



FLORIDA FEDERATION of SQUARE DANCERS

The State Convention meeting of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers was called to order by President Jack Lascola at 9:35 a. m., May 25, 1980, in room 9-A of the Civic Center Arena, Lakeland.

The invocation was given by John Layne.

Lon Ligon was introduced and made an announcement about Bow & Swing. Jack and Marie Pierson have resigned as Editors. The magazine will continue to be published--June issue is ready now. The new Editor is still unknown. Send your ads and information to Bill Roundtree, President, Florida Callers' Association, until a new Editor is announced. One change will be made in the format--it will be broken down by areas of the State. When sending in items, identify your area: Southeast, Central, Northeast, Northwest of West Coast.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Ken Ford. All Officers were present. All five Associations had 3 delegates present. Eleven permanent delegates were present and 4 absent. Jim Duncan, representing the FCA, and Harry Stockfeder, representing the RDC, were in attendance. President Lascola appointed Ron VanValkenberg to be liaison to the FCA meeting and Jack Tucker liaison to the RDC meeting.

Chet Vetter moved we dispense with reading of the minutes of the last meeting, Feb. 2 & 3, 1980, since all delegates have received copies. Motion seconded and passed. No corrections were noted.

Treasurer's report by John Layne showed:

Brought forward 2/2/80	\$
Receipts	
Disbursements	
Bank balance 5/22/80	\$

Other asset is our deposit in the Coordinating Comm. Contingency Fund, \$.

The Secretary had no correspondence to report.

A letter, presented at our 10/21/79 meeting, from California Square Council, Inc., asking State square dance organizations if they would be interested in taking part in a National organization. Frank Smith had written the reply saying we are interested. No other information has been received thereon. Pres. Lascola asked Past Pres. Vaccari to look into this at the National Convention in Memphis.

President Lascola introduced Jim White, President, National Association of Square Dance Suppliers, Chairman, Legacy Ethics Committee, and Member of the Board of Legacy. He spoke at quite some length on the subjects of service, business ethics and leadership responsibility. Service is the objective of any successful business. Honest representation of merchandise. It should be as advertised. Harry Moore stated that some vendors at National Conventions were selling inferior merchandise at lower prices, taking business away from honest dealers. The National Executive Committee met with the vendors' organization to set requirements to eliminate this unfair practice. Mr. White stated he knew about this and it was to be beneficial to both the vendors and the dancers. Q. How do convention and festival committees ascertain the reputation and background of a supplier? A. By contacting the Association of Suppliers which has an Ethics Committee. Q. Should unsatisfied customers complain to your association? A. Yes, and to the local sponsor of your event. Q. Can we get information from your association about any supplier wanting to exhibit? A. The Association will share whatever information it has but will not say you should or should not let one attend. George Garland suggested the Suppliers Association send

a representative to our annual "working weekend" to try to establish guide lines for vendors. Q. Are there price guide lines for suppliers? A. No, there can be no price fixing. Ordinary competition takes care of this. Alan Ashcroft stated. State Convention chairmen have the problem of choosing the vendors--who do you accept and who do you reject? We need a list of acceptable or preferred merchants before the convention from which to make selections. Mr. White says Mr. Roy Davis of the National Executive Committee has sent him a list of the State and area organizations. He is sending each one the Association's recommendations in selection of and conduct of exhibiting functions. Barbara Holt stated some vendors used the Convention as a "dumping ground" for merchandise, such as, "going out of business" sale. She suggested not asking vendors to return until the end of the Convention or after, when reports of any unethical practices would be available. Also, have a representative of the vendors' Association on the Convention Committee. Pres. Lascola stated Mr. White was put on early because he must catch a plane. He apologized for starting the meeting early (Notice stated 10 a. m.) caused by a mix up in the Convention program showing building open at 9:30 a. m. Also, he is delaying Area reports until the end of the meeting. In case we don't have time, give the Secretary your written reports which will be included in the minutes.

PUBLICATIONS REPORTS:

Bow & Swing - no further report.

Panhandle Press - Joe Vaccari, for the Editor - Going along very well.

Four W's - Boots Oglesby - A survey questionnaire is included in our latest issue to get information for Callerlab and Legacy. This issue is short, but if you have a copy, please complete and return the survey sheet. Pres. Lascola stated this is a very good method of getting the needed information.

Grapevine - Nothing to report.

West Coast Dancer - Jean Fultz - Proceeding much as it has in the past, listing the activities of the 150 square and round organizations in the West Coast Area. Our press runs vary from 2800 to 4100, depending on the seasonal demand and /or if we are providing extra copies for the State or National Convention. Recently, our staff published a small pamphlet entitled "The Art of Leadership" compiled by Chet Vetter for LEADS and available to club officers and other interested people, simply by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the "West Coast Dancer". This is another service to our dancers.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

National Convention - Harry Moore and Loren Long, members of the National Executive Committee, were in attendance. Mr. Moore commented on a discussion at Callerlab concerning levels of dancing and that callers should not deviate from the advertised level. He stated that the Organizations Committee would like State and area organizations to keep their listings up to date. National Executive Committee member, Holloways, would like clubs who sponsor classes to make a survey as to why over half of graduates are dropping out. A New Orleans caller tried giving 2 class sessions a week, for the price of one, with low graduate dropouts. There is now a dress code for callers as well as for dancers. The Memphis Convention has sold out all available housing and are placing some registrants 75 miles away, in Jackson, Miss. He congratulated the Committee on the conduct of the current State Convention. Just one question--why weren't there any workshops scheduled? He is glad to see that Fla. is exhibiting in the National Showcase of Ideas.

1980 State Convention - Alan Ashcroft - We produced a State Convention with a small group of hard-working people on our Committee. We feel it was a good convention-- not the largest or most profitable--but there will be some money to divide. I cannot give a figure on attendance, but it will be over 2,000. We omitted many frills, feeling these were not needed if we provided the best facilities, callers and round dance leaders in the State. The mainstream dance

1980 State Convention continued - in the Arena was well attended. We concentrated on 3 levels of squares, mainstream, plus 1 and 2, and advanced. We had a lot of new dancers here who made up a good portion of dancers in the mainstream hall. He congratulated the members of the FCA, who participated, on the enthusiasm with which they carried out their activities. He asked the Federation to pass a resolution commending the callers for a job well done. He thanked the members of his Committee and the officers and members of the Southeast Association, especially President Fred and Celeste Crawford, for their support and work in making the Convention a success. He, also, thanked the round dance leaders for their help in putting together the program for their group. Mr. Stockfeder noted that attendance in the round dance hall was reduced because of spectators talking, making the cues difficult to hear. He noted there was a good showing for rounds between tips in the Arena and Conference East. We tried to simplify the program by omitting the titles of the dances programmed, resulting in some criticism. A supplemental program provided this information. Q. Barbara Holt asked if the vendors who came this year will automatically be invited next year? A. Marvin Taylor, next year's Chairman, will make this decision. I am sure he has made some observations and I will help him if I can. Barbara asked to discuss this with Marvin, since some of the merchants have been talking about it.

1981 State Convention - Marvin Taylor - We have had a good time this year, but we are going to try to put on a better one in 1981. We need the help of all 5 areas to put it over. We have fliers to give you and a few things to sell. He gave a beautiful 1981 Convention banner to each Association for display at as many functions as possible. (These were made by a club in Chipley, the Panhandle Promenaders.) Joy Richardson, Registration Chairman, will give the fliers, complimentary ribbons and decals, to be sold for 50¢ each. Instead of ribbons, we are using a souvenir key ring. Joy stated fliers will be included in only one issue of area magazines. If any area needs more, let her know. Marvin asked dancers from other areas to help them with the "kick-off" at 8:45 Sunday night.

1982 State Convention - Hugh Fultz - He noted, in response to Mr. Moore's question, the program lists workshops on Saturday at this Convention. Yesterday, under the able guidance of Ken Ford and Jean Fultz, our 1982 Convention Committee held its first meeting in this room. We have put together a very enthusiastic group who are "gung-ho" and ready to go. After calling that meeting, I was unable to attend because Mae Ford and I were at a meeting of the Coordinating Committee where it was rumored that seed money was available to pay a few of our early bills. Mission accomplished. For the information of the Secretary of this august body, we attach a few copies of our Committee roster. We, of the 1982 Committee, will strive to produce the very best convention possible for the finest people in the world.

After a break for coffee, Pres. Lascola called for a Coordinating Committee report - George Garland - At our working weekend, we revised the State Convention guidelines, to be considered by the FCA and RDC. Two controversial points were included, the first proposing that convention proceeds be split in 4 equal parts, to the Host Association, the Federation, FCA and RDC. Yesterday the callers came back with a counter proposal, giving the Host Association 15% and the balance split 3 ways among the others. I now understand that they propose 10%. The other point was that the callers and cuers should furnish and set up sound equipment at no financial obligation to the convention. We have had no comment on this. Pres. Lascola stated that James Maxey just came from the callers' meeting, saying they have approved the 10% split for the Association. Jack warns that as long as we continue to haggle over the split, we will not receive any extra proceeds. He recommends we accept this. He explained this comes off the top, before the other 3-way split. The Federation then would get 30% and would decide later how much of this will go to the Host Association,

Coordinating Committee continued - e.g. 50%, 33 1/3, etc. Warren Hyland moved we accept the callers' proposal, seconded by Frank Cornwall and passed unanimously. Frank Cornwall moved that sound for the State Conventions be provided as in the past, i. e., callers who furnish equipment be paid a nominal amount for its use. Motion duly seconded. After much discussion, including the provision that callers sound all halls, the motion passed unanimously. Pres. Lascola asked the FCA and RDC representatives to take a message back to their meetings, that we are very appreciative of their cooperation in making this and previous conventions successful. Word came from both the FCA and RDC that they have approved the 10% split for the Host Association, so it is now a fact, hopefully effective with 1980. Pres. Lascola welcomed Bob Mitchell, President of the Southeast Callers Association, who is in attendance.

Legacy report - Walter Stoltz - We have had some Mini-Legacy meetings which we have named LEADS (Leadership, Education and Dancers Seminar). Three have been held, in Plant City, Jacksonville and Ft. Walton Beach. One is being planned in Southeast in July under another title. We have had good attendance considering the amount of publicity. We are trying to educate our future leaders at the grass roots level.

Showcase of Ideas - Conrad Bishop - I previously asked Association Presidents to see that their items for the Showcase were transported to Memphis. I now find I have some space available in my car. If any of you have anything you want me to take, bring it to me at the Arena at 4 p. m., today. We plan to arrive in Memphis on Tues., June 24, and set up as soon as permitted. We have 3 tables reserved and are guaranteed a good location. We need people to sign up to be monitors. All Florida dancers are requested to participate in the Parade of States, wearing their State or area outfits. No money is being allotted to cover transportation of Showcase material.

EDUCATION AND SERVICE COMMITTEES REPORTS:

Dancer Awareness Committee - Jim Whiteman - We came up with the idea of a State banner, which Judy Garland was to have made. Judy displayed this, which met applause of approval, and it was placed in the custody of Mr. Bishop who will take it to the National. Judy will get an estimate of the cost of making 5 smaller models to be available to any association that wants one.

Education and Leadership Committee - Chet Vetter - He stated he had prepared, and the West Coast Association had had printed, a pamphlet "The Art of Leadership". Any one desiring one may pick it up at the front table. Training material will come out of Legacy and we will need to devise some State-wide guides. Our talent bank will not only contain the names of Legacy Trustees, but other State leaders willing to contribute to leadership seminars. Any group wishing to sponsor one of these, let us know and we will do our best to furnish the talent.

Pres. Lascola noted that State Conventions are the responsibility of all organizations and dancers, not just the Host Association. Everyone should help in publicizing and promoting them.

Finance Committee - John Layne - He suggests we might consider paying for a small State banner for each association. He has not had any feedback from associations regarding the raise in dues to \$50.00 a year. To hold a raffle, there are many technicalities and approval of the State Attorney's Office and the Department of State takes about 7 months. The concensus of the meeting was to dispense with a raffle. We cannot prepare a budget as we don't know how much money will be available and need input from other Committees as to their needs. Northeast has approved the increase in dues to \$50.00 and a check will be forthcoming. After a discussion regarding the need to have the associations ratify the amendment to the Charter, passed on Feb. 3, 1980, it was determined that the Charter provides for passage of an amendment at any official meeting of the Federation, by a 2/3 majority vote. Therefore, the dues of each

Finance Committee continued - association will be \$50.00 a year beginning with dues for 1980.

Other old business - None.

New business

Barbara Holt requested that State Convention Committees limit vendors to stores based in the State of Florida. Mrs. Leamon stated some conventions outside of Florida have banned them from exhibiting their badge business. Several in attendance expressed pros and cons on this point. It was decided that this is not a proper subject to bring before this body. It is the responsibility of the General Chairman of any convention and his committee to select vendors.

Pres. Lascola asked if the Federation's incorporation would apply to associations. It was stated that this would require a professional legal opinion. Some say one has already been given, but no record of this is available. It was decided this was not of sufficient importance to pay for an attorney's fee. Each association should cover its own liabilities.

Pres. Lascola asked about any events scheduled in late Oct. or early Nov., 1980, which might conflict with a Federation meeting to be held during that period. It was noted that Southeast SOS and West Coast Fall Fun Fest were on Oct. 17 and 18 and the State Camporee and TASARDA Fest in Tallahassee are to be held Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Fred Crawford invited all officers and delegates to a party after the dance Sun. night at the Hilton Inn as guests of the Southeast Association.

Pres. Lascola thanked Harry Taylor for the use of his PA equipment at this meeting. He asked all associations to give their area reports to the Secretary, who will include them in the minutes. These are as follows:

AREA REPORTS:

Southeast - Fred and Celeste Crawford - We have had a very busy 3 months. We have cooperated with other organizations on 3 large dances--one for the benefit of the Kidney Research Foundation, one was the Southeast Callers Marathon dance, and one was for the benefit of a little boy who was maimed by a dog. We continued our regular club visitations until April, when the new dancers began graduating. We have sent representatives to all graduations. Many classes have still not graduated, and we will continue to attend them as they occur. Our regular clinics continue to be very well attended. With Frank Bedell as our regular caller, it is a fun afternoon. Our clinics have been conducted in various locations in the area, to give all dancers the opportunity to have an association affair near home. The members of the association have chosen a new outfit for the official costume. They were worn in the Grand March. We hope to encourage all members of the association to wear the outfit. In conjunction with the suggestions made at the meeting of the Federation in February, we are planning a mini-legacy on July 26. George and Boots Oglesby are making the plans for the Legacy people who will participate. Our theme HELP! (That is, Helping educate leaders for progress). It will be at Trail's End Dance Center in Hollywood, and the morning and afternoon seminars will be followed by a dance in the evening called by Vern Johnson. Our SOS dance in Oct. is well under way. It will be Oct. 17 and 18, at the Victory Auditorium in North Miami Beach. Friday night fun dance will be called by Henry Purcell, and the Saturday afternoon workshop and Saturday night dance will be called by Frank Bedell. Cost will be \$11.00 a couple. Our membership is increasing and at this time we have no major problems.

Northwest - Conrad Bishop - Our Fall Roundup is to be held Oct. 25 at the National Guard Armory, Chipley. Callers are Tony Oxendine on squares and Kit and Hoss Waldorf on rounds. Flyers have been printed and are available at this Convention. Our constitution has been revised to provide for individual as well as club membership. Plans are progressing satisfactorily for the 1981

Northwest continued - Convention. Registration forms have been printed and are available. The kick-off will be tonight at 9 o'clock. Be sure not to miss this event. In cooperation with the Northeast Association, we are working to provide the Welcome Stations in our areas with updated club information. Together with the State Federation and the Playground Area Square and Round Dance Association, we held a LEADS workshop on April 26 at PASARDA Hall, Ft. Walton Beach. Panelists were Jim and Bunny Whiteman, Walter and Esther Stoltz, George and Judy Garland and Chet and Julia Vetter. Joe Vaccari served as moderator. We have continued to increase our club membership during the past year. Tallahassee Square and Round Dance Association became the first local council to join the Northwest Association.

West Coast - John Kelley - As of April 23, we had 2,206 members. Since then, there have been many more enrolled as new members or as renewals. We have sent out reminders to delinquent members and have received about a 40% reply. We are in excellent condition financially, due to renewal memberships, successful dances and a financially successful Fall Fun Fest. The Blood Bank Chairman, Joe Estes, reports more than 200 pints of blood in our bank. We have been honored both in 1978 and 1979 with a plaque from the Community Blood Bank for the outstanding results of our program. The West Coast Dancer, under the direction of its very capable Editors, Hugh and Jean Fultz, and their marvelous staff, publishes 3,800 magazines each month. This magazine is free of all advertising or subscription fees and is free to all dancers, callers, cuers, Chambers of Commerce and Welcome Stations. The West Coast area was chosen for the first mini-legacy program last Feb. As a result of this all day session, Chet Vetter, a member of Legacy, has compiled a pamphlet called "The Art of Leadership", which the Association has published and will issue free to each club and to any caller or cuer who may want a copy. We now have a Historian, George Burcham, who is putting together a history of the West Coast Association. To help him, we have secured and had bound together every issue of the West Coast Dancer from the date of its origin some 13 years ago. A caller in our area, who has been very cooperative and a booster for the Association, is in extremely poor condition, both physically and financially. He is Chuck Kessler, who suffers from Hodgkins disease. While we are sad to see this happen, we were glad to be able to make a substantial contribution to a fund to help Chuck. This fund is sponsored by his fellow callers and several hundred dollars have been collected so far. We are very proud of the rapport the Association has with callers, cuers and hall owners. Callers and cuers volunteer to work with us and hall owners have offered the use of their halls entirely free. The Martin's at Strawberry Square and the Stunz' of the Ox Bow have invited us to hold dances in their facilities with no charge. The Fall Fest to be held in Lakeland on Oct. 17 and 18, under the Chairmanship of Earle and Betty Williams, is shaping up and sales of ribbons are beginning to come in. This tremendous festival is receiving nationwide recognition. Well known callers, such as Ed Foote, have solicited the job as caller for the festival. Hugh and Jean Fultz are hard at work developing the most outstanding State Convention to be held in 1982. It is with a great deal of work, dedication and planning that the West Coast Association is so successful. It is not due to any one or two people, but to many who give of their time and talents. So I, as President, am proud enough to pop to give this report.

Central - Ray Holt - Central Florida's plans are in a holding pattern as of this date. Our elections are next weekend. We have been spreading our dances around the counties a little--in Dec., Mt. Dora and in March, two dances on the same night, with the general meeting and dance at Daytona Beach and a special dance with an out-of-state caller in Orlando. All have been extremely well attended. We have been working very closely with our new Central Florida Callers Assoc. and Bob Bland, its President. Trying to use those callers whenever possible. Next week's dance will be in Orange City, with all ladies calling and cueing, and having 2 out-of-area lady callers. This will start with a pot luck, the general meeting and election of officers, then dancing. Our August dance will

Central continued - have Jack Hatfield doing the honors. November, we are back in Mt. Dora with Whit Brown. Central is also in the process of drawing up plans to form its own Bulletin (Hopefully, one day to be called a newspaper), covering Central's coming events. We feel there is the beginning of a better relationship with our new Central Florida Callers Association and a feeling of friendship and fellowship is spreading to our East Coast (namely Titusville/Daytona area) and beginning to branch northward as well. We have bright hopes for the future. Our next meeting should produce the name of Central's Convention Chairman.

Northeast - No report submitted.

The next meeting of the Federation will be at 10:00 a. m., Sunday, August 31, 1980, at the Holiday Inn Central, Tampa.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Ford

Ken Ford
Secretary

Distribution:

All Officers, Delegates and Alternates, FFSD
President, Florida Callers Association
President, Round Dance Council of Florida
George and Judy Garland
Editor, Bow & Swing

