal with BMI & ASCAP solved the problem of license cost—but a club is only safe if every night's caller has a license. So to protect themselves, clubs have started to ask all their callers to be licensed.

Who Is Responsible For Having a License?

Anyone who performs or plays copyrighted music needs a license. Normally, the event's organizer is responsible for obtaining the required licenses. For commercial concerts, that's the promoter. For commercial trade shows it's the trade show organizer or individual booth holder. For square dances, it's the dance organizer. Most dances are club organized, so clubs are responsible.

How did BMI and ASCAP Get Involved in Square Dancing?

Over the past 40 years, BMI and ASCAP have turned their sights to square dancing several times. But there was never an easy way for them to track down square dance clubs for licensing and enforcement. Then, in 1990, they discovered S/D publications, which made it easy to find clubs. Then, in 1990, they discovered S/D publications, which made it easy to find clubs. They mailed out about 4000 contracts to individual clubs and callers. This made people realize their exposure, and caused much concern.

There was another problem: Clubs are small, but BMI & ASCAP are big. So BMI & ASCAP offered their standard deal: \$22 each per dance, payable a year in advance. For many clubs, that'd have been devastating – but small clubs had no way to negotiate for better terms. And new clubs would face an impossible up-front expense.

In an effort to avoid the unreasonable expense that BMI and ASCAP would impose on square dance clubs, CALLERLAB & ROUNDALAB approached them to negotiate a more satisfactory licensing arrangement. BMI & ASCAP agreed to allow licensing of members of these organizations rather than payment of the license fee by individual clubs – on the condition that all US members be licensed.

US Performance-Rights Organizations

In the United States, there are three “performance-rights organizations”. They act as agents to collect royalties that are owed to composers for the performance of their music.

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BMI - Broadcast Music, Inc. represents mainly composers who work in the radio, television, and movie industries. ASCAP - The American Society of Composers, Artists, and Publishers is the oldest copyright licensing organization in the US. It represents such composers as Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. SESAC - SESAC started out representing gospel music and European composers; more recently, they've branched out into popular music.

Why Is There Licensing?

It's illegal to play a copyrighted song in public without the author's permission— a “license.” It would be absurd for each author to license songs individually (imagine the paperwork!), so they formed BMI & ASCAP, who does it for them.

Reprint from CALLERLAB.org

BMI/ASCAP Update

Recently, an email was sent to everyone regarding the importance of having a BMI/ASCAP license. That article generated some questions that were forwarded to Jerry Reed, Executive Director of ARTS. He recently sent an email with some points he wants to explain. His message is below.

I am glad the article is generating discussion. However, some of the folks seem to miss the points in the article.

The basic points are:

- 1) Every time copyrighted music is played, a music performance
- 2) This includes square & round dance events such as: club dances, classes, fun night dances, and demos
- 3) The sponsor of the event is responsible to ensure the event is licensed
- 4) CALLERLAB and ROUNDALAB have negotiated agreements with BMI & ASCAP to cover their Members
- 5) These agreements provide the license issued to the caller or cuer will cover the “event”
- 6) As a general rule state and national conventions are NOT covered by a license issued to a caller or cuer
- 7) Generally, state and national conventions must negotiate a license for their event

It is important to note that artists and composers are entitled to be paid for their work. That is where BMI and ASCAP get involved. As a general note, BMI & ASCAP collect the music performance fees and distribute to the artists they have an agreement with.

If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Berger, CALLERLAB Executive Director at info@callerlab.org or 785-783-3665.

Days of Yore in 2024



January 19-20, 2024
Volusia County Fairgrounds
3150 E. New York Ave.
Deland, FL 32724
(I4 and FL Hwy. 44)

Registration:
Check dances or the website below for a form
Make checks payable to: 69th FSDC
Mail to: Linda Reid | 1062 Old Millpond Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32940 | Reid20@bellsouth.net



Mainstream, Plus, A2
Phases 2, 3, 4, & 5
Plus more

Thursday Night
Trail End Dance
Townsend Pavilion

ALL AT ONE LOCATION
FREE PARKING

Merchandise & Raffle:

Yellow Polo w/Blue logo on the front	\$25.00
Yellow T-Shirt w/Blue logo on the front & back	\$16.00
Convention Button	\$ 1.00
Raffle Tickets for \$500 prepaid Visa Gift Card	
1 ticket	\$ 1.00
10 tickets	\$ 5.00
25 tickets	\$10.00

Host Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott
308 N. Woodland Blvd.
Deland, FL 32720
386-507-2930
Ask for the Square Dance rate

*** Dinner & Show ***

Keep an eye on the Convention website for more information.

Friday, January 19, 2024, 4:15p-6:30p
in the Townsend Pavilion.

Dinner & Show price: \$40 per person

Deadline to purchase: Friday, January 5, 2024

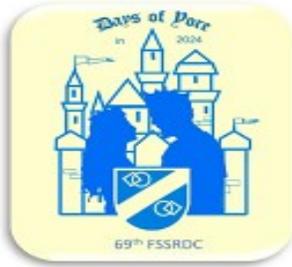
Camping at the Fairgrounds:

\$40/day - Full Hookup
\$20/day - Dry Camping

NO CAMPING REFUNDS after Dec 1, 2023
NO PUBLIC FACILITIES

Make your reservation with
Johnny Brown, Camping Chairman
321-444-5595 | jbrumpyJB@yahoo.com

For more information click on the convention link at
www.dancergram.com



Days of Yore in 2024
**69TH FLORIDA STATE SQUARE &
ROUND DANCE CONVENTION
BENEFIT DANCE**

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023

**Squares:
Rod Barngrover,
Caller Chairman**

**Rounds:
Sandy Sturgis,
Asst Cuer Chairman**

**Strawberry Square
4401 Promenade Blvd
Plant City, FL 33563**

ADMISSION: DONATION AT THE DOOR

**Early Rounds 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Mainstream & Plus with Rounds 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Ribbons and Merchandise will be available to purchase

A Silent Auction will also be held for gift baskets donated by fellow dancers.

**Questions?
Jenny Green | 863-287-5724 | jgreen102286@gmail.com
Sponsored by the Florida Federation of Square Dancers**



Gift Baskets Needed for Silent Auction



You can donate a basket as an association, club, or individual.

Please bring your baskets to Strawberry Square
Saturday, May 20, 2023, by 7:30 P.M.
For the 69th Florida State Convention Benefit Dance

Please include a list of the items that are in the basket.

~~ Must be new, unopened items ~~ Can be any theme ~~

All proceeds benefit the 69th Florida State Convention

Questions or would like to donate
Email Jenny Green at jagreen535@gmail.com



They say the heart of any city is its downtown and ours is beating loudly these days. The twelfth busiest port in the country, Mobile is the social, economic and creative hub of the entire Gulf Coast - our colorful downtown has drawn people for centuries. Many large businesses are headquartered in downtown Mobile right next to quaint, locally owned art galleries, shops, restaurants and bars. On any given weekday, you'll encounter businesspeople, artists, construction workers, shop owners, students, families and tourists making their way along our flower-lined streets.

In the evenings and on the weekends, we shake things up a bit, with festivals, open-air markets, live concerts, and other special events (street pole vaulting, anyone?), giving folks a reason to come downtown and linger for a few hours or even a few days. In downtown Mobile, brunch is a sport, shopping an art and socializing a must.

Mobile is home to America's Original Mardi Gras and each year, it hosts the oldest organized Carnival celebration in the United States, right in the heart of downtown. The festival began to be celebrated in the first decade of the 18th century, during the city's French colonial period. Mobile also formed the first formally organized mystic society, also known as a krewe, in 1830. Since then, downtown has become the hub of cultural, social, and celebratory events.

The Downtown Mobile Alliance is an excellent source of information for everything to know, see and do in downtown Mobile and are incredible stewards of the downtown experience for visitors and locals alike.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Visit Mobile's Website





DON'T MISS OUR

OPENING CEREMONIES

If you've read the last edition of the E-Squares magazine, you already have a good idea of the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the Parade of States. And if you remember the last Winter Olympics, you have a vision of what an opening ceremony looks like... Laser snowflakes, holographic skaters, awe inspiring fireworks. If you combine all of this you get a confused mess in your head. Our opening ceremony will have none of this but will be much more constrained and fun for the whole family.

Think more along the lines of the Super Bowl advertisements where old products are presented in charming new "packaging". Rather than the "end of season" game, the NSDC is the high point of a year gone and a year to come. Our opening will include some introductions of "Mobile people" who have been instrumental in organizing the soiree. We're gonna show the Olympic committee what a "torch relay" really looks like. And we're going to raise a "Moon-Pie over Mobile". There may be more fun things happening so don't miss a minute.

WEDNESDAY	AT	NORTH
NIGHT	7:30 PM	HALL

KEYNOTE

Dance Like Nobody's Watching

JACK PLADDYS

I am extremely honored and excited to present the Keynote Address at the 72nd NSDC in Mobile. The theme is "Dance Like Nobody's Watching". The focus of my address will be to how to remanufacture the public's perception of this activity if we are to effectively recruit. It's time to get back in the public eye. Show folks we love what we're doing. Impress the non-dancers with the talent our Callers and Leaders have. Play the music loud and proud. It's time to prosper again. Time to make the public take notice of our activity again and get them in the door. Then we'll discuss how to keep 'em there. We need to sing like we don't need the money....and....DANCE LIKE NOBODY'S WATCHING!!!

Friday, June 23rd 10AM **Bon Secour Ballroom
Riverview Plaza Hotel**



Our Grand Parade of States



Everyone is encouraged to join us for this Party Gras Parade of States!

Mobile's own iconic Excelsior Brass Band will lead us in Mardi Gras style.



Following them will be the official ambassadors for Mobile-the beautiful Azalea Trail Maids.

Wear your State colors, Club colors, the beads you've collected and the Party Gras parasols you've decorated and celebrate your State as you enter the seating area.



Don't forget to be on the lookout for flying edible Moon Pies!! Then save the wrapper for your scrapbook!





Closing Ceremony Celebration

PARADE OF STATES!

★ Honored Guests ★



Hear WINNERS of...

PASSPORT TO
FUN!

LAST SQUARE
STANDING

"Patriot Quilt" Raffle

SATURDAY | 6PM | NORTH HALL

★ SEE WHO WINS THE 2026 BID ★



The Phoenix Fire Museum is in the restored home of the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Company No. 6. This building houses turn-of-the-century horse-drawn steam engines and early motorized vehicles. The gallery on the Second Floor recounts the history of the volunteer fire companies of Mobile from their organization in 1838.

Open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am -5:00 pm.

Admission is free.

10 minute walk from Mobile Convention Center

10 minute drive from downtown

Hank Aaron Childhood Home & Museum



Hank Aaron, one of baseball's most iconic figures, had his humble beginnings right here in Mobile, Alabama. You can visit those early days and more at the Hank Aaron Childhood Home and Museum, located appropriately enough at Hank Aaron Stadium! The Home is the original Aaron family home built by Hank's Dad, Herbert, in 1942. It includes the 1962 and 1972 additions to the home, which bring it to its current size. In 2008 it was moved from its original location to Hank Aaron Stadium. Baseball fans owe it to themselves to stop by and enjoy the experience!

Mon-Fri 9:00am – 5:00pm
Free, but donations are encouraged.

STREET ART IN MOBILE



By adding character to structures around the downtown vicinity, Mobile has unequivocally become a hotspot for trendy artists showcase their talents across the city. The real beauty of exploring street art around Mobile is that the majority of murals can be found in a relatively small area of the downtown area. Park your vehicle and start walking...it is without doubt the best way to experience all of the plethora of amazing art designs on display around most street corners.



This
Month's
Featured
Tour

Perdido Queen Cruise



Take downtown Mobile dining to a new level! Enjoy dining on the water while cruising along the waterfront, enjoying all the sights and sounds of the beautiful area. The Perdido Queen offer climate-controlled interior, two level seating, a dance floor to show off your moves, and dining served at your private table. Catered by Dauphin's Restaurant. Cruise loads from parking garage at Mobile Convention Center.

Lunch Cruise
12pm-2pm Wed or Thurs
\$80 per person

Dinner Cruise
5pm-7:30pm Tuesday
\$95 per person

Immerse yourself in the rich history and traditions of carnival. See firsthand the intricate designs and artistry of majestic crowns, scepters and robes of Mardi Gras monarchs. Discover the art of costume design and float construction. View videos of parades and balls. Witness the pomp and pageantry of past coronations. Browse the pictorial gallery of historical photographs dating back to 1886. Experience a behind the mask view of the street party by climbing aboard a rocking float. Take a picture as royalty.

Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Adults \$8 Youth (under 12) \$3 Military, AAA, AARP \$6

NEXT DOOR TO THE HOLIDAY INN HOTEL

This
Month's
Featured
Tour



AIRBUS

Assembly line **MOBILE**

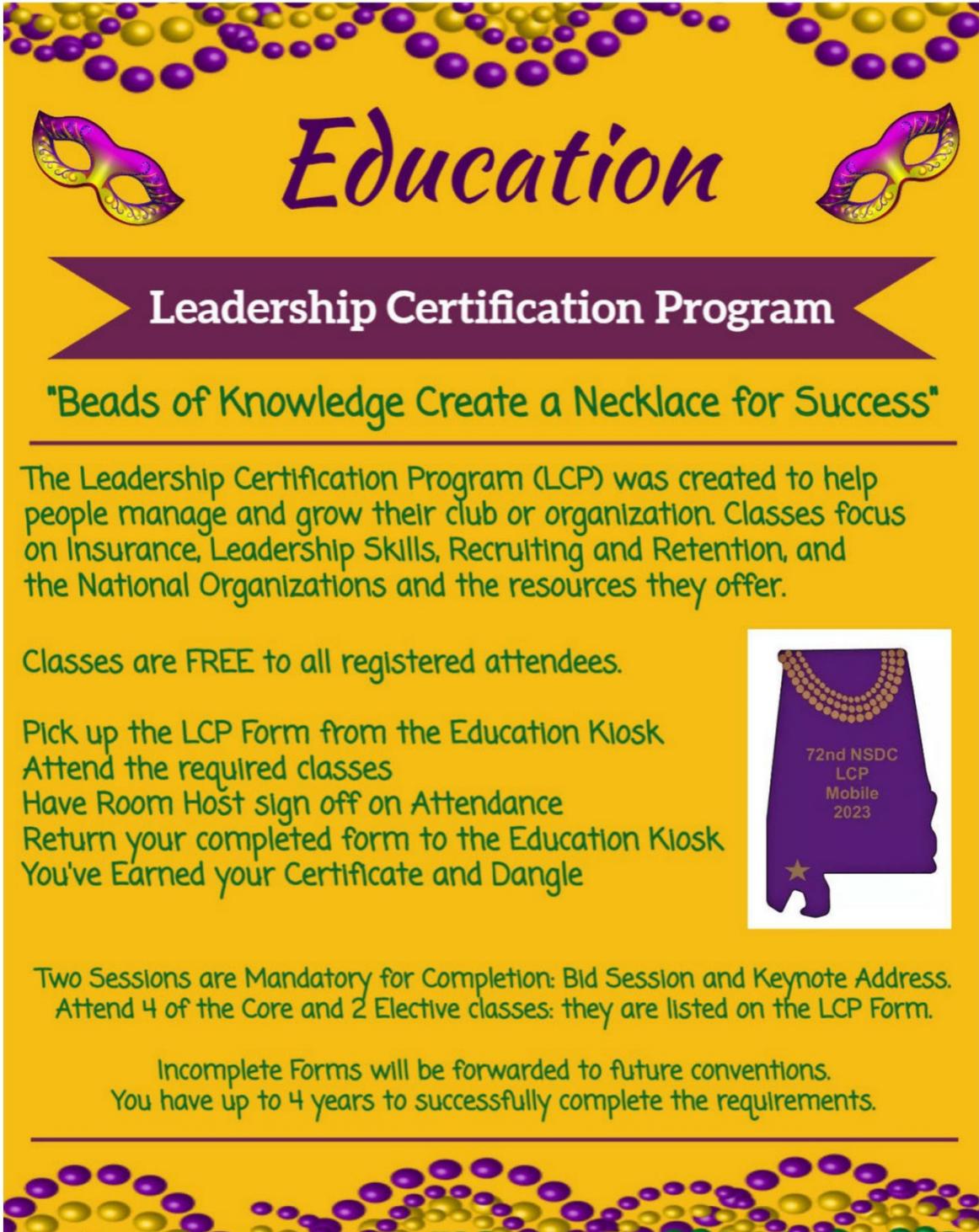


- At Flight Works Alabama, even the sky is not the limit!
- Fully indulge your interest in aviation by taking a virtual spacewalk outside the International Space Station, explore Mars with an Airbus robotic rover, and unearth the science behind the Rosetta spacecrafts mission to a comet.

More than 50 riveting experiences await you, including a tour of the nearby Airbus A320 Final Assembly Line.

**\$49 per person. Includes transportation and tickets
9am – 1pm Wed or Thurs**

***For special purposes, you must provide a copy of your Driver's License at least 1 week prior to the tour.**





Education



Leadership Certification Program

"Beads of Knowledge Create a Necklace for Success"

The Leadership Certification Program (LCP) was created to help people manage and grow their club or organization. Classes focus on Insurance, Leadership Skills, Recruiting and Retention, and the National Organizations and the resources they offer.

Classes are FREE to all registered attendees.

Pick up the LCP Form from the Education Kiosk
Attend the required classes
Have Room Host sign off on Attendance
Return your completed form to the Education Kiosk
You've Earned your Certificate and Dangle



Two Sessions are Mandatory for Completion: Bid Session and Keynote Address.
Attend 4 of the Core and 2 Elective classes: they are listed on the LCP Form.

Incomplete Forms will be forwarded to future conventions.
You have up to 4 years to successfully complete the requirements.



**Our Room
Blocks expired
with many left
unbooked. If
you were
waiting for an
opening...**

**WE STILL
HAVE
ROOMS
AVAILABLE
AT OUR
HOST
HOTELS**

**Contact
Ted Moss at**

squareup.t@gmail.com



TEAM MOBILE INVITES YOU TO

**“TRAIL OUT” WITH
ONE LAST DANCE**

**Enjoy Local Alabama
Callers & Cuers
All Gospel Music**

Sunday June 25, 2023

10:00am~12:00pm

Mobile Convention Center 1 S Water Street
Mobile Alabama 36602

Welcome to our Party Gras 2023!



Photo taken inside Mobile Carnival Museum

Team Mobile is excited to invite all ya'll to attend the 72nd National Square Dance Convention® in downtown Mobile, Alabama in June of 2023.

Its Mardi Gras time in Mobile right now. It's a busy and exciting time for the city. Please enjoy our article about Joe Cain Day, which is only celebrated in Mobile. You can also visit the Joe Cain Café inside the Battle House Hotel.



Follow us on Facebook by joining our public group 72nd National Square Dance Convention® and/or check our website www.72nsdc.com for any new information.

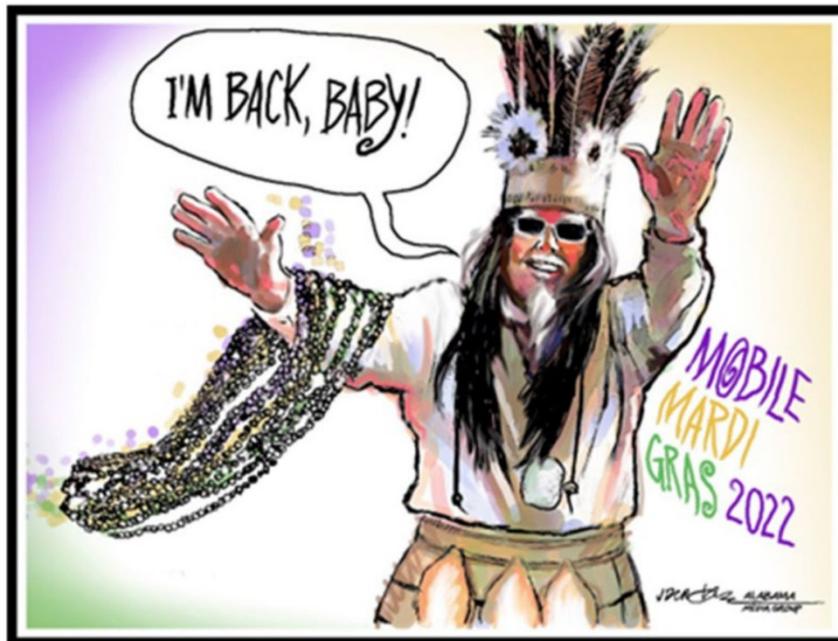
Ya'll Come Dance & Play on Mobile Bay!



Have you heard of Joe Cain Day? A special Mardi Gras celebration only in Mobile.

When you think of Mardi Gras is your first thought Mobile? If not, it probably should be since the celebration originated there in 1703, with parties in the street that rival the more commercialized New Orleans scene.

*However, there was a time that Mardi Gras ceased to exist in Mobile. That is until **Fat Tuesday** of 1866 when local **Joe Cain** donned a plaid skirt and headdress and paraded around the streets as fictional **Native American Chief Slacabamorinico**. The choice was made to insult the remaining occupying Union soldiers, as it was believed the Chickasaw tribe had never been defeated in war. He celebrated the day in front of Mobile citizens and the soldiers, and his rebellious procession helped bring back the city's carnival tradition shortly after the Civil War.*



Joe Cain Day occurs annually on the Sunday before Fat Tuesday and is in honor of Mobile native Joe Cain, who is responsible for reviving the carnival-style Mardi Gras celebration Mobile is well-known for.

The biggest part of Joe Cain Day is the People's Parade, one of Mobile's longest Mardi Gras parades and unlike any other. The floats in this procession are made for the people by the people, consisting of flatbed trucks, wagons and citizens marching through the streets with homemade costumes and a variety of goodies to throw.

A special group to look out for during the parade is Joe Cain's Merry Mistresses. These mistresses dress in bright red gowns and throw roses into the crowds, so they won't be hard to spot.

A huge tradition of Joe Cain Day is the appearance of the Merry Widows. First formed in 1974, this mystic group of anonymous women dressed in black mourning clothes from head to toe as they visit Cain's gravesite to "mourn" and wail. Later, they head to his old home on Augusta Street to make a toast in Cain's honor and hilariously bicker over which one of them he loved the most.

Since Cain actually only had one wife, the unique procession is perfect Mardi Gras comedy and a favorite event of locals for years. If you're downtown day of, you'll most likely catch a glimpse of the 20 or so ladies as they play out their characters with fake identities and names, including Sue Ellen, Scarlet, Emmy Lou, Pearl, and Mary Jane. Keep an eye out for souvenirs as the Widows throw black beads, black roses, and black garters to the crowds—these are some of the most coveted items one can grab during Mobile Mardi Gras.

<https://thebamabuzz.com/have-you-heard-of-joe-cain-day-a-special-mardi-gras-celebration-only-in-mobile/>



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