#### FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

The working weekend meeting at the Best Western of Lakeland on February 26,2000 was called to order by President Stan Hockman at 9:00am. He led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation was given by Mary Stewart. Secretary Sandy Brasfield called roll.

Welcome guests - Northeast introduced Harvey and Mary Lou Morton. Central announced that alternate delegates were missed on roll call, sorry, Dan and Anna Foust. Two very special people were introduced, permanent guest Art Butlak and permanent guest Linda McClain.

Minutes were approved as published, motion by Don Slocum and

second by Don Bell.

Ken Brasfield gave the treasurer's report. Motion to file for afternoon audit by Mary Ellen Appel, second by Don Slocum.

#### NWFSRDA REPORT

We were honored to have a nice turnout of FFSD dancers attending our annual N.W. Roundup Dance before their Fall meeting in DeFuniak Springs in October 1999.

The Roundup was very successful with over 250 dancers with Larry

Letson as our featured caller on Saturday night.

We, also, had installation of our new officers for 2000 with only the vice president's position, with Tony and Patti Gee in that position.

We, also, had our selection of the "Dancer of the Year Award" going

to Tom and Jean Hancock.

Northwest has been busy supporting Fred and Shirley Cornett and Tom and Shirley Constable as our chairman and vice chairman of the 2002 State Convention in preparing for the 2001 kick-off.

Our recent NWFSRDA meeting was held on February 12,2000 in conjunction with the NWFCA Sweetheart Swing Hi-Low Dance in DeFuniak

Springs.

N.W. has a program to support clubs that graduate new dancers and then join a club. We reimburse \$15 per student and it's intended to help them in advertising for a new class.

Our next meeting will be in June 2000 in Pensecola in conjunction

with the Five Flags Festival Dance.

Cliff & Jean Allen President NWFSRDA

#### SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION

Before giving the Southeast's report Elsa took time to thank two couples who stopped to lend a helping hand when she and Ray lost tread on their vehicle tire on I 10 last October after leaving our meeting, Don and Ann Slocum and Frank and Nan Habersberger.

FLORIDA FEDERATION TREASURER'S REPORT 10/18/99 thru 2/7/00

Respectfully submitted,

Hen and Sandy

Ken and Sandy Brasfield

Secretary

Florida Federation of Square Dancers

February 26, 2000

#### SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION REPORT

Unlike some of the associations, the Southeast Association has a dance every month. We had eight squares at our November dance which was held in Boynton Beach.

At our December cookie dance we continued doing something that was very successful the previous year. We asked dancers to bring an unwrapped gift for a child to the dance. Again this year, we had an excellent response, and were able to donate several large boxes of toys to Kids in Distress.

Our annual picnic in January was well attended and of course the food was excellent as it always is at these activities. The association furnishes the hot dogs and condiments, and the dancers bring the rest. Needless to say, we never run out of food at these picnics! We enjoyed having the handicapable dancers there also. Last year the association made them honorary members. We pay their annual renewal fees and insurance. It is always a pleasure to have them participate in our activities.

Our special fund-raiser dance was the Snowflake Frolic which is always held in January. We had an outstanding attendance of about 25 squares.

We also had a good attendance at our Valentine's Dance which was in North Palm Beach. The refreshments were furnished by the Sailfish Squares, and they did an outstanding job.

As I stated earlier, the Southeast Association has a dance every month. These dances are alternated between the north and south area. We pay a host caller and cuer at these dances along with the cost of the hall of course. Sometimes other callers and cuers who live in the area where the dance is held that month will show up and call or cue a tip or two. Since they are not the host caller or cuer they don't get paid. Several years ago Ray and I started sending out thank you letters to these callers and cuers immediately after a dance. We have been told by the callers that the extra step of sending these thank you notes is appreciated and has helped to develop a better relationship with the callers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray & Elsa Huddleston SEA President

PRES.RPT 2/23/00

## North East Florida Square and Round Dancer's Association Report (NEFSARDA) Feb 26-27, 2000

In November 1999 we held an election of officers for the NE Association Board. The following officers were elected.

President

Manny and Sherry

Vice President

Howard and Jettie Crowe

Secretary

Linda Pauley and Lonnie Alrigdge

Treasurer

Joe and Martha Hartcastle

Corresponding Sec.

LeRoy and June Blaylock

Immediate Past Pres.

Jack and Kathy McKinney

Additionally in November we had our Fall Festival. It was an overwhelming success. Jack and Kathy McKinney were the Chairpersons for the Festival. The Festival attendance was over 350 attendees with a profit of \$3000.00. Some of you were there to see Mike Sikorsky from Mesa, Arizona and June Leverette from Florida. All of the Past Presidents were recognized with an award for their continual support and dedication to Square Dancing. Jack and Kathy received the Dancer Couple of the Year Award.

We presented Club Visitation awards to 8 clubs. Four clubs received the Bronze, 2 Clubs the Silver, and 2 the Gold Metal.

Charity dance: The Silver Fox Club held their annual Circus Dance for Dreams Come True benefit. They raised \$1 2,159.12

We do have 2 clubs that have folded. We have a new club from Georgia that has made application to joint our Association.

We are trying to resolve our retention and recruiting problems. We are continuing to offer \$100.00 to any club who graduates 1 full square and \$200.00 for an additional square. I have also appointed an Advisory Committee to help the us as President and our Board to resolve any problems that may come up or for future planning. The committee consists of all of the active Past Presidents. We are very fortunate that our Past Presidents are still very active. For example we have Dave and Shirley Nihart who are presently Treasurer of the USDA. Don and Bonnie Bell are Chairman of the State Federation for the year 2000. Charlie and Val Newsome are our editors for NE Grapevine and also are our Delegates, Chuck and Linda Riggs are chairpersons for this years Fall Festival and Chairpersons for the State Convention Fashion show. Dee Dee and Bessie Stovall are Vice President of the State Federation, Jack and Kathy McKinney are Past President of the NE Board, Alternate Delegates and just finished as Chairpersons of our Fall Festival. I point this out because these are people who are very active and dedicated to Square Dancing. In situations like we have now who would be the best people to ask for advice and support.

We have had two  $5^{th}$  Saturday dances since our last meeting. The attendance has been over 130 dancers.

STOP LOOK and LISTEN: We may need to apply this when we meet dancers or potential dancers. We are living too fast that we sometimes don't stop, look or listen to people who come to us just to talk, or for advise or simple questions.

Not all people are the same.

Not all people like the same thing.

Not all people talk the same

Not all people think the same.

So when someone comes to us, we need to Stop what ever we are doing, look at the individual and listen to every word they are saying it, how they are saying it and why.

Give examples: Word meaning in America and Italy

Golf story with different meanings.

Manny and Sherry Gonzales President, NEFSARDA



# WEST COAST SQUARE & ROUND DANCERS: ASSOCIATION

The West Coast Square & Round Dancers' Assoc. has been very active. Our officers had an organizational meeting in October to lay out our plans for the year and set out to implement them.

Our first membership dance of the year was Oct. 31, 1999 at Danceland. There were 20 squares of dancers, 5Cuers and 6 Callers for a great afternoon of dancing. Next came our annual Fall Fun Fest Nov. 12 & 13th. The attendance was disappointing but a great time was had by those in attendance. It did show us we have to work harder this year and really promote. We have started much earlier this year by having the flyers available at last years dance and having a table at the Sunshine Festival. We talk about the dance every chance we get and hope the other officers and county reps are doing the same. Our next membership dance was in the Ft. Myers area in Dec. We had 11 squares of dancers, 6 Cuers and 5 Callers. Last year the dance in that area had 4 squares. Then we moved to Brooksville for a membership dance on Jan. 30th. Our dance was preceded by a meeting of the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Assoc., which helped bring us 7 Callers & 2 cuers. Twenty two squares were in attendance.

Feb. 13th our Sweethearts Ball in Bartow brought 20 squares to dance to 3 Callers & two Cuers. Future dances planned during our presidency are scheduled for Mar. 12th, Apr.2nd, Aug. 20th, Sept.17th. There is another Suncoast Callers meeting scheduled before the March 12th dance in Manatee and we have invited and encouraged the Callers Assoc. to have their meetings before or after our membership dances.

During the last few years our Presidents have been working with the Callers & Cuers Assoc. to build a better relationship. It was a slow process, but we feel that this year we are enjoying the fruits of this effort, the Callers & Cuers Assoc. have voted to have the presidents of the W.C. Assoc. as honorary members. Also this cooperation is evident by the number of Callers and Cuers who have supported our dances with their time and talents. We believe that both the Dancers and Callers & Cuers realize that none of us will survive without the other.

We have had a major change with the West Coast Dancer Magazine. Our long time editors, Ken & Sue Brown retired. We very much appreciate the many years of dedicated service they gave for the success of our magazine. The new editors are Ed & Jinny Henning of Sarasota. Their first issue was in Jan. and we understand there are grooves in the road between the Hennings & the Browns, after much interaction they published an excellent book. The deadline for the next issue is Feb. 28, so they are about to test the knowledge they gained.

Our current membership for this year is 688 including 95 new members, last year our year end total was 1160. For the last few years we have sent out letters in March to remind people of their delinquency, with very good results. We are planning on doing this again this year. We have also given a list to our County Reps to follow up in their areas.

We are looking forward to the rest of our year as Presidents. This has been a very enjoyable and rewarding year.

Respectfully submitted,
Don & Ann Slocum
Presidents of West Coast Square & Round Dancers Association

#### CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

**FEBRUARY 27, 2000** 

**Greetings from President Will and Carol Barnhart!** 

We have held the first dance of our year as presidents. We danced at Dancing Shadows hall in Wildwood with Ernie Rollen as our caller and Jeannette Chauvin as our cuer for our Halloween dance on October 31, 1999.

Our booth at the Volusia County Fair last November was quite successful with many visitors signing up for dance lessons. This was a recruiting effort by the Association, coordinated by Randy and Carol Poole, and hosted by area clubs. Plans are underway for a bigger and better display at the fair again this year.

The year 2000 was ushered in by many clubs throughout Central Florida, and we hope all dancers had a great New Years Eve as we greeted the year 2000.

On January 29, 2000, we danced to the tunes of Joe Fioretti and Roy Brown at our Fifth Saturday dance in Kissimmee at the Good Samaritan Center.

Our next Fifth Saturday dance will be held April 29 at Travis Recreation Center in Rockledge, with John Swindle and Audrey Phillips.

We have been saddened by two deaths in our area. Chuck Johnson, former president of CFA, passed away recently; our condolences to his wife, Annabell Johnson. Also, caller Dick Hulbert passed away recently.

We have just appointed Don and Sharon Smith as our Membership Vice President, and our board is working on many ideas for increasing the membership in our association. These will be implemented in the near future and we will give a report at a later meeting.

We are looking forward to a great State Convention in May. We have passed out many registration forms throughout our clubs and encouraged dancers to attend.

See you in a square! Keep smiling!

Will and Carol President Central Florida Association February 26, 2000

Panhandle Press Report

### QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

I would like to thank the dancers who submitted articles and the callers and vendors who purchased ads in the Press. The advertisements continue to offset the cost of publishing the Panhandle Press.

We have been doing very well with Ads and Flyers in the Press. The club articles have decreased in the last couple of issues and I would like to solicit your help in increasing the number of club articles.

The second quarter issue will be published in April. Submission date for articles or ads is March 18, 2000. You can send articles to my mail address or my e-mail account; garyping@worldnet.att.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Ping, Editor

February 25, 2000

4W's Report

We are in our 35<sup>th</sup> Year. Still printing 3000 copies quarterly. The publication is provided free to all dancers.

George Oglesby Editor



#### THE GRAPEVINE

A NEFSARDA PUBLICATION

CHARLIE & VAL NEWSOME, EDITORS 12368 BRADY RD.

JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32223-2529

TEL: 904 260-9435 FAX: 904 292-2036

EMAIL: cnewsome@bellsouth.net





#### THE GRAPEVINE FLORIDA FEDERATION REPORT February 26, 2000

THE GRAPEVINE continues to print 350-360 copies each issue. The March-April issue was mailed on February 24th.

Since our last report, Dennis Ricker has graciously agreed to write the Contra articles for us. CONTRA LINES started with the January - February issue In addition, Janett Verway of the Grand Squares club in Gainesville, has agreed to write the sewing column for us. Thanks Dennis and Janet!!.

We now carry articles with information on squares, rounds, camping dancers, country, lines, clogging, and contra in each issue as well as other topics we feel would be of interest to the Square Dancer. Favorable comments have been received. Of course, we continue to publish timely information on both National & State Conventions, as well as information from or about other Associations and the Federation.

It is our goal not only to provide interesting information but also to promote the Square Dance activity

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome

Charlie & Val Newsome, Editors



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS ASSOCIATION

#### FEBRUARY 26, 2000

*Keepin' Posted* continues to struggle along with a quarterly publication that has dropped from 500 to 400 copies because the membership in our association continues to decline. This is a reflection in the number of small beginners classes or no classes at all. We used to print as many as 800 copies in the spring, many passed out to all the new members at graduation. With the dwindling numbers of graduates as well as active dancers we will cut our distribution to 400 which is the minimum number required to get bulk mail rate. Mores the pity.

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We are currently working on our last issue of *Keepin' Posted* due out in April and then we will pass it on to our successors Tom & Eivor Brown of Satellite Beach. We've had a fun time and met a lot of wonderful people during our stint as editors over the past eight years but we think its time for some new and fresh ideas and we know Tom & Eivor will provide it.

Keepin' Posted is alive and well

Respectively submitted,

George and Shirley Knapp Editors, *Keepin' Posted*  Your colorful Bow & Swing is alive and well. We're happy that not only is our circulation increasing statewide, but more and more we're drawing support from the rest of the nation.

Our recent editorials have drawn comments and been quoted on the internet. I'm not sure if this is good or bad. At least the good part is people are reading them and wondering "Is there something really in there that will help my club?"

Speaking of clubs, yes we charge for our Where To Dance Listings. This accomplishes two purposes: It helps support the magazine and it assures that if you see a club listed they should currently be dancing. (Not always the case as some clubs stop mid season or close during the year, but pretty close). We are currently sending at least one club copy to everyone we have a contact for whether or not they are listed in the magazine.

As always, if we are notified in time, all charity events will receive free advertising. Club news is always entered free, but we may have to edit some of the content. This is probably a good time to mention graduating classes are entitled to and should receive free copies of Bow & Swing.

Photographs are especially welcome. Though I see many people are chickening out and including captions when they send in photographs. Bow & Swing of course can be views on the web at "bow-n-swing.com" and we accept email (or I should say Randy does)

at "rgb@gdi.net".

Respectfully submitted Bill Boyd Bow & Swing

News hetters: If your club is closed sodionally het as know so instant of saying "No Noors this Moth."

We can say "close from til"

#### 2000 Convention 46<sup>th</sup> Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

"Dancing's the Rage in the New Age"

Everything seems to be falling in place. Committees are busy and everyone's working hard fulfilling their obligations.

We're going to do something a little different on Friday night. We're going to begin out 2000 celebration in the Arena at 7:30. When someone asks you to dance please join in the fun.

All halls will be closed until 8:00 pm. In the arena we'll have signs designating the five associations and ushers to escort you to your section. The main reason for this is so you can watch the entertainment on Saturday and not be lined up in the hallways. Each associations will be seated together and ready to participate in the Grand March. We think this is a great idea and want to thank Randy Poole for suggesting it.

Now for the Convention:

We are so happy the cloggers are joining us. They are going to have something going on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon in the Arena. Drop by and watch them do their thing. Remember the vendors are there so please support them.

(lecorations)

We are going to add a removable callers time schedule in the program book. This will have each caller listed by name and his dance hall schedule. For the Willeman

For example: Art Springer

Plus Hall

8:40

Advanced Hall

9:10

Etc.

It should make it easier for you to find your caller.

There will be an amateur caller segment hosted by our Caller Coordinator, Eddie Milan and myself. I thought it would be fun to call at a state convention. Please contact Eddie or myself if you want to participate. The only requirements are 1 or 2 records and a square of dancers.

Anita Taylor is our Sewing Clinic Chairman. Her committee has been very busy making dresses, patterns, and goodies. She promises a great clinic.

Linda Riggs is in charge of the fashion show and it promises to be a glimpse of history you won't forget. Lots of fun and good entertainment.

#### What's Happening!

Registration forms, once found, are available again. If you need more contact Val Newsome.

Registration is a little over 600. We always worry about expenses but we will remain confident that with your support the registrations will rise to 1,800. Ribbons at the door will cost \$20.00.

Please promote the convention in your clubs as much as possible. Do you have the traveling banner? Has it been to all the clubs in your association? Don't forget to get signatures on it and bring it to the convention so we can put it on display.

One of our fund raisers are t-shirts and golf shirts. Bonnye and I will be selling them after the meeting and at the dance tonight. We will take orders when the shirts run out. \$12.00 for the t-shirts and \$17.00 for the golf shirts. Sparkles are free.

So in closing, come join us bring in the year 2000 and help make "Dancing's the Rage in the New Age".

Respectfully,

Don and Bonnye Bell Chairman

Settinger Sellinger

## Southeast Florida Square and Round Dance Assn. Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention February 26, 2000

As of this date the convention center is set. The hotels have been contacted and all is right with them. The Kick-off is planned and taking shape, as I have planned. (You realize that it is great planning that makes things work.) Actually it is the great people that we have working for us that make these things work. My committee is busy working on the decorations that will be needed, the Style Show, the Hall Assignments and everything else that is necessary to put on a great convention. Our registration form is almost finished and we will have that to the printer the first part of April. Our decorations chairman did some checking and they were able to talk the South Florida Fair into giving us some of the decorations that the fair had used. Stroke of luck to get this. All of the dancers are looking forward to the kick-off and to the convention.

Fred and Carolyn Chatos General Chairman 47 State Square and Round Dance Convention

#### 2002 REPORT by Fred & Shirley Cornett

Florida Federation of Square Dancers February 26, 2000

We have now received our \$3500 in loans from the Coordinating Committee.

The kickoff theme and dress has been selected. We have had the first preliminary walk through of our kickoff presentation.

Our first benefit dance is scheduled for April 8 in Fort Walton Beach. We anticipate a great crowd, super skits and outstanding homemade pies and ice cream. Y'all come!

The contract for the Lakeland Center has been reviewed and will be signed by mid April of this year.

Our planning continues at a steady pace. We are glad to have at our disposal so many folks with so much knowledge about putting on the convention. If we haven't already spoken with you about some of our questions, please be assured that we will.

Date: February 25, 2000

Submitted to: The Florida Federation of Square and Round Dancers

Submitted by: Ken and Sue Brown, General Chairman

Subject: Florida State Convention - 2003

Our advisors primary responsibility is to pull in the reins so we will wait patiently for selection of themes and décor for the 2003 Florida State Convention.

At this time we have only two committees without a chairman. We hope to have these positions filled before May.

A meeting of all chairman and their assistants is planned for the Saturday during the State Convention. The primary purpose of this gathering will be Ways and Means. Time and place will be announced in April.

#### HALL OF FAME

February 26, 2000

The Hall of Fame Committee has met twice in 2000.

We have reviewed the resumes presented and are now in the process of sending our findings to the Selection Committee.

AT our January meeting we voted on a new rule in regards to resumes being presented more than once. In the future, a second resume can be presented only after a five (5) year lapse of time.

In November I mailed to each Association President a letter offering to attend one of their board meetings to explain how the Hall of Fame functions. I make that offer once again, if there are still questions.

We will be meeting in the early fall to review our pamplet and prepare information for the upcoming officers. By contacting the assication presidents and the presidents of the Callers Association and Round Dance Council, in the fall each year, we hope to keep everyone informed.

Submitted,

Mary Butlak, Chairman Hall of Fame Committee

#### USDA REPORT by Paul and Marie McClain

Setting goals is one of the ways successful people achieve what they want to do in life. Our U.S.D.A. presidents Bill and Bobbie Shepard have set some goals this year for the U.S.D.A. Their goals should be our goals.

1. They would like to reach the goal of 40 states with square dancing as the official State Folk Dance. Jack and Zonie

will probably have more to say about this.

2. Second goal is to have at least 3 or 4 states affiliate with U.S.D.A. not all states are members of U.S.D.A. We hope that in the next few years that all states will join us and enjoy all the benefits we have to offer through U.S.D.A.

3. Third goals is to enlist more people in the square dance activity. This is the biggest challenge, today, in square dancing. This is something that all of us can help with. The answer to this problem or the way to meet this goal is to RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT!!I'm sure some of our committees will address this problem this afternoon.

This is the U.S.D.A. news . If you would like to submit something for print, just send your articles or notices by:

- 1. The U.S. mail
- 2. To their FAX
- 3. To their e-mail

Thought you might like to know that out of 23 officers and committee chairmen in the U.S.D.A., that seven of these offices are held by people from Florida. Would all of you who hold office or chair a committee in the U.S.D.A. please stand? Thank you.

Marie McClain

#### USDA INSURANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 25-26, 2000

Total Dancers Enrolled as of 02/01/2000

3,704

1999 Total Enrollment

4,916

If Florida Federation is to reach or equal last year - 1,212 ADDITIONAL Dancers must be enrolled.

The Federation Insurance Fund is barely 'holding it's own'. Projecting the increased cost of "Doing Business" (postage, printing, fax, and the \$100.00 contribution to the FFSD in May) the FFSD Insurance Funds will decrease to or just below \$1,300.00 Operating Fund.

Duke and Doris McCleskey FFSD Insurance Chairmen

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36 Chattahoochee RecHall	0 2	34 TallahasseeSrCitCen	113 SrCitCen ?		0 Dance Unlimited Kendall FL		0 LakewoodPkVillage	506 Various Locations (Additional)	0 DavidParkRecCen Hollywood	0 Various locations	0 Stuart RecCenter	0 Greenacres CommHall	0 Women's Club of Stuart	0 Pembroke Pines Comm Center		0 Brandon Community Center	0 BeverlyHillsRecCen Beverly Hills	0 MulberryCivCen Mulberry	0 Lee Plantation Ctr	0 0	0 Greenbriar Club Inc		0 E. Citrus ComCen Inverness	-	80 Danceland StPaulUMC Clearwater	_		0 First United Methodist Church	0 Dunnellon Middle School Cafe		<ol> <li>S. Venice CivCen Venice</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Cordelia B. Hunt RecCen</li> </ol>	0 Bonita Springs Rec Bldg	
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4	23	25	26		0	101	64	322	18	0	0	0	0	0		34	61	92	46	32	27	0	35	141	115	130	0	80	26	83	62	104	0	
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Three River Twirlers	- Wakulla Squares	Whirlaways Sq Dance Club	Sunshine Cloggers		AL-A-Mand Leftovers	Castoff Square Dance Club	Sandy Shoe Steppers	Southeast SRDA (Assoc)	Top Cats Sq Dance Club	Southeast Callers Assoc &Wives	Suncats Squares	Road Runners SqDanceClub	Sailfish Squares	Westernaires		Bay Area Twirlers	Beverly Hillbillies Squares	Buttons & Bows	C-Gulls of Ft Meyers	Colony Cone Strutters	Greenbriar Twirlers	Hampton Promenaders	Inverness Squares	Kriss Kross Squares	Left Allamanders	OK Squares	Promenade Squares	Rainbow Squares	Riverlanders	Spinning Wheels	Suncoast Challengers	Temple Twirlers	Twilight Twirlers	

#### National Folk Dance Committee

February 24, 2000

During the winter meeting of (USDA) at Charleston, SC there was much discussion regarding the bill HJR #60 that is currently in the House Committee on Government Reform. The Executive Board of the United Square Dancers of America feels that getting the Bill out of Committee would require a concerted effort by all the Affiliates. The Bill was introduced to the United States House of Representatives by Mr. Jim Saxton of New Jersey. It was then assigned to the Committee on Government Reform. It is still in Committee!

We propose that all square dance members of the Affiliates write their State Representatives, urging their Representatives to contact the House Committee on Government Reform to bring the Bill to the floor of the House and vote for its approval. We believe that this effort is required if Square Dancers want **SQUARE DANCE** to be our National Folk Dance.

There are several ways that this can be accomplished.

First: We have copies of a sample petition that can be sent to your state

Representative requesting his help.

Second: The web site <www.house.gov> will get you to the main web site for the House of Representatives. You can use this address to find all the names and addresses of your Representatives. You can call or write requesting his help.

Third: You can e-mail your Representative by using the address <a href="https://www.house.gov/writerep/">www.house.gov/writerep/</a> Using this address if very easy, you enter your name and address and your zip code and the web address of your Representative comes up and you can write your message.

The United Square Dancers of America believe that if we make a blitz campaign of our Representatives that we may get the Bill out of committee and to the floor of the

house for a vote.

We are requesting that all Dancers in Florida take this opportunity to support the effort to make "Square Dance" out National Folk Dance.

Jack and Zonie Taylor

Chairman, National Folk Dance Committee

United Square Dancers of America

enclosure: sample petition

February 10, 2000
The Honorable
Dear Congressman,  We are writing you for your support in getting HJR #60 out of the Committee on Government Affairs. We would appreciate it if you would contact the cognizant Committee members and ask that they bring the Bill to the Floor during this Congressional Term. Once the Bill is brought to the House floor we would appreciate it if you would cast your vote in favor of the Bill.  "Square Dance" is a generic term that includes but not limited to: Round Dancing, Contra Dancing, Line Dancing, English Country Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing and
Polka.  Presently we have thirty-one States that have adopted Square Dance as the State Folk Dance. We would consider it an honor to have it passed as the "National Folk Dance". "Square Dance" is a family activity that is enjoyed by young, old and the "Handicapable" in these United States. It also encompasses the many ethnic groups that have made these United States so great.
Sincerely,
Signed

#### Florida Historian Report

February 24, 2000

As Florida Historian it is with sadness that we have to report on Don Armstrong. He is very seriously ill and we have had reports that he is terminal. He has been moved to Missouri and reports from his daughter and wife Marie are not encouraging. Please keep him in your prayers.

A little information about Don. He was very instrumental in the square dance movement in Florida. He was the General Chairman of the 1953 and 1954 State Square Dance Conventions. He was the first President of the Florida Callers Association in 1952. He and Marie were inducted into the Florida Hall of Fame in 1984, the second year the Hall of Fame was instituted.

He called and conducted seminars in many countries throughout the world. He was active in the Lloyd Shaw Foundation, writing and teaching. He produced many records with his band and had a square dance hall on the west side of Florida. Since we have known him and Marie, he has been involved primarily in teaching Contra and leaders for Contra. It was my privilege to have attended quite a few of these classes and seminars.

Don was a test pilot during the 1940's and worked with the Canadian Air Force as well as testing experimental aircraft in the United States. He has written several books on his experiences as a test pilot. I will now read some excerpts of the letter he sent us for our history.

Continuing, the History of the Florida Federation is going very well as long as I don't aggravate Zonie and she keeps busy.

Respectfully Submitted

Jack and Zonie Taylor

Historian, Florida Federation

cc: Armstrong's Letter



Don Armstrong's career in social recreational and dance started in 1937 in upper New York State. He danced, taught and called square dances and contra dances, as well as international folk dances, thruout the Northeastern United States and Texas until the onset of World War II. In the early 1940's, while serving as the senior engineering test pilot for the Royal Canadian Air Force, and for the next twelve years during his impressive career as an experimental and prototype test pilot in the U.S., Don danced whenever opportunities presented themselves in virtually every section of the U.S. and Canada. Subsequently, Don became professionally involved in social recreation, square and folk dancing as a teacher and caller. He was among the very first group of "traveling callers" and has probably brought American dance to more foreign countries than any other leader in the world today.

He has called, conducted seminars, or held workshops in all of the United States, six Canadian provinces, England, Scotland, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Morocco, South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya, Iran, Pakistan, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, and several of the Caribbean Islands. In addition, he has visited 46 other countries, including Russia, China, Burma, Israel, Afghanistan, Italy, Egypt and Nepal, traveling with American dancing tour groups.

In 1953 he started making records, using his own orchestra, and has since choroegraphed and recorded squares, rounds, quadrilles, contras, folk dances and childrens dances, totalling well over 200 recordings, for the Windsor, Folk Dancer, Pairs & Squares, American Square Dance Society, Grenn, MacGregor, 4 Bar B companies and the Lloyd Shaw Foundation. On many of the records he is heard as a musician as well as the caller.

For several years in the 1950's, Don served as the Social Recreation Consultant for the Recreation Department of the City of Tampa, Florida. In that position he was personally responsible for all of the dance activities for all age levels and conducting the majority of the in-service seminars for their staff. Specialists trained by him were the nucleus of the leaders conducting recreation programs for all age groups, including the widely acclaimed programs for senior citizens. He also founded the Florida Square and Folk Dance Callers and Teachers Association and oganized and directed the first State Folk and Square Dance Festival in Florida.

He was a consultant for the production of the educational film on dance, "A Visible Anthem," produced by the Walsh and Fleming Foundations, and both the writer and narrator of a second film outlining the activities of the Educational Guidance Committee of the Lloyd Shaw Foundation. He did an hour-long documentary for Scottish Television, Ltd. in Glasgow, Scotland, and has made many appearances on television through the United States and Canada.

Altho Don found time to build and operate a Radio Station in Florida, a flying service in the Cayman Islands, have a business interest in Costa Rica, and maintain an avid enthusiam for hunting and fishing in the Southwestern United States, he has become deeply involved with dance in education, concentrating on teacher training, methods courses, writing manuals, and producing kits, books and records designed to introduce and encourage dancing from pre-school age thruout active adult life.

He regularly serves on the teaching staff for short courses, inservice training sessions and seminars offering both under-graduate and post-graduate credit at colleges and universities thruout the U.S. These include the Univ. of Florida, Emory Univ., Southern Mississippi, Univ. of Minnesota, Pennsylvania State, Univ. of Albuquerque, Colorado State, Univ. of Tampa, Central Michigan Univ., Berea College, Univ. of Wisconsin, Greensboro College and Midway College. During 1972-73, he instructed, full time, on the faculty of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department of the University of New Mexico.

Along with Henry Ford, Dr. Lloyd Shaw, Ralph Page, and many others, Don is vitally interested in the rivival of the "traditional" American dance and has written many articles for nationally internationally circulated dance and recreation publications. He was, for many years, the Contra Editor of "Square Dancing", the publication of the American Square Dance Society. His book, Caller/Teacher Manual for Contras" has been an outstanding addition to the reference material in this field and is internationally acknowledged as the most comprehensive and difinitive work on American Contra Dance. His Contra recordings, especially on Lloyd Shaw Foundation label, have been one of the major reasons for the expansion and appreciation of contra dance here and abroad. Many of these recordings, by agreement with the Lloyd Shaw Foundation, have been re-pressed in both Belgium and Germany and are in wide use in Europe. His guidance and expertise have proved invaluable in the revision and reprinting of the educational manuals published by the Lloyd Shaw Foundation for school age children, teens, adults, seniors, and the "special populations" - the handicapped, hearing impaired, blind, and/or retarded citizens.

Don was inducted into the Square Dance Hall of Fame in 1970, was one of the founding members of Callerlab, the International Association of Square Dance Callers, and, in 1981, received their highest honor, "The Milestone Award". He has served the Lloyd Shaw Foundation as a founding member, the first President, has been on the Board of Directors since inception in 1964, and was presented with the "Silver Boot Award" in 1987. He has dedicated a large portion of his adult life to the preservation and extension of the art of American dance and is regarded by his associates as a keen researcher, an exceptionally talented teacher, and devoted to sharing his knowledge in as many ways as he possibly can. Don Armstrong — his contributions to dance and recreation are both considerable and very significant!

INPUCTED TO FLORIDA SPUARE-ROUND DANCE HALL OF FAME ON MAY 26, 1984 We have received correspondence from ASCAP that the dues for this organization will increase 2.56% or an increase to \$.06 per attendee. BMI has not increased and after credit of \$100.00 for this years dues we still have \$133.20 left in our account.

Dave and Shirley Nihart

#### Old Business -

The web page updates will be handled by the Federation Secretary and must be recieve by November 15 each year. All updates coming from any other source will be paid for by that individual or association.

Bruce suggested that we ask that the pages be consistent fonts, etc.

Howard Hayes suggested that we contact Tom about getting the House Bill information out on the web.

Please get any changes or additions for brochures that are available at the welcome stations to the Parlimentarian this weekend.

#### New Business -

President Hockman named Charlie and Val Newsome as delegates to the U.S.D.A.

Murl Herbert will chair a committee to update the by-laws, constitution, etc. by next November. Please help if you are asked. Frank and Nan Habersberger will chair the nominating committee,

rest of committee to be names later.

Don Slocum made a motion that the Federation purchase badges with the five associations names for a \$1 apiece and sell them to each association, second by Maurice Ritter. Passed.

Committee assignments were read by Jerri Hockman. Colleen Morgan will chair the "Fun at the Federation" committee. They will meet at the pool after all the other meetings, no maybe sometime – final agreement – at the dance  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before the dance tonight.

Meeting adjourned.