

# DANCERgram

March 2025



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

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## Federation Vice-President's Message



Yellow Rocks Fellow Florida Square and Round Dancers, Callers and Cuers,

The 70<sup>th</sup> Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention is now history and what fun we had! We had 314 paid registrations at the circus.

Now it's time to start planning the 71<sup>st</sup> Convention to be held January 16 – 17, 2026, in Deland. The theme will be “Survive the Curse at the 71<sup>st</sup> that will have a Halloween theme. Carol and Richard Douget are the General Chairpersons, and they need lots of help. Watch the website ([www.floridasquairedance.com](http://www.floridasquairedance.com)) for various updates about the convention. When you go to the website, there is a list of updates in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Click on the date next to it and it will take you directly to the convention website. Several committees need to be filled. There are no special requirements to serve on these committees; we are equal opportunity! Solos, couples, friends, and any age and any dance level can serve on these committees. Maybe you have some new ideas for us to try.

The next big event is the 74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention® in Shreveport, Louisiana, June 25 – 28, 2025. The National Square Dance Campers will have their camporee in Shreveport June 19 – 21 and ROUNDALAB has their 49<sup>th</sup> convention June 21 – 25. Shreveport is practically in our backyard so Florida should be well represented at the convention. If you haven't been to a National Convention, you should check it out. There is

dancing for all levels of Squares and Rounds, vendors, entertainment, tours. Some of your favorite Florida callers and cuers will be calling and cueing.

The Federation's Annual Working Weekend will be at Strawberry Square Dance Center in Plant City on May 3 - 4, 2025. This is like the annual meeting of a corporation. There will be committee meetings, reports, and lots of discussions. Anyone is welcome to attend.

During the Working Weekend, there will be a fundraiser dance for the 71<sup>st</sup> Florida Convention. Stay tuned for the details!

Jenny Green  
Florida Federation Vice President



## **FCA President's Message**

My mind continues to think about the Florida Round and Square dance convention. Having to excuse myself from attending due to my illness gave me more time to think about the convention and I found a different way of looking at the event. Think with me, if you will, about some economics and a way of considering how we callers could think about a cost benefit analysis of the convention.

This year there were at least 21 callers who called at the convention and 16 partners. That suggests the (dancer) attendance number should be reduced and I will suggest for our thinking purposes the round number of 300 dancers is what we can use. As far as callers who called, let's use the round number of 20. In order to call, most of those callers, and partners, spent two days and nights for the event. That means that let's say 15 callers (out of the actual 22 who called) spent at least \$350 dollars for lodging, food and transportation for the Florida convention. I think that is a conservative number. Extrapolated that means that we callers spent a minimum of \$5,250 to call for 300 dancers. So, at a minimum, each caller spent \$17.50 per dancer to call at the convention.

Think about that as you reminisce of years gone by when lodging and transportation and food costs were less and dancer attendance was greater.

Using the same process and formula I can guess that before covid the per dancer cost to us callers (collectively) for attending the convention could have been less than half of today's costs. I can remember when lodging was closer to \$80 per night and dancer attendance was closer to 800. That would bring the per dancer cost to something like \$7.50. (I used \$250 per caller cost, 25 callers, and the 800 attendance figure. I think still conservative figures.)

I ask you to think about the numbers, not to suggest eliminating the convention, but to suggest there may be a more economical way, collectively for us callers, for doing the convention.

What would you think of programming the convention with ten callers and with four full time halls — mainstream, plus, advanced, and a miscellaneous hall? The ten callers would rotate annually from the number of FCA callers who are proficient at handling a convention floor. In theory this would provide full time dancing to callers from among the best of the FCA callers. Callers not yet proficient for handling a convention floor would have incentive to improve and become a chosen convention caller. Not leaving any caller out of the convention, one of the “miscellaneous” halls could be a time for FCA less experienced callers to call and be helped by the many experienced FCA members -- sort of mini callers college. And it would provide a place for every caller to call at the convention.

This format would allow several variations on the convention format. As a couple of examples: 1, to allow dancers at the convention to be dancing at all times to the best of the FCA; 2, the opportunity for lesser experienced callers to gain experience and increase proficiency; 3, rotation of callers from year to year to feature all proficient callers of the FCA; 4, possibly a chance for dancers to vote on callers they would invite back to call at the next convention. I'm sure the wealth of ideas among our Florida callers would have more possible economies for us callers collectively and possibly, a better experience for the dancers who attend the convention. Would a change like this encourage an increase in dancer attendance? What do you think? Could you send me your thoughts? Thanks, and have a great month of calling and dancing.

Keith Stevens  
President

# NSDCA<sup>1</sup> President's Message



Wow! I'm so excited. By the time you read this, I'll hope to be only a week out from being allowed to put weight on my left leg, maybe a month out from being able to walk again without falling over or using a walker, and maybe two or three months out from square dancing again, just in time for our annual Camporee. Whether or not I'm up to dancing or not, Dolly and I plan to be in Shreveport, ready to have fun with all of our great

members who are equally excited about participating. Then to top it off, we can stay at the same campsite with no site changes or a long drive, and participate in the 74th NSDC. Dolly and I are planning to go. How about you?

I put that as a question because it seems that fewer and fewer of you are wearing any of the rubber off the tires of your RVs by actually getting on the road. We miss seeing you once a year and would really love to have our Camporee live up to its title, the 2025 67th NSDCA International Camporee, and see all of you from far and near, especially our friends from Canada, who it seems have been locked up at the border ever since COVID.

In addition to the convenience of not having to move our camper between the Camporee and the NSD Convention, we'll have two or three days in between to relax and do some sightseeing; there will also be nightly opportunities to dance and socialize at the campground, because the NSDC has said they'll provide access to the building in the campground. We plan to have nightly potlucks and late night after parties after the in-town NSDC activity shuts down. It will be similar to the activities at the NSDC campground at the Atlanta Convention in 2019, with nightly dancing, socializing, ice cream, ... ??

Unfortunately, Dolly and I were not able to get to last year's Camporee in Wisconsin because of several health-related issues, so we're really looking forward to this year, but it really saddens me to see that fewer and fewer of you are taking advantage of our annual get-together. We've been going to Camporees for over twenty years. I'm sure there are some of you who have done so much longer than we have. My hope is that we won't let this great activity of square/round dancing and camping die out. That's where we're headed unless more of you support it and your NSDCA. Remember that the NSDCA is a member organization, and each year we lose members because

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<sup>1</sup> National Square Dance Campers Association

we're all getting older. Square dancing is one of the best activities to help you stay fit both physically and mentally as the day you were born continues to become a more distant memory each day. If you're not camping any more for whatever reason, we'll help you find a hotel or motel nearby. Come join all your NSDCA friends from around the country and come to Shreveport, LA this June. The registration form is in this issue of the TIMES (in the centerfold) or you can download a fillable version from NSDCA.org.

By the way, your Chapter should have forwarded you our "BIG NEWS" flash a couple of weeks ago for some special incentives for coming to the Camporee. If you missed the e-mail, check it out in this issue. Hope to see you in Shreveport. Stay well and enjoy life. Dolly and John

## **Florida Federation Announces the General Chairpersons for the 2026 and 2027 Florida State Square Dance Conventions**

Carol and Richard Douget were recently appointed to be the General Chairpersons of the 2026 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention. The Convention will be held at the Center at Deltona on January 16 – 17, 2026, with the Trails-End Dance on Thursday night, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Dougets chaired the 67<sup>th</sup> Convention in 2022 (*Lighting the Way to Friendship and Fun*). Check the convention website at ([www.floridasquaredance.com](http://www.floridasquaredance.com)) periodically and future issues of this publication for new information.

The General Chairpersons for the 2027 Convention have also been appointed. Keith and Angie Olds have been appointed as General Chair for the 72<sup>nd</sup> convention and will be the Assistant General Chairs for the 71<sup>st</sup> convention. They have already chaired two back-to-back conventions in 2023 (*Bring your Date to the 68<sup>th</sup>*) and 2024 (*Days of Yore*). They had so much fun, they decided to do it again!

Yes, it's two years away but planning needs to start now. Watch future issues for additional information!

# FLORIDA HISTORY

As the Chairperson of the Florida Federation History Committee, I would like to share some history with you. One of our dancers in Jacksonville, Mary Giera, has created a very extensive list of past presidents of the Florida Callers Association. The list contains bios, photos, dates of birth, where applicable the dates they died, etc. It is remarkable the kinds of backgrounds these past presidents had!

## HENRI ARSENAULT



Arsenault, Henri Joseph – born Mar 13, 1951 (dec'd 6 Jan 2023) & Shiela Gail Bedell – born Nov 1956 [m. 1975] Obit: “Henri Joseph Arsenault, 71, of East Dublin, passed away on Friday, January 6, 2023, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in his beloved Prince Edward Island, Canada, to the late Joseph and Elva Arsenault, Henri grew up in Schuylerville, New York, and Hollywood, Florida, before relocating in 2007, to East Dublin, Georgia, with the love of his life, wife Shiela<sup>2</sup> (Bedell) Arsenault, whom he married in 1975. He was most proud of both his Canadian heritage and his American citizenship.

Henri was a man of many gifts which he shared with all he met. As square dance instructors, Henri and Shiela made many life-long friends; he enjoyed life to the fullest, was an accomplished chef, and applied himself fully to several careers and hobbies over the years. He most enjoyed his volunteer work as a cook for the East Dublin Dayspring Worship Center and his work as a delivery driver for Great American Truck Parts.

He enjoyed traveling, cruising, yard sailing, collecting, and most of all, spending time with his much-loved family, especially all his grandchildren.

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<sup>2</sup> Daughter of Caller Frank Bedell, also a past president of the FCA.

Besides his parents, Henri was predeceased by his brother, his brother-in-law, and many ancestors. He is survived by his wife, Shiela; two daughters, two sons-in-law; five grandchildren; four sisters; one brother; Shiela's brothers and sisters and their families; one Aunt;

His wife, Shiela, still resides in E. Dublin, Georgia.

#### AWARDS

1996-1997 - Florida Callers Association President  
Bef 1993 - Extra Mile Award

## ***Bow & Swing***

By Penny Green

Once upon a time, Florida had one of the best square dance magazines in the country – *Bow & Swing*.

Some background:

Provided by Bruce Morgan:  
(copied from Florida Federation Website)

*Bow & Swing* started publication in the early part of 1951.

Harold Emory was the founder and editor.

The first issues that I have found are March & June 1951, and are listed as  
Volume 1 Number 2 & 4.

The first issues cost 2 cents to mail and when subscriptions started in 1952, a  
1 year (10 issues) subscription cost \$1.

April 1, 1963, the magazine was taken over by the Florida Federation of Square  
Dancers.

April 1, 1969, the magazine took on the familiar size of 6x9 inches as it is  
published today.

July 1, 1969, the Florida Callers Association took over the publication  
with Henry Purcell, from Big Pine Key, as their first editor.

Jack Pierson took over as editor with the August 1970 issue.

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At some time, the publication of the *Bow & Swing* was assumed by Bill Boyd of Gramac Printing in Apopka. Bill was a caller and his son, Randy, was the Editor of the *Bow & Swing*. In approximately 2019, Bill decided he needed to retire to take care of his wife, Joanne. The magazine was then taken over by SusanElaine Packer, a caller and owner of Suzie Creations. In 2014, Stephen Bigelow, a dancer and editor of The Grapevine in the Northeast Association, assumed production of the magazine.

Stephen and I are trying to bring back that great publication! But, we need your help.

There are seven sections to this publication

1. President's Messages (FCA, RDCF, Federation, Florida Campers)<sup>3</sup>
2. Association News (Central, NE, NW, SE, and WC)<sup>4</sup>
3. Club News (news from every club in Florida)
4. Callers (list of the FCA members and past presidents)
5. Cuers (list of RDCF members and past presidents)
6. Where to Dance (a list of every club/dance in Florida. This is a list of each club, where they dance, level, caller and/or cuer, and contact information. This has to be very generic so we don't have to ensure it is current information each month.)
7. What's Ahead (list of upcoming festivals and conventions)

What do we need from you?

1. A headshot of each of the Presidents (or the one writing the article).
2. Messages from each of the presidents.
3. A one-paragraph article from every club in Florida.
4. FCA and RDCF, ensure that we have current membership and past presidents lists.
5. Associations: A list of every club in your area with the information noted above.
6. What's Ahead (list of upcoming festivals and conventions). I will be able to provide this information.)

At one time, this was a paid subscription, you had to pay to run ads and to have your club listed in the publication. NOW IT'S FREE! Now it is only digital but you don't need a subscription.

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<sup>3</sup> This doesn't necessarily have to be written by the President, just give us the news for your organization!

<sup>4</sup> This also doesn't have to be written by the president; maybe the association secretary.

There are copies of issues from 1951 – 1981 at <https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/bownswing/index.html>. There are also copies of the issues since Stephen took over. You should take some time and look at these issues and see how things have changed over the years.

He also accepts ads and flyers! The submission deadline for the *Bow & Swing* is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Remember when writing articles that this issue will be for the upcoming month. Example: March 20<sup>th</sup> is for the April issue.

Please email your submissions to the editor, Stephen Bigelow at [bowandswing2@sfbigelow.com](mailto:bowandswing2@sfbigelow.com). (NOTE: this is a new email address)

Let's make *Bow & Swing* great again!

## **74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention®**

# **Solo Dancers**

If you will be a solo dancer (no designated partner) please remember to get a ribbon at registration to wear during the convention. This lets others know you are open to accepting invitations to dance.

*You're Invited to the...*  
**74th National Square Dance Convention®'s**  
**Campground After Parties**

**WHERE?**

Louisiana State Fairgrounds,  
3701 Hudson St, Shreveport,  
in Campground Hospitality/Activity Building

**WHEN?**

Wednesday thru Saturday,  
10 pm - Midnight



**FEATURED CALLERS?**

Joey Duhamel from Louisiana,  
Phil Moorehouse from Arkansas,  
*All callers are invited to call!*

**MORE INFO?**

Contact  
Joey Duhamel,  
JDCalls@yahoo.com

***Why should you Camp on the Wild Side?***

- Newly renovated campground • Only \$35/night for full hookups
- Shower facilities on-site • 24-hour security
- Entire facility is fenced • Less than 10 minutes from Shreveport Convention Ctr.
- Exclusive camping: the 74th NSDC has the campground under contract during the convention, sites during convention week will be reserved strictly for the 74th NSDC
- Air-conditioned hospitality room for meet and greets, plenty of room for After Parties



Sign up for the 74th NSDC at <https://www.74nsdc.com/register-online>,  
Then register for a campsite at <https://www.74nsdc.com/housing>.

For campsite questions, contact RV & Camping Vice-Chairmen  
Dan & Vicki Hatfield at [vhat@cox.net](mailto:vhat@cox.net).

# It's Party Time!

Extend the fun! Join the 74th National Square Dance Convention®  
in Shreveport, LA, for one or all of these great After Parties!

## THURSDAY AFTER PARTIES - JUNE 26

Square Dance	10-11 PM	*SCC, Level 1 Live Band Hall 3 <i>Sponsor: 75th NSDC (Waco, TX) and 76th NSDC (Loveland, CO)</i>
Round Dance	10-11 PM	SCC, Level 2 Exhibit Hall 2 (Round Dance Hall) <i>Sponsor: 75th NSDC (Waco, TX)</i>
Youth Party	10-11 PM	SCC, Level 2 Round Room (Youth Hall) <i>Sponsor: 74th NSDC (Shreveport, LA)</i>
**Campground Dance	10 PM-12 AM	LA State Fairgrounds Hospitality Bldg

## FRIDAY AFTER PARTIES - JUNE 27

Square Dance	10-11 PM	SCC, Level 1 Live Band Hall 3 w/Ghost Riders <i>Sponsor: United Square Dancers of America (USDA)</i>
Round Dance	10-11 PM	SCC, Level 2 Exhibit Hall 2 (Round Dance Hall) <i>Sponsor: Association of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance (ARTS)</i>
*Campground Dance	10 PM-12 AM	LA State Fairgrounds Hospitality Bldg
***Bowling After-After Party	10:30 PM-1 AM	Holiday Lanes (Requires purchased tour ticket) <i>Sponsor: 74th NSDC (Shreveport, LA)</i>

## SATURDAY AFTER PARTIES - JUNE 28

Square Dance	10-11 PM	SCC, Level 1 Live Band Hall 3 <i>Sponsor: 77th NSDC (Bidding City)</i>
Round Dance	10-11 PM	SCC, Level 2 Exhibit Hall 2 (Round Dance Hall) <i>Sponsor: 76th NSDC (Loveland, CO)</i>
*Campground Dance	10 PM-12 AM	LA State Fairgrounds Hospitality Bldg

\*Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo St., Shreveport, LA

\*\*Louisiana State Fairgrounds, located at 3701 Hudson St., Shreveport, LA  
Campground After Parties will be held in the Activity/Hospitality Building.

\*\*\*After-After Party tour ticket includes bowling with Elvis, shoes, ice cream and snack bar, karaoke,  
and more. Ample parking at Holiday Lanes, shuttle will be available for additional \$5 between the  
Shreveport Convention Center and Holiday Lanes, 3316 Old Minden Rd, Bossier City, LA

The DANCERgram magazines are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include *Planner* (weekly), *This & That* (monthly), *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and *Directory* (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the *Flash*. The Editor reserves the right to edit, condense, or rewrite any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine or on this website are not necessarily that of the Editor. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow. Distribution of the DANCERgram magazines is encouraged via forwarding or hard copies. All of the Magazines, as well as additional content, can be found at [www.dancergram.com](http://www.dancergram.com). If you would like to receive the DANCERgram Magazines via email or you would like to submit information to any of the magazines, please contact the Editor at [sqdnxfan@gmail.com](mailto:sqdnxfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.

The Editor is not responsible for errors in reprinted articles or articles submitted by others.

### DANCERgram Magazines

**Planner** (weekly)

**Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies** (as needed)

**Directory** (as needed) • WC Key Contacts • WC Dances • SCCA • Links

**This and That** (monthly) • Reprint of articles • New Articles

### DANCERgram Staff

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