

FLORIDA FEDERATION of SQUARE DANCERS

The winter meeting of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers was called to order by President Jack Lascola at 10 am, February 2, 1980, at the Jamaica Inn, Orlando.

The invocation was given by John Layne.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Ken Ford. All officers were present. West Coast, Central and Northeast Associations each had 3 delegates present, with Southeast and Northwest Associations each having 2. Eight permanent delegates were present and 7 absent. There were no representatives attending from the Fla. Callers Assoc. or the Round Dance Council.

Chet Vetter moved we dispense with reading of the minutes of the meeting of Oct. 21, 1979, seconded and passed. The following corrections were noted: Page 1, lines 6 and 7, change to read, "John stated Article VI, Par. 1, states..."; Page 1, next to last line, change to read, "West Coast-Ken Ford for John Kelley"; Page 2, line 1 insert, "Blood Bank" between "present" and "Chairpersons" and "we" to "were"; Page 3, line 6, change, "\$6000" to "\$1000"; Page 4, line 16, change, "or" to "and"; Page 4, line 28, change, "George Tucker" to "Jack Tucker"; and minutes should show that President Lascola appointed Joe Vaccari as Chairman of the Education and Service Committee. A point was made that the statement of policy regarding requiring square and round dance attire at state conventions, as amended, was in error in exempting workshops. This was to be further discussed on Feb. 3.

Treasurer's report by John Layne showed:

Brought forward 10/21/79	\$
Receipts	
Disbursements	
Bank balance	\$

Other asset is our deposit in the Coordinating Committee Contingency Fund, \$2,000.00. Paid out after report was made, about \$

No correspondence to report.

AREA REPORTS

Central, by Ray Holt - Alternate Delegates John and Madeline Doyle were introduced. Having their regular Fifth Saturday dance, Mar. 29, at Daytona Beach, with John Barrett on squares and Virginia Colling on rounds. There will be a meeting before the dance. Tentative dance being planned for Mar. 29 in the Orlando area with Harry Lackey on squares and cuer not yet appointed. This will be a pay dance. Don Lutz will be deleted as alternate delegate as he has become a paid caller.

West Coast by Earle Williams - He stated President John Kelley is in the hospital. He had no report prepared. He introduced the other delegate, Hugh and Jean Fultz, and the alternate taking Kelley's place, John and Evelyn Palmer. The West Coast is in good financial condition. The Fall Fun Fest was a successful event. Our Blood Bank has over 170 units available. Otherwise, things are going along very well.

Northwest, by Conrad Bishop - Introduced Delegates Grady and Jeanette Rea and Marvin Taylor. President Roscoe and Charlotte Hall are not attending. The 5th Annual Northwest Florida Roundup was held in Tallahassee on Nov. 16 and 17.

Northwest continued - Wade Driver and Elmer Sheffield, Jr., called the squares and Norma and Howard Smoyer cued the rounds. There was an excellent turnout with all Tallahassee's local clubs attending and dancers from Jacksonville to Pensacola plus several from neighboring states. Panama City held their 22nd Annual Square Dance Festival with Mike Litzenberger calling the squares on Fri. night and Beryl Main for the Sat. afternoon workshop and the Sat. night dance. The Smoyers cued the rounds and held a workshop on Sat. morning. The bi-monthly Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association held their meeting in conjunction with the festival, with excellent attendance by member clubs. Outstanding at this festival were the new promotional outfits which were worn for the first time. The publishers of the Panhandle Press were complimented for their outstanding Christmas issue.

Northeast, by Jim Wright - Delegates are Jim and Mary Jo Wright, Frank and Ruth Hamwey and Jim and Marilyn Stone, with Colleen Ponsell as Alternate. Northeast had its Fall Roundup in Nov. with Dale Eddy and Marshall Flippo on squares and Proctors on rounds. It was a huge success. Have about 60 pints of blood in Blood Bank. Next 5th Sat. dance is March 29 with Chuck Durant. Having Stan Burdick at MAC Hall, Jax Beach, Sun. afternoon. Feb. 17, for a Leadership Clinic with a dance following. Suggest any delegates who may desire to attend.

Southeast, by Fred Crawford - Delegates are Fred and Celeste Crawford and Ray and Jean Williams. The Association has been having a very good year. We have been working at increasing our membership. In Nov., we had our clinic at Boynton Beach, and signed up over 50 members. Our Christmas dinner was in Dec., and was a sellout. The dinner was formal, and the ladies all looked great in their long dresses. The highlight of the evening was a talk by Jack Lasry. He spoke at some length about the various levels of dancing. He gave us a lot of food for thought on why we are losing dancers. Our Jan. picnic was an overwhelming success. After our potluck, we had both square and round dancing, also plenty of games. We even had a purple heart square for those who were interested. We were lucky enough to have among our guest callers, Bill Roundtree, the President of the Florida Callers Association, and Bob Mitchell, the President of the Southeast Florida Callers Association. We have many square dance classes going, one caller has twenty-six squares in his class. Most of these will be graduated before convention. The Association is planning to attend all graduations. We, also, have been visiting about 2 clubs a week. Our blood bank is growing very slowly, but we are hoping to increase that. The whole Association is working to generate interest in the convention, and of course, our committee is doing a fine job and promising us the best convention ever.

Walter Stoltz announced that the West Coast Association is having a Mini-Legacy meeting at 10 am, Feb. 9, at Strawberry Square, Plant City. After a break for lunch, the meeting will continue at 2 pm. That night a dance will be held there with Roger Chapman on squares and Marty Martin on rounds.

PUBLICATION REPORTS

Bow & Swing - No report.

West Coast Dancer, Hugh Fultz - Latest press run 4,000 copies in Feb. and March. This will fall off when winter visitors leave. We list 154 square and round dances in the West Coast area. Nothing unusual to report. Hugh expressed displeasure at the deviation from the published agenda by asking for reports today. Jack explained that to obviate a lengthy meeting tomorrow morning, he wished to transact as much business as possible today.

Panhandle Press - No report.

Four W's - No report.

Grapevine - No report.

Jack now turned the meeting over to Joe Vaccari for sub-committee assignments and instructions. Several reassignments were made as will be shown on the sub-committee reports. Joe then called on the Association Delegates for reports of their individual organization and functioning:

Central, by Barbara Holt - Our Central Florida Association covers 9 counties. Our immediate membership is about 200. The By-laws say: "The purpose of our Association is to promote square and round dancing in Central Florida through conventions, open dances, nationally known and local callers, publicity, training programs and recruiting efforts; to encourage the formation of square, round and folk dancing clubs; to serve as a clearing house for information among dancers in the area; and to bring about a spirit of cooperation among callers, teachers and dancers". We now offer 4 free dances a year on the 5th Sat. of the month. These dances are open to all dancers. We use the 5th Sat. so that it does not conflict with any one's club dance. We are trying to use callers and cuers from the Central area, without much cooperation, at the present time. We have tried paying the caller \$50 and cuer \$25. We have an area club acting as "host", using their hall and they being responsible for making coffee for which the Association reimburses them. Our callers have not been very cooperative, so we have just recently had a Board meeting and agreed to pay the caller 50-50 after expenses. We have no results or responses yet. We have, also, tried to set up dances throughout the 9 counties, again with not much result. Also, finding a big enough hall seems to be a problem. Pricing: New membership - \$14 per couple with Bow & Swing, \$10.50 per couple without Bow & Swing; single, \$8.75 with B&S, \$5.25 without; price includes badge @ \$2.25 and bar @ 50¢; renewal - couple \$9.50 with B&S, \$6 without; single, \$6.50 with B&S, \$3 without; also, includes 4 free dances a year and use of the Blood Bank, even though not a donor. Members join individually, not as clubs. Our fiscal year starts on July 1 with the first Board meeting called during July. A slate of officers is brought in by a nominating committee before the annual meeting and nominations are requested from the floor. Officers are elected at the first meeting of the fiscal year. Meetings are held at least 4 times a year before each dance. Previously held Sunday afternoon, we recently started having them an hour before the fifth Sat. dances, especially now with the gas situation. Problems: Callers, the prices they charge and hall availability and size.

Northeast, by Jim Wright (Copy not received by Secretary) - Made up of Northeast counties and South Georgia. Meet second Sunday, every other month. Purpose is to promote the growth of square and round dancing in the area. Have fifth Sat. dance about 4 times a year, usually using a "national" caller. These are run by a "fifth Sat. Chairman", currently Frank Smith. Give one fifth Sat. a year to Gateway Callers Association to benefit their treasury. Have Blood Bank with about 60 pints. Sponsor a Fall Roundup, using 2 national callers and 1 national cuer. Just had the 26th. Have exhibition groups, cloggers, squares and rounds, which are sent to clubs. Officers are elected in Nov. from a panel submitted by a nomination committee appointed by the President and nominations made from the floor. Have approximately 32 clubs. Publish the Grapevine every other month, of which Jim and Mary Jo Wright are editors. Have about 400 subscribers. Membership is by clubs, not individuals. The following questions were asked, which Jim answered: Q. What is the biggest problem in Northeast? A. Too many clubs. Q. What are your dues? A. Each club pays \$12 a year which is passed on to Bow & Swing to pay for the club's listing. Q. Is the Grapevine a subscription magazine? A. Yes. It is \$3 a year for individual subscribers who have it mailed to them. It contains paid advertisements. Q. What is the cause of too many clubs--is it the dancers or callers fault? A. Mainly callers. A caller will start a class from which he forms a club upon their graduation.

Northeast continued - Do you charge for Association dances? A. Yes. No free dances. Members and guests pay the same. Q. Do you have membership badges? A. No. Q. You stated you have national callers for your 5th Sat. dances and that Chuck Durant is calling your March 29 dance. Do you consider him a national caller? A. No. We usually have a nationally known caller but this time we will not. Q. What do you pay the callers for 5th Sat. dances? A. We average \$150 to \$170, plus room. We can afford this when we get 35 to 40 squares attending at \$4 a couple and still make money. Jim Stone noted that national callers who are on tour look for extra dates along the way and can be engaged for less money than usual. Association secretaries should get on mailing lists for this information. Jim Wright stated their dances are usually held at a high school and 2 local clubs are selected to bring refreshments, for which the Association reimburses them. Q. Do you think other Associations should change to your M. O.? A. (By George Garland) This presentation by the Associations is meant to give us all ideas, not to suggest conformity throughout. Chet Vetter noted that Northeast had no caller run clubs and no winter visitors and most of the clubs are in Jax. This is much different from the conditions in other areas and must be considered in planning any operation. Q. What are your usual expenses for a 5th Sat. dance? A. Callers' fees as noted before, \$35 to \$40 rent and \$25 for the cuer. George added--our attendance was down. When we went back to having 2 clubs serve refreshments and activating our hospitality people, our attendance increased about 20 squares.

Northwest, by Marvin Taylor - The Association was formed in 1974. Members are by club, with one delegate per club. We have 6 meetings a year at a special dance in the area within 200 miles. The dues are \$5 per club per year. We publish a news letter, called Panhandle Press, printing about 500 copies for all member couples - have about 1,000 members. We have one dance a year called the Roundup and that is where we get our funds for the Association. Don't have 5th Sat. dances because of conflicts with other nearby specials. We have 22 member clubs. The last meeting was in Jan. with about 35 people there, the most ever. I think that we are a lot closer since we have the 1981 State Convention. Everyone is working hard for the convention. We are trying to change to individual membership as well as by clubs. We have some members in Georgia and Alabama. Pensacola has 9 clubs-several small-won't merge-won't support each other. The biggest problem is too many clubs. Belle Bishop noted that one problem they had is local associations doing things that Northwest should be doing, such as, sponsoring dances. They have Panama City Association, Pensacola Association and PASARDA.

Walter Stoltz noted that lots of small clubs may not be bad if this is what the dancers want.

West Coast, by Hugh Fultz - Our Association is a nonprofit organization of individuals as opposed to an association of clubs. This system was adopted in 1970 as the most practical for this area since it is easier to keep account of individuals than of clubs. Individuals enjoy a longer life expectancy and they also have a more permanent location. Club officers have a habit of changing at least once a year and it is difficult to maintain a continuity of responsibility. Our area encompasses 14 counties, we have in excess of 2,400 members and our treasury is quite adequate. Within the framework of the Association, as provided in the constitution, are two overlapping groups which are responsible for the policies, objectives, welfare and operation of the organization. The Governing Council is the body which is responsible for overall policy through the constitution and by-laws and the organizational continuity by virtue of an annual election. The council meets at least once a year and consists of the Elected Officers, County Vice Presidents, all active Association Past Presidents, one representative from each club in the area, line officer of the Federation, West Coast Dancer Editor and the Blood Bank Chairman. The Executive Board is composed of

West Coast continued - the Elected Officers, County Vice Presidents and all active Association Past Presidents. This group is responsible for the day to day operation of the Association and is subservient to the Governing Council. This Board meets on a monthly basis except for June. Liaison between the Association and the dancers of the area is maintained through appointed County Vice Presidents in and for each county. These people are very important in carrying the message of the Association to the dancers by working through the club representatives. This provides a double avenue of communication between the dancers and the Association, the other being the monthly magazine. Since the purpose of the Association is to promote square and round dancing, the best way to achieve this is through an informative publication which lists all open activity, as well as, articles of interest and club news. About 4,000 copies of this publication, The West Coast Dancer, are distributed each month to all dancers desiring one. All clubs (154) and events are listed with no charge, nor is there any paid advertising. Service is another important aspect which we accomplish in part through a blood bank (presently 175 units) available to any Association member or immediate family. Six or seven promotional dances, free to members, are held each year in various sections of our area. This gives the member something tangible for his yearly dues of \$1.50. The Association also sponsors one festival each year in Oct. The purpose of the festival is to raise operating funds for the Association and to keep the Association in the minds of the dancers. Nothing can be accomplished without sincere and dedicated people working together to plan, work and guide within the Association. Emphasis must be on service to ALL dancers, clubs, callers and cuers. When this is the goal, then square and round dancing will prosper in the area. Joe asked, "Do you have any problems, Hugh? Hugh, "We are happy to say, we got rid of all our problems". Other questions were: Q. How do you produce your magazine? A. This is done by committee. Jean and Hugh are Editors, have feature editors, schedule editors, club news editor and a cover artist. Each is responsible for his section. On a scheduled date, these people meet with their final draft and, within 1½ hours the make-up is completed, ready for the printer. Volunteers (25 to 35) meet at North Boulevard Rec. Center, Tampa, the 4th Wed. of the month to collate and staple the printed and folded sheets. We have a Circulation Manager who has a list of clubs and callers who are sent an allotment of the finished product. We also produce each month a supply of covers and schedules which are placed in such places as welcome centers, chambers of commerce and square dance apparel stores. Q. What do you pay your callers for an Association dance? A. We get some of the best, who are all residents of our area and pay them \$40 and round dance leader \$25. We have excellent rapport with our callers and cuers. They often ask when they can call a dance for us. Q. Are your Association dances spread out over your area? A. Yes, from Weeki Wachee on the north to Naples on the south and Sebring on the east. Q. These are free to members - is the only dance they pay for the Fall Fun Fest? A. That is true and they are given a one dollar break on that. Q. Is that your only source of income? A. No. Our main source is from membership dues. A new member pays \$2.50 the first year, which includes the cost of his West Coast badge and a year bar. A renewal is \$1.50 a year for which the year bar is given. Q. You have no connection with Bow & Swing? A. Only for printing our magazine, which is not really Bow & Swing, but Square Dance Enterprises. We pay for the paper Jack uses, plus a monthly fee for reducing and printing services. We do advertise frequently in the Bow & Swing for which we pay the going rate. Q. Do you have a committee to set up your Association dances? A. No. These are handled by our President who determines where and when and who the caller and cuer will be. He works through the county Vice Presidents to arrange for the hall and, sometimes, the refreshments. Most are held on Sun. afternoon and some on the 5th Sat. in the winter. We have from 20 to 40 squares at these dances. Q. Who

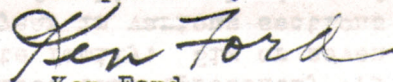
West Coast continued - pays the expenses and gets any proceeds? A. The Association pays the expenses, except some times a club or clubs will furnish the refreshments, and gets all the proceeds.

Southeast, by Celeste Crawford - The Southeast Association consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers are elected once a year and take office at the Aug. meeting. The Board of Directors also consists of a Membership Chairman who is appointed by the President, the immediate past president of the Association, and the representative from this Association serving as an elected officer in the Federation. Also, included as voting members of the Board are delegates from the various clubs who are appointed by the President. The aims and functions of the Association are to promote and maintain high standards of all phases of square and round dancing, to help organize classes and new clubs, assist in the development of existing clubs and to sanction and support square and round dances. The Association also sponsors a paper, the 4 Ws, free to dancers, and maintains a blood bank. Hold meeting and clinic once a month on the 2nd Sun. Average about 15 squares. Our regular caller is Frank Bedell, whom we pay \$30, and the cuer we pay \$25. Membership cost is \$6 a couple, \$4 renewal, including badges. Area consists of Broward, Dane, Martin, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties. We sponsor a SOS dance with local callers Fri. and national caller Sat. Our biggest problem is halls. Can't use recreation halls as we once did because they are requiring \$100,000 liability insurance, which we have not obtained. Other halls, such as churches, want \$75 and up. Members are free at monthly dances and visitors pay \$1. In Jan., we have a picnic where we dance. Q. Are schools available in your area? A. We are going to investigate those further.

Joe then went over the list of committees for the afternoon work sessions to get comments and make changes in personnel assignments. Chairmen will decide where their committees will meet. Jack Tucker stated it was most important to have the Associations' reports in the minutes so those having difficulty might get some ideas from the ones more successful. Jack suggested making copies of each Association's report to give to each delegate, but not include them in the minutes. (Secretary's comment - Written reports from all Associations were not turned in and some were incomplete. Also, the questions that followed the reports, which were very important, are not covered in the reports. Therefore, in my opinion, it is preferable to include them in the minutes, as I have done.)

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Ford

Secretary