



FLORIDA FEDERATION of SQUARE DANCERS

MINUTES 1/18/86

The first meeting of the working weekend of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers was called to order in the Bongo Room of the Econo Lodge, Orlando, Florida on January 18, 1986, at 10:00 A.M. by President, Norm Farrell.

The invocation was given by Mary Richardson. President Farrell asked that we pause for a moment of silence, in memory of Johnny Walter and Jimmy Clossin, who died within the past week.

President Norm Farrell welcomed all visitors and guests. George and Rita Deschambeau, Editors of Bow & Swing and a member of the Florida Callers Association were present, along with Dick Hulbert, Secretary of the FCA. There was no representative from the Round Dance Council due to their weekend clinic. Howard Wilson, President of Central Florida Association, introduced Randy and Carol Poole, the new Secretary for Central Association.

A roll call of 52 voting members determined that a quorum was present.

President Norm Farrell moved the reading of the minutes of the November 24, 1985, meeting be dispensed with and that they be accepted as presented in the recent mailing.

The treasurer's report given by Ron Knowlton, showed a checking account balance of \$9,161.05, plus \$3,000.00 in the Contingency Fund for a total net worth of \$12,161.05. (See attachment #1)

Parliamentarian, Frank Habersberger, gave the following report: We Will need some help to get the following items ready for the "Showcase of Ideas" for the upcoming National Convention in Indianapolis.

(1) The badge board needs to be updated. Will all Area presidents please see me sometime during the weekend to tell me what badges need to be removed and what new clubs need to be added?

(2) We ask you to please provide volunteers for the Showcase of Ideas at National. We will need the names, addresses, and the day and time preferred. A sign-up sheet is now being circulated. There will be a follow-up letter sent.

(3) The presidents of each association is asked to please upgrade the Dancer Contact Brochure. Copies are available for easy reference.

(4) To celebrate the 50 years of western square dancing began by "Pappy" Shaw, square dancers all over the United States are being asked to make plans for their participation in the Golden Anniversary on December 31, 1986. A newspaper from Copecrest is available that explains this celebration.

There was no correspondence to the Florida Federation since the November 24, 1985, meeting.

AREA REPORTS

Northeast Association - reported by Dave Nihart, President

The Northeast Florida Square and Round Dance Association held their first meeting of 1986 on January 12.

We have been asked to get into the Spirit of '86 by helping celebrate the Golden Anniversary of American Western Style Square Dancing. Some of the events being planned in Jacksonville is a parade on the river walk on Flag Day, June 14, 1986, with square and round dancing. Hopefully a float in the Gator Bowl Parade and a New Years Eve dance at the Civic Auditorium, will be held, with participation by all callers and dancers.

All club delegates were asked to go back to their clubs and ask for support for this great event and to also ask each dancer to contact their State Representative to sponsor the bill to make square dancing the American Folk Dance of Florida.

Beginners Hoedown was held December 6, 1985 in Jacksonville by the Gateway Callers Association with approximately 30 squares in attendance. The new dancers had a great time and are looking forward to the Sophomore Jamboree which will be held on February 22, 1986.

Also, on December 15, 1985 in Gainesville, a Beginners Hoedown was held for their class members. Our Grapevine editors, Shad and Clarice Shadwell, were there for this event attended by eight squares. A good time was had by all.

Several of the Jacksonville callers are teaching the elderly in some of the nursing homes to square dance. A Christmas dance was held at one of the homes and it was a pleasure to see the joy this dancing has brought to these people.

Surveys returned by 152 students from twelve clubs indicated that 104 of them had been invited to square dance class by friends and 27 saw ads in newspapers. This is in reference to the report given at the last meeting on the promotion of square dancing in the Northeast. The survey found that 68.4% of the new dancers were recommended by friends and 17.8% from newspaper ads. As far as the budget was concerned the committee was \$101.63 under the estimated cost to put this program on and \$413.63 under the authorized funding that had been allocated for the project.

Northwest Association - reported by Ron & Cupie Knowlton, Presidents

The Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association has attained a new high in the number of individual dancers and 15 clubs with 100% membership in the USDA insurance program. Joe Vaccari, USDA insurance chairman; Tom & Jean Hancock, Northwest 2nd Vice-President, and USDA Coordinator for Northwest; Betty McCallister, Northwest Treasurer; recently met and developed forms and procedures to disseminate and collect information for better administration of the USDA insurance program.

Our Panhandle Press Editor, Joy Vaccari has purchased and put into operation a new copy machine which really enhances the looks and legibility of the Panhandle Press.

Northwest Association - (cont'd)

On a personal note, Belle Bishop (the better half of Past President, Conrad Bishop) had eye surgery for the 2nd cornea transplant on January 9, 1986, and is presently recovering without any major complications.

Our next Northwest meeting will be a dinner meeting at 5 P.M. on Saturday January 25, 1986 at the Harbour House Resturant in Panama City, Florida. This is in conjunction with the Annual Panama City Square and Round Dance Festival.

Central Association - reported by Howard & Vivian Wilson, Presidents

Central has broken the 400 count line and we are now trying to reach our goal of 500 members for this Association fiscal year.

Our special January Association Dance, was very exciting and our members are looking forward to our Sweetheart Dance at City Island, Daytona Beach on Sunday afternoon, February 16th.

We are trying to promote club cooperation and USDA at all our functions.

Our focal point for improvement this year will be our camping weekend under the direction of Pee Wee and Mary Stewart. We hope this event will be a big help to all clubs that send representatives, as it is open to all dancers.

We hope to see you all at the 33rd Florida State Convention!

West Coast Association - reported by Gerald & Dolores Ault, Presidents

Our membership roster continues to grow. We had over 3500 members in 1985 and have set a goal of 4000 members for 1986.

We held our 10th Annual Fall Fest, November 8 & 9, 1985, at the Lakeland Civic Center and it was a big success. We had over 800 dancers registered. This event is our one fund raising festival each year and we hope that you will all make plans to attend on November 7 & 8, 1986.

We held membership dances at Harmony Hall, Elletton, Florida, December 1, 1985 and at Strawberry Square on December 15, 1985. These dances are free to our members and contribute greatly to our enrollment.

Our Blood Bank continues to be successful under the new leadership of Rusty and Eunice Lusk. We wish to thank Joe and Ruth Estes for their many years of leadership of the Blood Bank upon their retirement.

We continue to print over 5000 copies of our Florida West Coast Dancer magazine each month.

Southeast Association - reported by Jim & Rosemary Davis. Presidents

The December Clinic was held at Santa Luces Community School in Lantana. There were 32 squares at the dance from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. and 171 dancers

Southeast Association - (cont'd)

enjoyed prime rib or chicken at a dinner and party following the dance. The dinner was held in the school cafeteria. The Association Caller, Harry Taylor, hosted the dance and caller Al Guthrie and his wife, Betty, hosted the dinner party. Tony & Joan Hein, Vice President of the SEA, did a marvelous job chairing the affair.

Our annual picnic was on January 12, 1986, at Tree Tops Park in Davie, Florida. About 65 brave dancers attended in spite of the rainy weather and enjoyed a potluck meal at 12:30 P. M. and dancing and games in the pavilion.

Treasurer, Phil & Ceil Walk could not attend this weekend as Ceil is recovering from Bell's Palsy contacted during the Holidays. Our Membership Chairman, Harry Workman, has been in intensive care since December 21st with an aneurysm of the abdominal aorta and yesterday a second amputation on his right leg was performed. One of Southeast's callers, Johnny Walter, passed away on January 10th, 1986. Your prayers would be appreciated for Ceil, Harry and the family of Johnny Walter.

Our Sweetheart Clinic in February will be in Lighthouse Point. In March we will dance in Delray and in April we will be in Hollywood. On March 22, 1986, officers and members will dance in Okeechobee with Vern Johnson and the Okee Swingers.

We are happy to report that we have 500 members in the Southeast Association.

Everyone had such a great time at the SOS in October at the Colonnades Beach Hotel in N. Palm Beach on Singer Island, we have made arrangements to have the SOS there this year on October 17th & 18th. Jerry Helt, from Cincinnati, Ohio will again be our caller.

PUBLICATION REPORTS

Bow & Swing - reported by Rita Deschambeau

There will be a Subscription dance February 8, 1986 at Sebring, March 12, 1986, at Kissimmee and on April 6, 1986 at St. Petersburg.

Grapevine - reported by letter from P. F. "Shad" & Clairice Shadwell, Editors

We are now the proud editors of The Grapevine, a publication of the Northeast Florida Square & Round Dance Association, a bi-monthly magazine.

Our first issue, released the 1st Monday in December, was a huge success and our special new features, we feel, will increase our circulation. They are:

1. CALENDAR of club dance nights, special dances, meeting dates of Northeast and Callers Association and Grapevine deadline.
2. Articles from the callers.
3. Articles from round dancers.
4. New feature KNOW YOUR CALLERS will start in Feb/Mar issue.

Grapevine - (cont'd)

These features have met with everyone's approval and the CALENDAR (a centerfold pull-out page to be hung up for reference) was especially welcomed. We are hoping the new feature KNOW YOUR CALLERS will stimulate even more subscriptions. Most dancers know of the callers but not about them. This feature will have a picture along with a synopsis of his calling history. It will also introduce new and old dancers to the callers that don't know him.

In order to promote subscriptions, we have made up a flyer introducing our new features along with a subscription form that we are distributing to all clubs starting at our Northeast meeting and at special dances and, of course, at special student dances of which our Callers Association has three. We have plans in the works for a subscription dance in April.

Our subscriptions have increased by 42 new ones just on our first issue alone and a lot of renewals that had expired in the past year or later have rejoined. The volume of our book increased from 24 pages to 44 pages because of articles and ads. By following-up on information found in club news articles, we managed to get 4 half-page ads. We are trying to visit each club personally, but will probably have to wait until after our term as presidents of Seaside Stompers is over before we can complete this task.

Sorry we couldn't make this meeting, but are looking forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

Panhandle Press - reported by Joy Vaccari, Editor

The Panhandle Press just began its 12th year of existence. Much progress has been made throughout these 12 years:

1. Have gone to computer for most major articles.
2. Have purchased electronic stencil cutter
3. Have obtained bulk-rate mailing permit.
4. Have purchased a new mimeo machine - it does a much better job.

We are presently printing 450 copies which is up from 350 copies last year. Plans are underway to increase the staff. I am especially proud of the current issue's cover page. It was designed by Joe Vaccari and features the logo of the past six (6) state conventions. Copies of this issue are available.

Keepin' Posted - reported by Mary Richardson

With each issue of Keepin' Posted we strive to improve on the content and format. We are still in the growing stages and always look for a new idea.

Our advertising currently absorbs the cost of printing. We need to improve on our distribution method in order to reach more dancers. At present we mail between 200 and 150 each quarter and distribute copies to clubs in Central to be given to non-members. We currently print 2000 copies.

We welcome your comments and ideas. Copies of our December issue are available.

West Coast Dancer - No report

4 W's - reported by Boots Oglesby

Since we have not been home yet, we will do a repeat of the last report made in November, 1985.

On February 14, 1986, the Rainbow Squares will cancel their dance to help put the next issue of 4 W's together.

CONVENTION REPORTS

1986 Convention Report - presented by Frank McCallister, General Chairman

1. The convention activity pace is picking up and many details are coming to completion in programming and entertainment.
2. Elaine Olberding has been receiving applications for the Parade of Club Fashions and will be finalizing that program no later than March 15, 1986. At present we have four (4) clubs from Northwest, two (2) clubs from West Coast, four (4) clubs from Central, one (1) club from Northeast but no clubs from the Southeast. Also, we have no exhibition groups from the Southeast area. Please let your clubs know that we need their application now, if they are to participate.
3. Rumors were started somehow that camping would not be allowed at the Civic Center. This is untrue! There will be camping as always, for self-contained rigs with no hookups available. There is a dump station at the rear of the rear parking lot and all drainage must be at that point.
4. The invitations for round dance cuers have been mailed out and Kit will complete the program as soon as returns are received.
5. I am out of flyers for distribution and more will be printed as soon as the clogging problem is resolved.
6. Clogging: To recap the November meeting, I was to attempt contact with the clogging council through Rex Ackeridge and try to work out a resolution to the clogging problem. If no resolution was arrived at, then a letter was to be written to the cloggers from the Federation requesting their cooperation. I was unable to get in contact with Rex Ackeridge and all other attempts to obtain instructors or chairperson have failed. As I see the situation, there are two possible solutions to the problem which appear to me, to be best suited. First, is to cancel the clogging portion at the convention and hold only those activities of square and round dancing at the main Civic Center. Second, is to go outside the state of Florida, to Nashville and Georgia and hire professional cloggers to put on a program which would draw cloggers away from Tampa. After much thought and study, I have reached the decision that I will cancel clogging for 1986, unless this body decides that they would rather have me go outside the state and pay for instructors; or if this body or part thereof, has a better solution to offer. Time is of the essence at this point, with only four (4) months to go, I do not believe that we have time for a letter to the Clogging Council to achieve results I can count on. The decision to cancel is mine. I am merely asking this body for their advice and consent.

1986 Convention Report - (cont'd)

7. Whatever the resolution of the clogging problem is, I will need the help of all associations to get the word down to the club level on whether clogging will be held. Please let me know your needs for flyers at the end of this meeting or sometime this weekend.

8. Please get your registration badge from Betty before leaving today. Your name is to be placed on the blank line.

President Norm Farrell stated that he has set up a committee to address the clogging problem, not just Frank's immediate problem, but clogging in general, on our relationship with the cloggers and especially the state convention. He suggested that the discussion of the problem be postponed until tomorrow after the workshop meeting.

1987 Convention Report - Murl Herbert, General Chairman

Nothing new to add to the report made at the November meeting.

1988 Convention Report - presented by Howard Wilson, General Chairman

A contract has been signed to hold the 35th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention at the Expo-Center in downtown Orlando, where the 1978 and 1979 conventions were held.

This was the only location available that had enough rooms for dancing to satisfy the demands for so many different levels of square dancing, as well as, providing sufficient areas for round dancing.

Perhaps in the future, we may have to consider consolidating levels since most of the civic centers seem to be limiting their areas that are suitable for dancing to one or two large rooms. Also, rental rates and charges for services continue to escalate.

We need to get our funding for the Convention Committee as soon as possible, in order to make the necessary commitments. If anyone has the Federation Tax Exempt number, please see that I have it, as it will be used for the State Convention.

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICAN - presented by Fred & Celeste Crawford

The mid-year board meeting of the USDA will be held on Saturday, January 25, 1986, at the Hilton Inn in Amarillo, Texas. We are happy to learn that the newly formed "Top of Texas" Square Dance Association is hosting a special dance for the USDA at the local National Guard Armory. We have copies of the flier advertising the dance available. It looks as if the Texas dancers are going all out to welcome the USDA. There will even be a Grand March!

We have been informed by Charles Naddeq, the USDA insurance chairman of some changes in the insurance coverage and the time period. We're sure that Joe Vaccari will give complete details.

AMERICAN FOLK DANCE OF FLORIDA - reported by Frank & Nan Habersberger, General Chairman, American Folk Dance Campaign

We have sent to all association presidents the four (4) phases of the planning side of this campaign. Phase I of this campaign has been started and we now begin to look at Phase II (Identity). The cultural community of Florida does not know much about us. In order for us to be successful in this campaign, it will be necessary for us to acquaint the Florida State Cultural Bureau and all county Cultural Bureaus about our activities, so we can get their support, when we start to collect cosponsors from among our State Representatives. During the course of our investigation, we contacted the Florida Secretary of State, Mr. George Firestone, and received from his office a list of all of the counties' cultural affairs bureaus and a schedule of their festivals. A short time later, we also received a copy of Florida Dance Calendar of the State Dance Association of Florida. Both the counties and the state listings of festivals do not identify by name, any of our activities; square dancing, round dancing or even clogging, as being involved in any of the dance exhibitions at their festivals.

There are 32 counties in Florida that have bureaus or Divisions of Cultural Arts. Of these, there are 21 that have a total of 39 dance and music festivals. We are in the process of separating these bureaus and their festivals to apply to each association territory. When completed, we shall send this information to each Association President.

Aside from its value in helping us in the "Identity" Phase of our American Folk Dance Campaign: to register with each bureau and offer to participate in some of their dance and music festivals, would provide the greatest amount of publicity at lowest cost. These opportunities to reach large, captive audiences with square & round dance & clogging exhibitions, would be an invaluable aid in bringing more people into our activity, and there is not likely to be a greater need for this type of outreach than right now.

If any of you have any ideas or suggestions that you feel may help in the planning and running of this campaign, please let us know during this working weekend, or drop us a line anytime.

HALL OF FAME REPORT - presented by Chet Vetter

This is not an official report, I just want to let you all know a couple of things that has happened since our November meeting.

Most of you have wondered about who makes up the Board of Selectors. We have 15 people throughout the state that select the nominees. Now that Johnny Walter has died, we can say that he was one of the people on the Board. So, we will now be looking for others for the board. Johnny was one who said he did not want his name put out that he was one of the Selectors. Most of the Selectors do not want their names known. This way they can be free and easy and they can do as their conscience dictates.

Another thing, Jimmy and Elizabeth Clossin have no children. About two or three months ago, I received a call from Bob Bland, stating that Jimmy would like to donate his awards to the Hall of Fame if they would accept them. We now have Jimmy's Florida Hall of Fame plaque, his Milestone Award and several certificates that he got throughout the years. We will be putting up some kind of

HALL OF FAME REPORT - (cont'd)

display with Jimmy's awards in it and we feel that later on, some of the other people in the Hall of Fame will do the same.

And last, as you know, there are four (4) people on the Operating Committee. We have been operating for almost five years and we have been discussing ways and means of stepping aside and turning it over to someone else. Under no circumstances will we turn this Operating Committee over to any association. The board has to be autonomus. It will probably be four (4) people again and be made up of callers, cuers, and round dancers as well as square dancers.

OLD BUSINESS

A Certificate of Appreciation from the Statue of Liberty Restoration Committee, of the donation of \$100.00 made by the Federation was presented by Leo Richardson, who had received the certificate. It will be turned over to the Parlimentarian for the Showcase of Ideas.

It was announced there will be a dance tonight at the Ben White Raceway and everyone is invited to attend. An after-party will be held tonight at 11:00 here in the Bongo Room. Bring your own refreshments and snacks to contribute.

Two suggestions made by Pee Wee Stewart will be handled at the respective committee workshops. They were: the Convention Committee consider eliminating free admission tickets to the state conventions, and the Square Dance Preservation Committee address the problem of square dance classes being held on the same night as regular club dances.

Assignments to various working committees were resolved, with alternates being assigned in place of absent committee members. The Florida Souvenirs Committee will be combined with the Showcase of Ideas Committee. All committees will meet in their assigned rooms at 1:00 PM.

The meeting ended at 11:30 A.M. with instructions from President Norm Farrell to reconvene at 9 A.M. on Sunday, January 19, 1986.