

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1992**

Meeting Called to Order - 9:30 A.M. at the Strawberry Squares, Plant City, Florida by President Murl & Sally Herbert.

Pledge of Allegiance - led by Murl Herbert.

Invocation - given by Donna Hendricks.

Roll Call - taken by Jean Allen with 64 delegates and alternates present. The president declared a quorum was present.

Guests and Visitors - welcomed by President Murl Herbert.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Saturday Evening Dance - Art Springer Caller, plus level dance, early rounds 7:30, dance starts at 8:00 at Strawberry Squares.

Saturday Agenda Change - move old business over to Sunday old business - no old business on Saturday. Add to the agenda after American Folk Dance campaign, ASCAP and BMI - George Wolfert.

MINUTES: Motion made and accepted for approval of 3 November 1991 FFSD Meeting Minutes.

TREASURERS REPORT CORRECTION: Cliff Allen - correction to the Treasurer's report summation shown in the 3 November 1991 Meeting Minutes. Summation should read: Showing a checking account balance as of 27 May 91 of _____; Receipts _____; Disbursements _____; Total in Checking Account _____; Contingency Fund _____; C.D. First Union _____; Total Net Worth _____.

TREASURERS REPORT FOR 1 FEBRUARY 1992: Cliff Allen - Showing a Checking Account Balance of _____ as of 3 November 1991; Receipts _____; Interest _____; Disbursements _____; Total in Checking Account _____; Contingency Fund _____; C.D. First Union _____; Total Net Worth _____. Motion to accept treasurers report by Dave Nihart. Treasurers report filed for audit.

CORRESPONDENCE: Department of Tourism sent letter showing the possibility of a charge as high as \$1,100 to display the FFSD "Square Up With Us" Brochure at the Florida Welcome Stations (depending upon the number of stations displaying brochures). The Parliamentarian will correspond with the Tourism Department in an effort to get FFSD excluded from the charge because of our nonprofit status. We don't make any money on these flyers. This item is on the table for action.

MEETING PROCEDURES:

President: Murl Herbert - Before we get in to the reports I would like to establish some order of this meeting. If you would like to be recognized, please stand. We will recognize you and will keep in order as to who stood first. If your going to speak to this body, please come forward and use the microphone.

AREA REPORTS: Reported By -

West Coast Association - Al and Mary Boltze, President
Central Florida Association - Chuck and Annabell Johnson,
President
Northeast Association - Hollis and Mary Fowler, President
Northwest Association - Bill Jenner, President
Southeast Association - Dick and Barbara Van Dette, President

PUBLICATION REPORTS: Presented by Bow & Swing, 4Ws, Grapevine, Keepin-Posted, Panhandle Press, and West Coast Dancer.

Bow & Swing: Bill Chestnut, President Florida Callers Association - During the last year and a half the Bow and Swing has gone through some major changes. Changed the editors due to some conflicts that we had. The editors of Bow & Swing Magazine and also the Vice President of the Florida's Caller's Association are Whit and Sue Brown. (Whit Brown arrived and presented rest of report) We need your support for Bow & Swing. This magazine is owned by Florida Callers' Association but is for every square and round dancer in the state and it is a service provided for that reason. Of course, it is a subscription magazine and the only way we can survive is to have the dancers show their interest by subscribing. There are many dancers in this state that don't know what Bow & Swing is -- they think it's another square dance call. If you are a subscriber, we appreciate that. Please tell some friends about it. If your club or organization could possibly do so, we would love to have you sponsor a subscription dance. Subscriptions have been down over the last year and we are slowly building them up since Sue and I took over as editors. Our readership has increased, our advertisers are coming back on

line, -- a lot of them that we lost are coming back and we've done our best at getting the magazine back to looking like it should be and are going to continue to try and improve it.

However, we are losing money every month at this time. It takes approximately \$2,500 dollars to publish the magazine and get it to the readers every month. We are falling short of that each month. We've recently had an ad rate increase and some of those bill are starting to come in right now. We hope to see our revenue pick up. We do need more advertising. We pointed out to the callers and we pointed out to everybody that Bow & Swing is not restricted to just square dance vendors, callers, and cuers as far as advertisers. We would love to see some motels, such as the motels over in Lakeland or anywhere in an area where people have square dance activities an use the motels in that area, to advertise in the magazine. Also restaurants where square dancers frequently go after a dance in your area. Even though we have small circulation compared to some of the regional magazines, they do reach the readers and they are read by the people who receive them. The magazine is sent to their home so they are read and not left on the table at a dance or something. We do have a state wide circulation. We would like to see it improve. If there is anything that we can do as editors to help the magazine to be better for you, something you would like to see in it as a feature or something that we could put in as news we would be happy to do so. We are always receptive for any suggestions to try and improve it because it is a service for the square dance community throughout the entire state. It also goes out all over the country and different parts of the world to our different subscribers as they move about during the various seasons of the year. We appreciate all of your support. He hope to get more. We would like to see Bow & Swing survive and continue on as the magazine it should be.

4Ws: Boots and George Oglesby, Editor.

Grapevine: Paul and Nita Walker, Editor.

Keepin' Posted: The Consortium - Knapp, Poole & McCleskey.

The Panhandle Press: Joy and Joe Vaccari, Ex-editors. New editors: Ray & Gail Jones, Lot C157, 3120 Minnesota Ave., Panama City, FL, 32405, 904-784-9269.

West Coast Dancer: Jack Pierson, Editor (one of three).

CONVENTION REPORTS:

1992: Lou & Dottie Vogel - The 1992 State Convention is beginning to wind down to the final hour. It's called "We'll Dance With You in '92".

The caller's schedule is all done and we have a contra schedule all set up. We have 84 callers and 6 contra callers. The round dance council has not got their schedule to us yet.

The decoration committee is in full swing getting themes lined up for all halls.

Hospitality has their committees, fashion show is forming up fast, sewing will have a very interesting program.

We need people nominated to the Hall of Fame from all associations to be put on the program for Saturday afternoon awards. Be sure we have some one to honor from all areas.

We hope to have our program ready for reviewing by the first of March. FFSD Delegates can pick up ribbons from Ron and Mary Lee and buttons or registration I have lots of them.

1993: Mary Richardson - Central Florida's preparations for the most fabulous "Kick-Off" is well underway.

Rehearsals have been scheduled right down to "Super Sunday" May 24, at State Convention.

The various committee chairmen are gearing up their plans and are enthusiastically looking forward to treating Florida dancers to a fantastic convention in 1993. Our next general convention committee meeting will be February 9, 1992.

There have been very few snags due to the expert guidance of Duke & Doris McClesky, our able Co-Chairman. Duke & Doris deserve the credit for where we are today and they have my deepest gratitude.

From here on I will be taking a more active roll in the convention committee activities and will have a more comprehensive report in May.

I would like to thank you for your concern for me over this past year-- your love and your prayers. I need them yet. I hope before the meetings are over today and tomorrow that I get to yellow rock everybody.

1994: Dave & Shirley Neihart - No report.

1995: Stanley Hockman - The 42nd Annual Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention hosted by Southeast District. At this date we have our committee chairpeople selected and they in turn

are assembling workers to help with the various projects. We have received from the city of Lakeland a contract for the Lakeland Civic Center, along with a request that a deposit in the amount of \$500 be made payable to the Lakeland Civic Center no later than May 24, 1992. At this time I request an advance for this payment in order to secure the Civic Center. The total rent and estimated expenses from the city of Lakeland is \$10,754.

1996: No designated chairman or report. (Northwest)

National Convention Bid Committee: Worley and Nan Carrier - On December 13th & 14th, we held a meeting in Orlando with the Bid Committee, Florida Federation Officers, and N.E.C Advisors.

On Friday the 13th, we met at the Orange County Convention Center with Loren & Florence Long, Ernie & Barbara Stone for the N.E.C. approval of the Convention Center. From 2 to 5 p.m. we met with Karen Fleming, from Convention Center, Brian Parker, Orlando Orange County Visitors Bureau, and Vicki D'Amic, Kissimee-St. Cloud Visitors Bureau. Our discussion was on rental rates and what we were looking for from all parties involved.

On Saturday the 14th at 10:00 a.m. in Orlando Marriott, we met with the bid committee members, Florida Federation Officers and the N.E.C. Advisors. The N.E.C. Advisors went through the bid procedure and the statement of policies for conducting a National Square Dance Convention.

Ernie and Barbara Stone are President of the N.E.C. They were replacing Harry and Helen Moore, who were unable to attend our meeting because of health problems. Ernie Stone went back and reported to his N.E.C members. He gave us a high rating for our convention center and for the people in the state of Florida. The rental rates - December 19, 1991 I received the following rental rates from Karen Fleming of the Orange County Convention Center. Show time (dance time on the floor) \$58,400, move in time (3 days) \$29,700, move out time (1 day) \$9,900, total 98,000. We won't know if we are to have a national convention in Florida till '93. Until we are awarded our convention, we are not to work on anything concerning the convention with hotel, motel, restaurant, travel bureaus, or anything. Right now we're working on plans for a convention or bid.

Financial Report - \$10,716.88 is total that we've taken in so far. Progress chart was made up and will be issued to each Association monthly until May and hope the publications will run it. Everybody will be kept informed on the progress monthly. I want to thank all people who sold tickets and donated money your support is appreciated and we need much more help. Thanks to all the publications and editors who have run notes and different items in their publications, they are all appreciated. Again, in '92 in Cincinnati, Ohio we have to make our intent to bid in '93 for '97. Please advise all your dancers to be at the bid session on Friday morning at 9 O'clock, we go through the same thing as we did last year - so please be there.

The fund raisers, a lot of fine reports from the Associations. However, we've got to do a lot more between now and May 24th than we've done in the past year. If you don't, the money that we've taken in will only pay for the purchase of the car and we're right back where we started from - zero. We don't even have enough to purchase the car yet.

On January 19th we set up a fund raiser dance, asked a couple callers to call free for us. Twelve callers showed up. Had 45 squares. We raise \$1,471. The club turned this money into car tickets - we bought car tickets. If they win the car, they are going to donate it back to us. So this can be done in your association. The callers are willing to donate they're time, just ask them. When it comes down to giving the car away on May 24th, we will offer car or cash. This way we don't have to purchase a car. We will have a car there already if they wish to have a car.

The after party, we are short of a after party but we have to wait for Birmingham to make their selection on which hall they want. I will notify each committee member which can notify their Association President. We will be asking the President of the Florida Callers Association to coordinate the callers for this event. We may ask a caller from outside to do a couple of tips for us too. We have four couples going up to St. Louis in March to represent Florida at the Pre-Convention for St. Louis. They have a special event going on in Ohio, Southern Gateway Chorus, 140 strong, this will be on Wednesday evening from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm it \$5 at the River Front Coliseum. The ribbons to get in to this will be in your package when you pick up your registration package at the doors. After the show from 8:45 to 10:30 there will be a dance at the same place - so I guess you wear your dance clothes to the show if you wish to attend the dance.

Car tickets - those responsible for car tickets, please pick up all tickets and money before you come to the convention in May. After meeting with your committee, I would like to meet with the bid committee members and anyone else who wishes to attend in our Room No. 242 around 4:30 for a short meeting.

Question: How does the \$100,000 compare to other convention facilities?

Answer: We would not be going into the bid at \$98,000. There is no way N.E.C. would accept the bid for that amount. We have to have money in escrow. Ernie Stone, President of N.E.C., told us that they would accept somewhere in the neighborhood of \$65,000 - \$70,000 before we can go in. The rest of this we have to appropriate and have in escrow. We have some sources of money coming in that will go with the bid. But we do need all this money that we can possibly raise. We're looking for \$2 a room kick-back from the motels. Of course this money doesn't come until after the convention is over. This will total somewhere between \$40,000 and \$50,000 based on 20,000 attendance or 6,000 rooms at the time. We're looking for a lot more than that. That is money that will help us and N.E.C. hasn't said that they will O.K. this as part of our expense money to show that we have this money in escrow.

Question: Any short fall in the National Convention, this board will be responsible for it?

Answer: The sponsor is responsible for it, the Florida Federation is the sponsor. When our budget is set, if we are going to use more than \$12 out of that \$20, they will not accept the bid.

Question: As the Bid Chairman for the Convention, have you signed any contracts?

Answer: I haven't signed any contracts.

Question: Does the \$10,000 include the \$2,500 advance?

Answer: It does. That's a total of income that we have. Including the \$2,500 that was appropriated by the Federation.

Question: What are the expenses at the present time.

Answer: At the present time \$51.50 for a tape recorder purchased for the secretary.

Question: Plus the tickets?

Answer: The expense of the tickets were paid for by the vendors.

Question: In view of the fact that the Federation will be signing the contract if it is awarded, will we have a chance to look at your proposed budget break even point prior to submission to the N.E.C.

Answer: Our bid will go in no later than one year from to date. February 1, 1993 is when we should have our bid ready to go in. We can probably take a look at that at the 1993 Working Weekend meeting at that time just prior to turning in the bid. As all of you know, the Federation will be protected if we receive the convention because the day we sign the contract we have to form a corporation separate from the Florida Federation. A corporation is for protection for the Federation. They can't come back and collect from the Federation until they get everything out of the corporation.

Question: What's the possibility of reducing the rental fee?

Answer: We are working on it. We're going through the channels with the people in the Orange County Convention Center, in Visitors Bureau. We don't want to walk over these people we're working with. We don't want to go into the convention with people mad at us. We're going through the proper channels easy, we have plenty of time. If we don't make any progress, we will go through the Commissioners. We are accepting sponsors. I've contacted Pepsi, they did a heck of a lot for the football game. They paid about \$800,000 for a second of advertisement. I got in contact with the Pepsi Cola Company in Orlando but they haven't returned my call yet.

Question: We might try to contact Wal-Mart.

Answer: Don Bell contacted Wal-Mart. They mentioned making it state-wide. If we make it state-wide we need for him to notify the Associations or the committee people so we can have workers in each one of these places. I would suggest if you do it at Wal-Mart out front, don't just go there and set there with tickets. Have your caller and take a square and have different times and do something for the people. Let them see what square dancing is. This is working at flea markets.

Hall of Fame: Mary Richardson - Have you made your recommendation for a Hall of Fame inductee?

Time is running out! As announced in Bow & Swing, today is the deadline. However, if you want to present your choice, I am sure it will be considered if you get it to Sunny Thomas in the next few days. I thank Murl & Sally Herbert for selecting Strawberry Squares for the "Working Weekend". Please do not fail to inspect the Hall of Fame wall here in this hall.

Thank you Chet Vetter for completing the plaque listing convention chairmen of all three organizations.

Legacy: Frank and Nan Habersbuger - A Legacy survey regarding square dance class drop-outs is in full swing. One finding is that the number of clubs not offering lessons is running about 37% and over 8% of the clubs have folded. It will be mid-summer before complete results are available.

One of the Legacy Educational Panels is "The 3 S's of Recruiting" in recruiting new dancers. These are: Sell, Sell, Sell. We are on this panel, joined by Bernie & Carolyn Coulthurst, Editor of "Club Leadership Journal", the Legacy Publication.

We invite all who are attending the Cincinnati Convention to attend this panel discussion. There will be some very informative literature available to take back to your associations and clubs.

U.S.D.A.: Paul and Marie McClain - USDA held its mid-year executive board meeting on January 24 & 25, 1992 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Three committee chairmen from Florida, Joe & Joy Vaccari, Frank & Nan Habersberger, and Duke & Doris McCleskey attended.

The constitution, by-laws and standing rules were reviewed and revised. The final changes will be presented at the annual board meeting for its approval. Debra Mills was confirmed as chairman of the newly approved Youth Committee and will develop plans on starting up more youth square dance clubs. This meeting coincided with the South Carolina State Square Dance Convention, and the board members were invited to attend at half the dance fee. USDA was given a prominent position in the parade of clubs & states and was given a warm welcome.

Dancers are encouraged to support the ongoing programs, insurance, credit card and long distance telephone program.

We requested educational material for use at the USDA table at the upcoming Florida State Square & Sound Dance Convention. Considerable material will be given us after this meeting.

Frank & Nan Habersberger will participate with Joe & DeAnn Hutchinson for USDA in a panel discussion on recruiting in the education program at the National Square Dance Convention at Cincinnati, Ohio this June.

Folk Dance: Duke and Doris McCleskey - The United Square Dancers of America just concluded their mid-year working weekend this past weekend in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The forty members of USDA's board of directors were in attendance, as the various committees planned and reported on the immediate, past and future activities to be undertaken toward the advancement of square dancing (generic) within these United States.

The National (American) Folk Dance Committee reported that Sixteen States had enacted legislation proclaiming Square Dancing (generic) as the official American Folk Dance within their respective States. There are State Chairmen in 32 States presently working with their State Legislative bodies to pass proclamations. Four States have already had 'Bills' introduced and anticipate passage within the next few months. The main holdup at the present is most state law bodies are embroiled in the reapportionment process, but should move quicker after the 'political infighting' subsides!

The combined efforts of USDA and LEGACY will result in the forward movement necessary, during the upcoming sessions. This will bring us to the sufficient number of 'proclaimed States' needed so that the National lobby effort of the U.S. Congress can result in reaching our National Goal - The American Folk Dance of these United States is Square Dancing!

(Footnote: The term "Square Dancing" is a generic term which embraces the entire American Folk Dance scene mainly; Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Clogging, Line, Contra, Quadrills, Mixers and Reels).

ASCAP & BMI: George and Nancy Walfert - Two problems were brought to our attention in recent months.

One of the Associations was told that a license was required for one of their Special Dances. The only requirement for Association Dances is that all Callers, Cuers and/or Teaching Staff used at local weekend events be licensed through Callerlab or Roundalab.

Last month we were informed that Roundalab had approached some Florida Cuers and/or Round Dance Clubs telling them that the use of "cued" tapes or records, without being accompanied by a Caller or Cuer, is in violation of Copyright Laws and a separate "Mechanical License must be obtained from the Harry Fox Agency. Not True!

I contacted the Harry Fox Agency and received from them their brochure explaining in detail their licensing requirements. These requirements do not affect any aspect of our activity.

I have established an excellent rapport with representatives of the licensing agencies. So I once again urge you to refer all potential problems or questions to me, whether the questions come from a dancer, caller, cuer or even a representative of one of licensing agencies themselves.

Negotiations are still progressing between USDA and ASCAP/BMI. Hopefully we'll soon be able to report that an agreement has been reached between all parties concerned.

Meeting Adjourned 11:30 A.M. at the Strawberry Squares, Plant City, Florida by President Murl and Sally Herbert.