

# DANCERgram

April 2025



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

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## Federation Vice-President's Message



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

The Florida Federation is gearing up for their Annual Working Weekend in Plant City, Saturday, May 3, 2025, and Sunday May 4, 2025. We start the weekend with a regular board meeting on Saturday morning and then we break out into small committees to discuss various topics. Then meet again, Sunday morning to go over what was discussed in the breakout meetings and vote on any recommendations that are brought to the board members. Everyone is welcome to join the board meetings and the breakout meetings.

These meetings are:

1. Finance – we make the budget for the following year
2. Insurance & Presidents – this is for the Association Presidents and the Association Insurance Chairmen
  - a. Insurance-we discuss any changes that have been made to the square dancers' insurance
  - b. Presidents-
3. Showcase of Ideas – discuss updating or creating a new Showcase board that is displayed at the State Convention and National Convention
4. History, Education, Public Awareness, and Preservation (HEPP) – discuss possible recruitment options, publicity opportunities, and other ways to preserve the history of square dancing in Florida

5. State Convention Procedures – review the previous convention and make recommendations for future conventions

Saturday night at Strawberry Square there will be a benefit dance for the 2026 State Convention. Dancers are asked to make a donation at the door. Rod Barngrover will be calling squares with Susan Snider cueing the rounds. We will have Ribbons and other merchandise available to purchase.

June is going to be a busy month for Shreveport, Louisiana, from June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup> the National Square Dance Campers will have their camporee. Followed by ROUNDALAB's 49<sup>th</sup> Convention June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Then the month will end with the 74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. I heard there will be an important meeting Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am that Florida dancers are encouraged to attend.

Jenny Green  
Florida Federation Vice President

## FCA President's Message



Thanks to the several callers who sent me ideas in response to the March message. I think it is good to exchange ideas and stimulate some thought about our hobby of square dancing. I'm hoping there might be more exchanges among all of us callers in the future. And the future is now it seems. Time is flying by. The FCA fiscal year is almost half gone. The summer will be upon us shortly. I hope you have a plan for dancing this summer and maybe continuing your efforts to attract new dancers. It's a tough job, but for the future of our activity we all have to try something. With another caller I'll be attempting summer lessons at Lake Ashton.

But back to my thoughts about the convention and a caller clinic there. Why not make the convention a place to share the wealth of calling knowledge in our experienced callers with our lesser experienced callers? How about some time periods when our experienced and popular callers can listen to and then share tips and tricks. The lesser experienced callers could gain more calling knowledge and build confidence for their calling. I'm suggesting three hours each day of the convention during which the callers who wish can call and be helped by our veteran callers. The "clinic" schedule could have two or three

callers, who choose to do so, call to convention dancers as the veteran callers listen and take notes to share. The experienced callers might note call combinations with less than the best body flow, or notice the over-use of call combinations, or a host of other helps. With some planning there could be a theme of the time periods.

My thought would be that the dancers need not know it was happening. The dancers merely dance to the published schedule and the “contemporaneous clinic” could happen privately among callers. I am pretty certain we could make some sort of clinic happen if we each thought and shared some ideas. It would be a way that the FCA could be more meaningful to more of our members. The convention could become a learning place for newer callers to hone skills and hear suggestions for improving. All the parts for it to happen are there. It just takes some organizing.

The idea would benefit every caller – even our experienced callers. It’s pretty much agreed that you never learn more yourself than when you are helping someone else learn. Do you think we could make it happen?

So that’s my thought for this month. What do you think about a clinic at the convention?

Keith Stevens  
President

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



Greetings Square Dancers & Friends

In the beginning of March, the NSDCA announced our **“BIG NEWS”** Including big discounts on our annual Camporee, free badges with new memberships, opportunities for our current members to have their annual membership dues waved for 2026, and the possibility of a 50% discount on our “2026 International Camporee in Texas”. Great savings opportunities for all.

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

This summer also presents equally “Big Events” that you will not want to miss, our...

## SQUARE DANCE CAMPING & DANCING TRAIL-IN BONANZA JUNE 19 THRU JUNE 21

Our 67<sup>th</sup> NSDCA Camporee (June 19 – 21) and the 74<sup>th</sup> NSDC (June 25 – 28) have planned a TRAIL-THRU event for you that will be held at the Shreveport Louisiana State Fairgrounds. Come, park your camper, and enjoy 4 days of Dancing and Fun with the NSDCA, then stay camped at that very same site and enjoy the NSD Convention in Shreveport, less than 10 miles from your campsite at a low \$35.00 per night camping fee. The few days in between our two events will give you time for rest, relaxation, and some sightseeing along with the campground fun we all love. We also plan to have some optional dancing opportunities for you during those in-between days. Together with the NSDC, nightly After-Parties at the campground facility are planned for you. Do not miss this great, once-in-a-lifetime square dancing / camping opportunity.

Contact us today to participate in the savings and fun.

Go to [NSDCA.org](http://NSDCA.org) or call John (352) 208-5980 or Susan Wolford (256) 673-0170

John & Dolly Ide  
Presidents, NSDCA  
[john.d.ide@hotmail.com](mailto:john.d.ide@hotmail.com) [dloutz9504@outlook.com](mailto:dloutz9504@outlook.com)

## Florida RoadRunner Square & Round Dance Club

Hello to all our Square Dance Camper Friends.



The Florida RoadRunners are camping and dancing, **April, 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup>** in Sorrento, Florida just north of Orlando at the Wekiva Falls RV Resort. If you are a square or round dancer living nearby, we would like to invite you to come out for the dancing or if you happen to be a camper also, spend the weekend with us. We get great Rally Rates on the camping and love meeting new camper/dancers.

If you have not experienced a weekend of camping and dancing with good friends, you are missing lots of fun. We invite you to try it, even if you are not a

camper. Just stay at a nearby motel and spend a weekend with us or one of Florida's 3 great Florida camping clubs.

Visit [fansdc.net](http://fansdc.net) (Florida Association of the National Square Dance Campers.net) for locations and dates for all the camping clubs.

John & Dolly Ide

Presidents, Florida RoadRunners Square & Round Dance Club  
For more details, call John & Dolly Ide (352-208-5980 or 352-598-7162).  
[john.d.ide@hotmail.com](mailto:john.d.ide@hotmail.com) [dloutz9504@outlook.com](mailto:dloutz9504@outlook.com)

## Attention Florida Callers!

Now's the time to complete your profile to call at the 2026 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention to be held January 16 – 17, 2026, in Deltona, Florida. The deadline to register is July 31, 2025.

To register you must log into the FCA website <http://www.flcallersassoc.org/> click on the link member login, click on your name with your pin# then go to convention profile.

You must be a member of the Florida Callers Association to call at the Florida Convention.

Rod Barngrover, Caller Chairman  
Jack Lewis, Assistant Caller Chairman

## Can we get 100?

This Editor just received word that there **93** Florida dancers registered for the 74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport Louisiana. We need seven more to reach 100!

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? You can register online or download and print a registration form. See information below regarding registration and hotel rates as well as deadlines for the 74<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday night of the national convention, there is a Parade of States. For the Parade all the dancers from a particular state line up together, in their

state colors, and marching together carrying signs indicating their state. Wouldn't it be beautiful to see 100 Florida dancers marching together in our blue and yellow colors? Tom, the 74<sup>th</sup> Chairperson will purchase flags for us to carry during the Parade.

You didn't know Florida has a state outfit or state colors? A new design and colors were introduced in 2024. At [www.floridasquaredance.com](http://www.floridasquaredance.com), you will find a photo and instructions for sewing the dress. If you don't like the design shown, use another one; just use the same blue and yellow colors. Blue and yellow are for sun and water. Of course, the men will wear matching shirts and slacks. When anyone sees those colors, they will know you are from Florida. You do not have to be a Federation member to wear the state outfit.

This will be the time to advertise that an upcoming national convention will be held in sunny Florida!

Shreveport, Louisiana, is practically in our backyard! I know the number of Florida dancers has declined over the years but I am sure we have more than 100 dancers!

## Florida Callers and Cuers Well Represented at the 74<sup>th</sup>!

Come support our Florida Callers and Cuers at the 74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, Louisiana. They are

Callers	Cuers	Lines
<b>Larry Belcher</b> (lives in Alabama but frequently calls in the Panhandle)	<b>Earle Collins</b> (Orlando)	<b>Diane Hissong</b> (Lakeland)
<b>Curt Braffet</b> (snowbird from Illinois; winters in Ft. Myers)	<b>Susan Snider</b> (Jacksonville)	
<b>Bruce Busch</b> (snowbird from New Jersey; winters in The Villages)	<b>Dennis Viscanti</b> (snowbird from New York; cues at Long Key Squares)	
<b>Bill Chase</b> (snowbird from Michigan; winters in central Florida)	<b>Terri Wilaby</b> (Panhandle)	

<b>George Ferguson</b> (snowbird from Michigan; winters in the Tampa Bay area)	<b>Susan Wolford</b> (lives in Alabama; winters in southwest Florida)	
<b>Mark Fetzer</b> (Jacksonville)		
<b>Mike Gormley</b> (Sebring)		
<b>Nick Hartley</b> (lives in Alabama; calls in the Panhandle and SW Florida)		
<b>Dianne Hicks</b> (St. Pete)		
<b>Gary Hicks</b> (St. Pete)		
<b>Ted Kennedy</b> (lives in Alabama; calls frequently in the Panhandle)		
<b>Elaine Mikanis</b> (snowbird from New York; calls at Long Key Squares)		
<b>Charlie Petreas</b> (from Georgia; FCA member)		
<b>Jack Pladdys</b> (from Ohio; calls frequently in Florida)		
<b>Michele Vieira</b> (Ocala)		
<b>Dave Vieira</b> (Ocala)		

## Quick! I Need an Allemande Left!

By Donna Cox

While packing a few personal items inadvertently left behind by my box (and dear friend) who was recently a victim of the lay-offs spurred by our economic times, strangely my thoughts turned to the healing power of square dancing.

I stood in that now empty office and fought back tears of sadness for several dear coworkers with whom I would probably lose contact. I thought of so many other companies in so many other states also making “tough decisions” affecting hundreds of thousands people across our nation, all of whom need Yellow rocks, for sure.

Everyone needs a Yellow Rock on occasion. Although I love Yellow Rocks, what I needed at that moment was an Allemande Left (or two or three!) in the worst way. I needed to whoop and holler and just let-er-rip with a really big



Allemande Left knowing that the security of home was a short promenade away.

I love the crescendo to Allemande Left in a good patter call. You can feel the excitement in the buildup, just teasing you over and over until, BAM! There it is, ALLEMANDE LEFT! Allemande Left means you're going home. Home position is where everything is proper and fitting, where here are no friends departing in tears, no family members suffering with illness, no bills to pay.

Home, in your square, with friends, is where everything is just right. I wish I could keep little instant, add-water-and-stir Allemande Lefts in my pocket to use whenever I have the need. A recent TV commercial depicted a lady buying laughs, contented sighs, and such, in the form of little tokens from a store. I don't even remember the product they were trying to advertise. In my opinion those laughs and contented sighs alien comparison to Yellow rocks and Allemande Left. Just think about a TV commercial where someone is buying Do Sa Dos, Yellow Rocks, and Allemande Lefts. Unquestionably, the viewer would know the product is square dancing with its magic power of love.

Square dancing is more than an extracurricular activity for me, it is my release. Second only to prayer, it is my chance to shake out all the bad emotions and fill up on loving friendship that can sustain you through life's problems.

So, when you need a "pick me up that won't let you down", remember the magic of Allemande Lefts and be the first to square up.

*"Snowbird" Caller seeking calling  
dates in Florida during January and  
February  
Bill Chase  
517-202-6248  
[Chasex2@gmail.com](mailto:Chasex2@gmail.com)*

## FLORIDA HISTORY



Bartley, Ernest Randall “Bart” - born May 11, 1919 (dec'd 22 Jan 2008) (caller) & Ruth A. Nielsen – born Jan 20, 1922 (dec'd 1 Aug 2013) (round dance instructor)

Obituary from Gainesville Sun dated 25 Jan 2008: “Dr. Ernest R. Bartley, [caller; cuer’s taw for Merrysteppers in Gainesville] Professor Emeritus of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and one-time Professor of Political Science, University of Florida, died at The ET York Haven Hospice Care Center in Gainesville, Florida on January 22, 2008.

He was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, May 11, 1919. Dr. Bartley came to Gainesville in 1949 after receiving his Doctorate from the University of California in 1948. He served for some twenty-four years as a member of the faculty of the Department of Political Science. He participated in 1975 in the formation of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He retired formally from the University in 1992, but he continued to teach until his death. During his fifty-nine years of association with the University of Florida, he received seven teaching awards from two colleges for his outstanding teaching. He was on the graduate faculty and served as a member of several University-wide committees. After obtaining his Baccalaureate degree from Nebraska Wesleyan in 1940 and his Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska, in June, 1941, he joined the United States Air Corps as an aviation cadet. Commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was retained in the Air Corp training command for two years. At his request, he was then assigned to a combat unit. As a Captain he flew aerial combat as a captain on the first B-29 sorties from Saipan to Japan. He was transferred to the headquarters of the 21st Bomber Command where he served on General Curtis E. Lemay's war plans staff. Upon his return to the United States, he continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve from which he retired in 1979 as a Lt. Colonel. Dr. Ernest Bartley was a member of the 73rd Bombardment Wing Association. Commencing in the 1950's, Dr. Bartley served as a consultant in land use control planning and regulation. He was a consultant to the Alaska Statehood Committee, the Alaska

Constitutional Convention, and was active in Washington, D.C. during Alaska's struggle for statehood. At the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, Dr. Bartley was honored for the significant role he played in the writing of the Alaska Constitution.

He was an active member, supporter, draftsman and spokesman in support of efforts in Florida for the enactment of planning and growth management legislation. Dr. Ernest Bartley served as consultant to numerous cities, counties, and private clients in Florida and other states. He qualified in state and federal courts as an expert witness in some eighty cases involving urban and regional planning. He drafted numerous zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations for municipalities and counties in Florida. He was sought as a speaker at numerous planning conferences and conventions.

His professional associations included the Florida Planning and Zoning Association, American Society of Planning Officials (now The American Planning Association), The American Institute of Planners (now the American Institute of Certified Planners) and other groups. In 2000, Dr. Bartley was honored in New York by election to membership in the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He was appointed as a member of the State of Florida's Planning Commission by (then) Governor Robert Graham. He held numerous offices in the organizations to which he belonged. In 2007, Ernest R. Bartley received the Lifetime Service Award from the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association for "Outstanding Achievements in the Field of Planning."

He was author or co-author of many books, monographs, pamphlets, and papers. Dr. Bartley's *Tidelands Oil Controversy*, originally published by the University of Texas Press, was republished as one in the series of *Classics in American Land Law*. National and State Government textbooks, written with the late Dr. John M. Swarthout, were published by Oxford University Press. His *Text of a Model Ordinance* written with the late Frederick H. Bair, Jr. and published in several editions by the American Society of Planning Official, was a standard work on the subject for many years.

In 2007, an annual life-time of achievement award was established in Dr. Bartley's name by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The first recipient of that award was the former Florida Governor, Reuben Askew.

Survivors include: his wife, Ruth Nielsen Bartley; brother, Dr. Richard Bartley of Springfield, Missouri; daughters, Susan K. Miller and Debbie D. Williams, both of Augusta, Georgia; five grandchildren, Todd Miller, Suzanne Ingersoll,

Deborah McGinley, Will Williams, and Nan Williams; and one great-grandchild, Neila McGinley.

A Memorial service will be held at Milam Funeral Home, 311 South Main Street, on Sunday, January 27 2008 at 1 pm. Later this year his cremains will be interred at Florida National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Haven Hospice of Gainesville, FL, 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32605.”

In the square dance world he was known as Bart Bartley; caller for Merrysteppers of Gainesville. He was son of James Earl Bartley and Neva Louise McNeil; was buried in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. His tombstone says: Capt, USAAF; Lt. Col. U.S. Air Force; World War II' Professor of 58 years.

Obituary from Gainesville Sun dated 7 Aug 2013: “Augusta, GA - Mrs. Ruth A. Bartley [cuer; caller’s taw for Merrysteppers of Gainesville] entered into rest Thursday, August 1, 2013, at Augusta Gardens.

Ruth A. Bartley, 91 was wife of the late Dr. Ernest R. Bartley and a long-time resident of Gainesville, FL. Family members include daughter, Susan K. Bartley Miller of Augusta, GA; son-in-law: Dr. George W. Williams, of Augusta, GA; grandchildren: M. Todd Miller (Juliane), Suzanne M. Ingersoll (Jay), Deborah N. McGinley (Tim), Will Williams, Nan Williams Bowman (Vance) and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Bartley is preceded in death by her daughter: Deborah Dell Bartley Williams. A wonderful mother, she supported her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in their many activities. A homemaker and organizer, Mrs. Bartley was most active in her church, children's school activities, the University of Florida activities as a professor's wife and a member of the Goal liners (supporters of the Football Team). Every football season, including 2012, with a sparkle in her eye, you could find her in the stands cheering on her Gators. Mrs. Bartley, an avid antique doll collector, was a long-time member of the Dollings Club in Gainesville. For years, she enjoyed **square dancing, round dancing**, and ballroom dancing where she served in several offices in the state and local organizations. She enjoyed travel related to doll collecting, her dancing and her church family.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Gainesville, FL, 419 N.E. First Street, Gainesville, FL 32601. Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors, 214 Davis Rd., Augusta, GA 30907 handled the cremation. Burial will take place in

Omaha, Nebraska.” She was buried in Springwell Cemetery, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. They were active in 1950s & 1960s in northeast Florida. Ruth was daughter of Hans Sophus Nielsen and Niela Bertha (\_\_\_). Ruth’s headstone says Loving wife, Grammy & Gigi. Dancer, Collector, Vibrant, Tenacious, Innovator, Leader, Spunky, Dedicated. It has the engraving of a University of Florida Gator.

1984 – inducted into the **FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS HALL OF FAME**

1962 – Round Dance Council of Florida President (Ruth)

1959-1960 - Florida Callers Association President (Bart)

They were members of:

Merrysteppers (1957)

## **FLORIDA WILL BE BIDDING ON THE 2028 NATIONAL CONVENTION!**

<b>NSDC BID SESSION</b>	<b>Where Are We Going for the 77th NSDC in 2028?</b>
<b>Friday, June 27 • 9 AM Shreveport Convention Center Exhibit Hall 2 (Auditorium)</b>	
<b>If you are participating in the Leadership Certification Program the morning Bid Session is one of two mandatory convention events to attend. The second is the Keynote Address.</b>	<b>Attend the electrifying Bid Session as the potential host city makes their proposal. Hear about this future convention city, facilities, and why you don’t want to miss the National Square Dance Convention® in 2028!</b>
<b>An official announcement will be made during the Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, June 28, at 5 p.m. in Exhibit Hall 2 (Auditorium) concerning the results of the Bid Session.</b>	

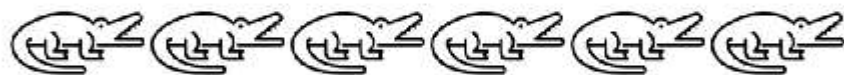


**74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>**  
**TRAIL END ROUND DANCE**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

*Come join us for an evening of round dancing to start our convention off on the*

***Wild Side!***

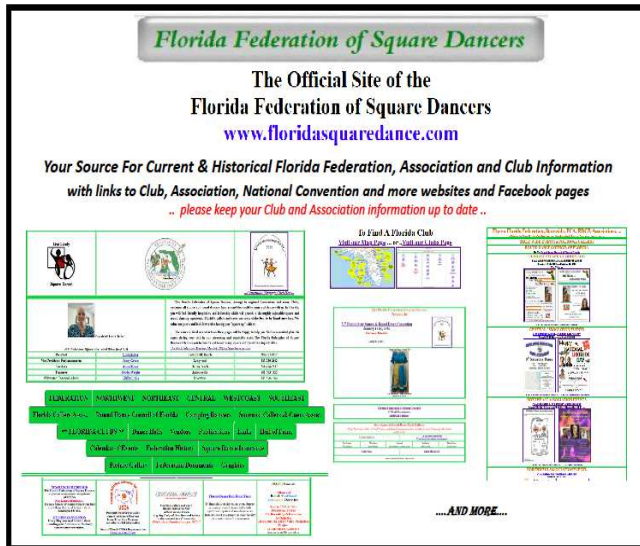


**Shreveport Convention Center**

Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor • 8 pm to 10 pm

**Sponsored by The Red River Rounders Round Dance Club  
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 [sqdcnfan@gmail.com](mailto:sqdcnfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.

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### 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

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