

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2002, LAKELAND, FLORIDA**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by the President, Ken Brasfield. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Stewart gave the Invocation. Shirley Cornett called the roll and stated a quorum in attendance.

Ken welcomed the visitors and guests.

Ken mentioned that we need to remember Betty Lee Talmadge on the death of her husband, Bill. Both Maurice Ritter and Don Bell are ill. Jack Taylor's sister is terminally ill.

The minutes of the May 26, 2002 meeting were amended under Old Business to reflect that the first item of Old Business – not New Business – at the November meeting will be the election of the incoming officers. The minutes were approved as amended.

TREASURER REPORT: Carole McKenzie reported that as of May 26, 2002 the Checking Account balance was \$4480.49. We received \$2278.77 from the 2002 State Convention. Total receipts for the period of May 26 - November 10, 2002 was \$2294.42. Disbursements included \$392.12 for 2002 NSDC Giveaways, \$637.72 to Florida Welcome Stations, \$521 printing the Square Up brochures, \$100 USDA dues, \$24 to the Historian, and \$24 for Website Fee. Disbursements totaled \$1687.36. As of November 10, 2002 the Checking Account balance is \$5087.55, the Contingency fund balance is \$4000, the Insurance Account balance is \$1565.53. Total all accounts is \$10,653.08. the report is filed for audit.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS: See attached reports.

PUBLICATION REPORTS: See attached reports.

At the National Convention in Minnesota in June, two Florida publications won awards. *The Grapevine* (Charlie & Val Newsome) won second place in the nation for Overall Publication and the *Bow & Swing* (Bill Boyd) won Best Design/Most Creative Design in the nation. Congratulations to the editors of both these publications.

NEW STATE ATTIRE: See attached reports for Criteria for Selection and a full description of each entry. Voting was done by secret ballot. The new Florida Federation dress for the ladies is made of a slate blue embroidery border material. The men will wear grey slacks or jeans, white long sleeve, western style shirt, black shoes or boots, and a tie made from the same fabric as the ladies dress.

STATE CONVENTION REPORTS: See attached reports.

After Bruce Morgan, General Chairman for the 50th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention, gave his report a motion was made and carried that the Federation donate \$200 to the Pensacola Special Steppers to help them attend the 50th State Convention.

NEC REPORT: No report.

FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME REPORT: See attached report.

HISTORY REPORT: See attached report.

U.S.D.A.: See attached report.

ASCAP/BMI: No report.

U.S.D.A. INSURANCE FINANCIAL REPORT: As an addition to the USDA report presented by Charlie & Val Newsome, Duke stated that the USDA represents approximately 300,000 U.S. dancers.

The following is an accounting of the checking account for the USDA Insurance monies: Balance Forward as of 05/01/02 – \$1601.31; receipts thru 11/01/02 – \$651.42. Total – \$2265.53. Disbursements (to insurance company) since 05/01/02 – \$687.20. Balance as of 11/01/02 – \$1565.53.

Respectfully submitted,

Duke & Doris McCleskey, FFSD INSURANCE CHAIRMAN

AMERICAN FOLK DANCE REPORT: The mid-year meeting of the American Folk Dance Executive Committee will be held in January in Washington, DC. We will lobby the new Congress regarding designating American Folk Dance as the official Folk Dance of America. We will devote a special day to lobbying and hope to dance on Capital Steps if at all possible.

The US Arts Council was strongly opposed to our request to have Square Dance named the national dance. They believe that we will request Federal funding and perhaps cut into their funds. They have been assured that we are not and will not request funding. It appears that their objections have been withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Duke & Doris McCluskey, AMERICAN FOLK DANCE CHAIRMAN

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: See attached report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Everyone is invited to the 50th Anniversary Dance for the Buttons and Bows on November 23.
- West Coast did a demo for a 4-H group. As a result, they got two squares of teen agers who requested lessons. This is an idea that some other clubs might want to look into in order to encourage young people to square dance.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Nominating Committee of Dee Dee Stoval, Jim McConnaha and Murl Herbert offer the following slate of officers for the Florida Federation of Square Dancers for the year 2003:

President – George and Shirley Knapp; Vice President – Fred and Shirley Cornett; Secretary – Garland and Carole McKenzie; Treasurer – Jack and Kathy McKinney.

The position of Parliamentarian was particularly difficult for the committee as there were two well qualified couples eligible for this nomination. Both couples submitted square dancing resumes and a cover letter outlining their interest in the position. The committee wants to thank both couples for their interest and efforts.

The nominee for parliamentarian selected by this committee is:

Ken and Sue Brown

Respectfully submitted,

Murl Herbert, CHAIRMAN

The slate of officers presented to the Federation by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected by the delegates.

NEW BUSINESS: New Dancer handbooks are now available. Get them from Ken & Sandy Brasfield after the meeting.

A motion was made and carried to donate \$200 to the Pensacola Special Steppers Travel Fund to assist them in attending the 50th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Charlie and Gladys Phillips installed the new officers.

PRESENTATIONS: Ken and Sandy Brasfield, Outgoing President, were presented with a gift from the Federation. George also expressed the gratitude of the entire Federation for the outstanding job Ken and Sandy have done during their tenure on the Board.

George and Shirley Knapp were presented with household items to help replace some of the items they lost when their home flooded during the summer.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2003 AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN IN ORLANDO.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred & Shirley Cornett, SECRETARY

CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCERS ASSOCIATION

The Presidents Ball, held 31 August at Whirl & Twirl in Orlando was a big success with Danny Robinson calling and Phyllis Williams cueing. Prior to the dance we held our general meeting and election of officers, this was followed by a pot luck. Our new officers are. President, Dan & Anna Foust, Vice President, Jack & Barbara Hoffman, Treasure, Donna & Dewey Hendricks, Secretary, Ailene Picheco.

Delegates to the Federation are: Jack & Barbara Hoffman, Randy & Carol Poole, Jim & Jan McConnaha, Alternate Delegates are Don & Sharon Smith. Our representative on the Federation Board, George & Shirley Knapp and CFA President Dan & Anna Foust are automatically delegates.

The Central Florida Association has been hard at work preparing for the 2004 convention Kickoff. We had our first practice at the PICNIC in the PARK, October 4 & 5, I am sure Bruce Morgan will tell us about this fund raising event in his convention report.

The Shamrock Swing will be held on 14 & 15 March 2003 at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church in Orlando. Tim Marriner & Whit Brown will be calling. Jimmy & Carol Griffin will be cueing. General Chairman for this event are Randy & Carol Poole.

Our next 5th Saturday dance will be November 30 2002 at City Island Recreation Center Daytona Beach John Saunders & Phyllis Williams will be sharing the stage.

The schedule for this coming year is a full one, but will be a lot of fun, CFA has a great bunch of workers and Anna & I are looking forward to a successful year.

Dan & Anna Foust, CFA PRESIDENT

NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Good Morning. I am Cheryl Miller – one-half of the newly elected Presidential team of NWFSRDA. We are happy to be representing our area's Square and Round dancers.

At the NWFSRDA 28th Annual Roundup on October 26, 2002 held in DeFuniak Springs, the newly elected officers took office. They are: Vice President, Rodney Ryals, member of NWFSRDA, DeFuniak Springs; Secretary, Mary Hamilton, member of Canoe Squares, Milton and Treasurer, Dave Henn, Pensacola Twirlers, Pensacola.

We were pleased to have special guests attending our dance. Ken & Sandy Brasfield, President, Florida Federation of Square & Round Dancers; Jack & Zonie Taylor, Regional Vice President of USDA and Ken & Sue Brown, West Coast Square & Round Dancers' Association 49th State Convention General Chairman. The Brown's were busy selling items promoting the 49th State Convention and were kind enough to donate a ribbon to be given away as a 50/50 consolation prize. We thank them.

Joe and Joy Vaccari awarded the circle of Service to Fred & Shirley Cornett, Tom & Shirley Constable and Jack & Pat Lorusso for their outstanding work and dedication to the square and round dance community. We are honored to have these couples in our area.

Paul & Cheryl Miller, NWFSRDA PRESIDENT

NORTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

THE YEAR 2002 HAS BEEN A VERY ACTIVE ONE FOR THE NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION. WE PRESENT EACH CLUB THAT GRADUATES AT LEAST ONE SQUARE WITH A 100.00\$ REWARD AND WITH TWO SQUARES OR MORE WITH 200.00\$. WE VISIT THE CLUB ALONG WITH CHARLIE AND VAL NEWSOME AND PRESENT THEM WITH THEIR APPROPRIATE AWARD AND COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE AND OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SQUARE DANCING. WE ALSO ATTENDED MOST OF THE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES DURING THE YEAR AND ENJOYED MANY SPECIAL AND OTHER CHARITY DANCES.

THE GATEWAY CALLERS ASSOCIATION ASKED US TO HELP THEM ADVERTISE FOR NEW DANCERS THIS FALL AND EACH OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS POOLED \$1000 TO MAKE SIGNS, FLIERS AND OTHER HANDOUT TRACTS TO ADVERTISE THE CLASSES. WE HAD EIGHT CLUBS, ONE ADVANCED CLUB AND ONE ROUND DANCE WITH BEGINNING CLASSES WITH OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTENDING. ROUND DANCING HAS BECOME POPULAR AGAIN IN NORTH FLORIDA WITH LISA NOE AND JIM WINTER DOING THE CUEING. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE DANCERS STARTING CLASSES WILL CONTINUE SINCE THEY SEEM TO BE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS. THE FIRST HOEDOWN FOR NEW DANCERS SPONSORED BY THE GATEWAY CALLERS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 7, 2002 AND THAT WILL BE A GOOD INDICATION AS TO HOW THEY ARE DOING.

WE ARE NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL WHICH THIS YEAR WILL BE A FIESTA CHAIRED BY SENOR MANNY GONZALES AND HIS LOVELY SENORITA SHERRY. WE INVITE EACH OF YOU TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL EVENT.

WE HAVE ALSO HAD MANY SAD OCCASIONS DURING THE YEAR WHEN WE HAVE LOST SEVERAL OF OUR MORE ACTIVE AND LOYAL DANCERS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF KNOWING AND LOVING THEM AND PRAY FOR SOLACE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

WE CONTINUE WITH THE SAME DELEGATES TO THE FEDERATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE FEDERATION IN THE YEAR 2003.

JOE AND MARTHA HARDCASTLE, NEFSRDA PRESIDENT

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

As this our first report to this austere assemblage, we know you will excuse our omissions and foopahs. Our new board was duly installed a month late due to scheduling problems, but we acted in our roles anyway. We presently have an acting Vice president and are actively seeking a permanent take for this illustrious position.

The members board are: President – Ken & Su Brown; Vice President – Ray Huddleston; Treasurer – Stan & Elaine Wyler; Secretary – Faith Block.

We are finding that many of the halls are no longer available to us due to closing on Sunday, cost, or whatever. We would like to put out a request for ideas from those present as to how they are handling this problem. Please see one of us after the meeting. Thanks.

The SEA is working hard to help the callers fill their new classes. This is a difficult task as takers are few and far between. Speaking of callers, Harry Taylor, one of our area favorites, is battling lung cancer and we all praying for his recovery. He has undergone some chemo and radiation treatment and the last word we had is that he is in a partial remission.

We continue to have our monthly association dances, which are looked forward to by one and all as these have become theme dances in the last couple years and the dancers seem to enjoy this. In September we had a “pie dance” where we auctioned off pies brought in by the dancers. One of the highlights of this was to see the auctioneer receive a lemon meringue pie in the face. A supporter of the association agreed to an inflated price for this particular pie if he could “resents” it to the auctioneer. Being the good sport his is, Bobie Hutcheson agreed. This dance was financially successful, as was our second annual petticoat raffle that just so happened to fall at the same time. We had our Past Presidents dance in October. We were pleased to be able to present roses to our attending past presidents. We regret though that through illness, death, or moving out of the area, we only had a handful attend. The dancer however, was well attended by the membership. We will be having our annual cookie dance in conjunction with our charity toy drive at our December dance to be held at Stuart Rec Center, Stuart, hosted by the Suncats. This year our annual picnic, January 5, 2002, will be held in a new location – Wellington at Tiger Shark Cove Park. We invite one and all to join us. Attendees will bring a covered dish. Hotdogs will all the trimmings will be available.

We invite all of you present and your dancers to attend our fundraiser dancier, January 18, 2003. This is our annual SNOWFLAKE FROLIC and will be held in the Boynton Beach Civic Center. This promises to be a fun dance and we will gladly assist one and all in securing local motel accommodations if you need them.

Ken & Su Brown, SEA PRESIDENT

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION

The West Coast Association installed their new officers at the President's Dance on September 29, at Strawberry Squares Hall in Plant City. The new officers are as follows: President - Bob & Jennie Courier, Vice President - Harriet Boggi, Treasurer - Jane Dent, Secretary - Fred & Jan Smith.

We held our first dance of the new season on October 27, at Seminole Recreation Center, in Seminole. In spite of the Buc's playing, we had 11+ squares in attendance. Of course as you all know, we had our second major function this weekend our Fall Fun Fest. We would like to thank the entire Fall Fun Fest Committee, and especially Ken & Sue Brown, chairpersons for the great job they did in providing this event. Much hard work and effort went into making this a successful weekend.

Something we have noticed recently is that there appears to be a lack of etiquette on the part of some of the dancers. We have recently started addressing some of these issues in our West Coast Dancer publication, and plan on continuing to do so. We strongly believe that there is a need to keep our dancers informed and to attempt to make them aware of some of the things that make square dancing such a wonderful hobby.

We would like to invite the rest of our counterparts in the other four associations, Northwest, Northeast, Central and Southeast to join us in this effort. We believe the more we can help our dancers and support them, the more they will give to square dancing.

Our next West Coast dance is scheduled for Sunday, December 8, in Estero. Of course the next major event for the West Coast Association is the State Convention on May 23, 24, & 25. Chairpersons Ken & Sue Brown will be giving a report a bit later. However, we would like to remind all of you that the theme is “Folk

Dance the Key in 2003," and we need all of you to promote and support the state convention. Thank you.
Bob & Jennie Courier, WCA PRESIDENT

KEEPIN' POSTED – No Report

PANHANDLE PRESS – No Report

4W's REPORT

On Monday we took our next to last issue to the printer. We have notified the Dancer Association and the Caller-Cuer Association that we plan to give up publishing the paper with the next issue. We have asked them to actively seek a new editor if they wish to continue having a Southeast Publication. We have had one inquiry so far.

When we took over the paper almost 3 years ago, we only did it to help George Oglesby. At the time George's health was starting to really fail and I told Garland that I would keep the publication going until he passed. Last year we asked for someone to take over but got little response.

Hopefully, the people that spoke to us this week will decide to become the new editors and we will be able to introduce them at the working weekend.

Respectfully submitted,

Garland & Carole McKenzie, Editors

THE GRAPEVINE REPORT

Since our last report to you, we attended the National Convention in Saint Paul, MN, and renewed several acquaintances in the "publication" business, as well as meeting several new editors.

After a lull in July and part of August, things picked up and we started getting information about all the classes which would be beginning in September. We ran a complete list of information on classes in both the September and November issues, and plan to do so in the next issue. Some of our readers had asked if we could include the class information in each issue since some classes change. We have been happy to oblige.

We covered the presentation of the Proclamation of September as National Square Dance Month from the Mayor of Jacksonville. The picture of the proclamation being presented to the NEFSARDA president ran in the November issue, along with copies of both the City and State Proclamations.

Our goal has been to keep the quality of our publication up, and to keep our dancing readers informed of all aspects of square dancing. We, therefore, researched all the material we could find on lessons, retention of dancers, responsibility of angels, how to treat new class members, etc. and presented them in the last issue of The Grapevine- We were delighted to receive so many positive comments on the articles.

The November issue was the largest ever printed and we continue to print approximately 325 copies. We have been the editors of The Grapevine since August of 1994 and continue to solicit information promoting the square dance activity from any source. We hope to be able to continue the current spirit of cooperation with the other Florida editors for many years to come. If you have newsworthy articles about our activity, let us hear from you.
Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome

WEST COAST DANCER – No Report

BOW & SWING

We are alive, well and working to promote our product. Understand, our product means everyone in the room. We strive to promote FUN. For the past year, over half of our editorials were written to tell dancers, callers and cuers we are selling FUN. Square dancing is our method of achieving that end – FUN.

Our circulation is growing and we have several out-of-state subscribers.

We appreciate your photographs. Send captions with your pictures—or take your chances.

Our e-mail is RGOYD@earthlink.net. We accept newsletters and photos. I should say, Randy does. I still rely on snail mail and paper.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Boyd, EDITOR

NEW STATE ATTIRE

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

- Availability (which will include): Pattern; Fabric; Accessories (Men's pants, Ladies petticoats and pettipants, Men's & Ladies shoes and Men's belt and tie)
- Simplicity of Construction
- Flattering- Consideration should be given to the wide range of figures, coloration & maturity
- Comfort; Wear ability; Care; and Timeliness
- Reflective of Florida (This point was further defined to include a choice which would be colorful, unique, and one which would stand out in a crowd.)
- The Style and Design of the dress to include alternatives for a short, Square and Round Dance version and a long or Prairie version. The pattern should be adaptable to both a dress or skirt and blouse with little difference to be obvious in the overall appearance.

The observations below will be considered in the final choice as well:

- From the LADIES POINT of VIEW: The colors which are least favored include; 1. Yellow, 2. Orange, and 3. Red. In that order.
- Shoe preference: 1. White and 2. Black
- Petticoats and Pettipants preference; 1. White and 2. Black
The last two points reflect the views of newer dancers who have not yet accumulated a wide variety of these items.
- From the MEN'S POINT of VIEW: The colors which are least favored include: 1. Pink, and 2. Purple.
A negative view of White pants seemed to be noted as well.
- Shoe preference; 1. Black
- Belt preference: 1. Black and 2. White

Ballot For Selection of the Florida Federation Dress

(Check One)

- 1 - Black 8 gore dress or skirt and blouse/pastel ruffles
- 2 - Seashell print dress or skirt and blouse/ combined with turquoise
- 3 - Soft blue dress or skirt and blouse/pastel scallops
- 4 - Gingham pastel check pinafore/applique trim
- 5 - Multi pastel 12 gore dress or skirt and blouse
- 6a - Slate blue embroidery border dress or skirt and blouse
- 6b - Turquoise embroidery/style as 6a

48th FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION

Our convention was held on May 24-26, 2002. We had 1198 paid attendees and 54 visitors.

We had a net profit of \$10,115.07. The Hall of Fame Committee was reimbursed \$750. The Federation, Caller's Association and Round Dance Council each received \$2,278.77. Northwest Association, the host, received \$2528.77.

There were no major security problems. Only one person had an accident and that was not serious enough to require medical attention.

The Lakeland Center provided excellent support to the convention.

The Callers and Cuers did a fantastic job of keeping the dancers interested and made for a fun weekend of dancing.

We want to thank all of the associations for their strong support in getting the dancers to the dance.

We wish all the succeeding conventions much success. Our hope is that your convention will be even bigger and better than ours. If that happens, we will feel that we have been successful in starting a trend toward attracting more dancers to the conventions. We need to remember that this is a state convention – not an association convention. We all need to market every convention as we do our own so that we can increase the attendance at our conventions. We will be pleased to assist any of you in any way that we can. Just let us know how we can help.

Fred & Shirley Cornett, GENERAL CHAIRMAN

49TH FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION

We find ourselves traveling a great deal, but it has been a pleasure visiting the many special dances; making new acquaintances and renewing old friendships. As we check our schedule it is quite obvious that the year has just begun. If you know of a special dance which we might not be aware of, please let us know. It is great to have so many dependable promoters on our committees. Don and Ann Slocum, Merle and JoAnn Lewis, Bert and Joyce Bueg, Penny Green and Bob and Maria Spence have all assisted in the coverage of the State of Florida.

We are delighted to welcome two newcomers to the board. As Square Dance Co-Chairmen, Bob and Shirley Barnes have agreed to assist Don and Loretta Hanhurst; and Dick and Darlene Chase have joined us as Round Dance Co-chairmen.

Emory and Joyce Johnson have provided the five association publications, in addition to the Bow and Swing, with a wealth of information. They ask that the editors offer any suggestions for ways which might assist in getting the information to the readers. They are aware of the varied printing schedules and have made every effort in meeting these deadlines.

Solicitation for the Advertising to appear in the Souvenir Program continues. It has been a great help to follow in the Footsteps of the 48th, who had the procedure down to a science, and provided us with their accurate records.

We would like to encourage you to purchase your raffle tickets for a seven and three day cruise. Flyers describing the offer are available.

We will expand our initial plans for a new dancer promotion. Our staff is to include: Tom & Dawn Perry, "WELCOME TO OUR WORLD" CHAIRMEN; Janice Coughlin, Rounds; Eric Harris, Contra; Jerry & Kathy Opela, Country Western/Lines; and Chris & Nancy Burmeister, Clogging. The schedule is as follows: Friday evening - Intro to Squares, Saturday morning - Intro to Country/ Lines, Saturday afternoon - Intro to Rounds, Saturday evening - Intro to Squares and Intro Contra and Sunday afternoon - Intro to Clogging. Sunday evening - a fun dance will be offered; using Squares, Rounds, Contra, Clogging and Country Western/Lines. The purpose for this schedule. Not only will the new dancers have an overview of the entire activity, but will provide the seasoned dancers an opportunity to explore the disciplines which they may not have previously attempted. For More Information please see our Web Page: www.floridadancing.com, or if you prefer E-mail: Tomperry@tipiproductions.com If interested, please arrange for tri-folds to hand to prospects. And then, don't just tell them, but, bring them to experience the wonderful world of square dance.

If you hate the long drive, are upset with the parking increase, or just want a chance to sit back and relax; check our tour flyers.

And once again we invite you to join us May 23, 24, 25, 2002 at the Lakeland Center to enjoy the 49th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention.

Ken & Sue Brown, GENERAL CHAIRMAN

50TH FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION

Just another 6.5 months. That is what we have left until our kick-off. We had a meeting with our whole committee at our Picnic in the Park Weekend. This was a very good meeting and a lot was decided. We went over the kick-off program for the first time with the dancers of Central Florida. We have our next 2 practices planned and I think we'll be ready for the Kick-off. While we are on the topic of the Kick-off, Colleen and I would like to throw something out to the dancers of Florida. We have been getting a few requests from the dancers of other associations to be in our Kick-off. Since this is the Golden Anniversary they would like to be included. Well, we have good news for you. We have a spot for you if you want to be included. You won't have to come to any of the practices except for the one at 7:00AM on Sunday May 25th at this upcoming State Convention. If you would like to be a part of the Kick-off for the 2004 Convention please let Colleen or I know sometime before the start of this year's convention. But it will have to be well before the start of the convention as you will have to be wearing OUR CONVENTION OUTFIT. If you still would like to be involved and would like to see the 2004 Convention outfit and purchase the dress kit and pattern you need to do it right away so as to give yourself time to get the outfit made. Colleen will have the outfit available for showing after the meeting if anybody is interested. Please take this back to your dancers and let them know that they too can be part of the 2004 kick off if they so choose.

I mentioned the Picnic in the Park Weekend. We had a great time. This was held the first weekend in October. Because of the heat we did not have the attendance that we had hope for but those that were there had a great time and we did manage to make some money. I just have to say a big thank you to the 2003 and 2006 conventions. Don & Ann Slocum from the 2003 and Garland & Carol McKenzie from the 2006 convention were in

attendance and they had a great time. They had free run of the whole weekend and everything that we discussed about our convention. We had our kick-off props there and they were able to see and hear everything. As you can see we are not keeping our theme and kick-off plans secret. We just asked them to not spread the information around. We appreciate their support of our convention and we will do all that we can to help support theirs. I propose that all future convention chairman invite all the other associations to all of the fund raisers. If we don't get the support of all the state right from the start then the conventions will soon be out of our price range. We don't want that to happen. So, let's all pitch in a help from the point that each convention committee gets started.

Our next big fund raiser will be the concession stand and silent auction at The Third Annual Shamrock Swing which will be held March 14 & 15, 2003 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church on South Blossom Trail in South Orlando. We had a lot of fun this past year and raised some well needed funds. Please come and support The Shamrock Swing and the 2004 Convention by visiting our concession stand and participating in the Silent Auction. I can tell you if you haven't purchased your ribbons for The Shamrock Swing Randy & Carol Poole surely will be glad to sell them to you today. Plus if you need a hotel for the weekend please call the Baymont Inn & Suites that is located just south of the church for your reservations. Make sure that you mention The Shamrock Swing so that you get the great price of \$48.00 per night which includes a continental breakfast. The hotel can be reached at 407-240-0500. The details can be found on the Central Association Web Site.

Mary Butlak and Donna Hendricks, our Fashion Show Co-Chairpersons, have been very busy. Some of you have probably heard from them already. Our fashion show is promising to be very exciting and you won't want to miss it. We heard from Frank & Nan Habersberger last week and they think it is a great idea. They are even going to try to come home to Florida for the 2004 Convention. The Fashion Show will showcase all the convention outfits from as many previous state conventions as we can get. We plan on having a person from the area that sponsored the convention as models for their outfit. We are also going to include the 2 National Conventions that were held here in Florida as well. As most of you know 2004 will actually be 52 years of Conventions in Florida but 2 of those years we did not have a state convention because Florida was host for the National Convention with the one in 1997 being the most recent.

Another topic where some of you have probably heard from some of our committee is about our History Room. We are trying to collect as much history about the State & National Conventions as possible so that we can showcase it all in our History Room. So when you return home today and then next few months please talk to all your dancers and see what they have stashed away and forgotten about over the years. We would love to borrow whatever they have. We will make sure that you get it back. Judy Frye is heading up this project. If you have anything that you would like to loan you can contact Judy and she will make arrangements to get it from you and see that you get it back after the convention. Judy can be reached at 321-268-4450. and her e-mail address is judyjudyindy20@juno.com. If you don't know Judy please contact me and I'll get her telephone number and address to you. We have a lot of dancers in Florida that have never been to a State or National Convention and some that have only been coming to the conventions for a few years. We believe it will be interesting to see all this stuff from past years. Once it is all on display I think some of you that have been to a large number of the conventions will also enjoy it. So let's all pitch in and get those items to Judy so that all the dancers from Florida can enjoy them.

I have been in contact with Jacqueline Johnson from the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce concerning help in printing the registration forms. She has agreed to print the registration forms free of charge. She was very glad to hear that they would contain just black ink. The color processing increases her costs tremendously and this could jeopardize this free service for future conventions. So a word of caution to future conventions, keep the printing costs for the registration forms to a minimum by using only black ink if possible.

One last thing before I let the mic go. As most of you know the Pensacola Special Steppers have been a part of the State Conventions for a long time. They don't come every year but they come as often as they can. The main reason that they don't come some years is that they attend the Handicapable Convention whenever possible. Well, in 2004 they have already committed themselves to attend the Handicapable Convention so they will not have the funds to attend the State Convention also. Personally, I think the Golden Anniversary Celebration will be lacking if the Pensacola Special Steppers are not there. Therefore, I have started a donation plan in order to collect enough money to provide all the support they will need to come. They will need approximately 14 rooms for 3 nights, a bus for the weekend, meals and other items. I haven't received an exact figure of the amount they will need but I estimate it to be around \$7,500. At the Callers meeting 2 weeks ago the callers voted to donate \$200 toward this fund. I have also collected over \$100 from other callers and dancers and I have really not publicized this as of yet. I would like to ask the Florida Federation to help with this cause and we would like to ask the 5 associations to take this back to their next board meeting and provide whatever support that you can. We would also like for all you leaders to take this back to all the clubs in your area and talk this up. Put a donation can out at every dance. I will be contacting all the callers and cuers with the same request. I really want the Special Steppers to attend this

Golden Anniversary Celebration. Please help! I have a coffee can here that I will place on the table and anybody that would like can drop money in. If we don't get enough money to bring the Special Steppers to the convention the money collected from the associations will be returned. Since this money was voted on and donated with the specific purpose of bringing the Special Steppers to the convention it is only right that this money be returned as we would not be able to use it for the purpose it was given. The money in the form of cash that cannot be identified will be donated to the Special Steppers no matter what. Let's hope that doesn't happen. We want them there! Please send all money collected to Colleen & I. Make any checks out to 50FSDC and note that it is for the Special Steppers. That way we will know what account it is to go into. None of this money will be used to fund the 2004 convention. As I said before it will go to the Special Steppers or be returned to the organization that donated it. Thanks for all your support on this matter and we hope it all works out for the best.

Bruce & Colleen Morgan, GENERAL CHAIRPERSONS

51ST FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION

Since our last report we have met with the Lakeland Convention Center on two occasions, specifically in regards to the initial contract, the down payment, and the cost of the convention services for 2005. It has been an eye opener! But, we are on track and don't foresee any problems at this point in time.

We also started our Fund Raising Campaign in earnest in September. We kicked off a Candy Sale Fund Raiser that proved to be quite profitable. Jack & Kathy McKinney headed up this fund raiser, and we intend to use it again in 2003. Immediately after that we started selling Entertainment Books, with Bud & Anita Taylor in charge. This, too, was a profitable fund raiser.

Then, on Sunday, September 29th, we held a Benefit Dance -- "Sundaes on Sunday" -- with local callers and cuers donating their time and talent. Our Caller Coordinator, Bill Chesnut, along with our Cuer Coordinator, June Leverette, did an excellent job handling the program. It was great to see all those squares on the floor throughout all the afternoon. It was nonstop dancing from 2:30-5:00 PM that Sunday Afternoon. And, we had 12 gallons of ice cream with all the trimmings for the dancers to "build their own Sundaes." We had to start running out of things in order to shorten the line!! An additional event during the afternoon was our "Silent Auction." Clubs, and dancers, donated theme baskets, gift certificates, and other items for everyone to bid on. It was such fun seeing who could outbid who at the last minute and capture the prize! Those three events took very little effort and have raised over \$1800.00. We now have three more fund raisers already lined up to start after the holidays. We are delighted with the response from the Northeast and we think that means the dancers, callers and cuers in NEFSARDA are promising to help bring a successful and fun convention to the State in 2005.

The seed money has been received from the Coordinating Committee.

We also attended, at the request of our Caller Coordinator, the Florida Callers Association meeting in October to understand the programming process -- before it became our turn. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and were impressed with the entire function.

As of November 2nd, all Chairmen are in place, with the exception of one area which we have not yet decided the direction to be taken.

The theme has been decided and we are now hard at work choosing attire and colors.

We have gotten enormous advice, suggestions, assistance, etc., from Fred & Shirley Cornett, Ken & Sue Brown, and Bruce & Colleen Morgan. It is that spirit of cooperation that tells us the Florida State Convention is going to be a success each year. Only by ASSISTING EACH OTHER can we continue to make the conventions a FUN Weekend, but at the same time, a PROFITABLE one for all entities involved.

We stand ready to assist any of the other Convention Chairmen in any way we possibly can.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome, GENERAL CHAIRMEN

52ND FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION

We have done very little additional planning this summer. We have started our first fundraiser. A 19" Color TV will be raffled off at the Snowflake Frolic on January 18, 2003.

We met with Brenda Townsend on Friday to get the Lakeland Center secured for 2006.

We will be meeting with Worley & Nan Carrier, our advisors, in the next week or two to establish a timeline for this convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Garland & Carole McKenzie, GENERAL CHAIRMEN

FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame Committee is in good shape. We have a balance of \$1202.64. This has been an expensive year, we had to replenish the Medallions that are put on the plaque. This expense was \$481.50 and our total expense for this year was \$744.72. This will not be a recurring expense for some time. We received a Check of \$750 for the Chairman of the 2002 Convention. All totaled, we are short of our maximum of \$1500 by \$297.36. As you can see the Hall of Fame is in good shape thanks to the 2002 State Convention.

Just a word about submitting nominations for the Hall of Fame they can be for any person in the State. This includes. Callers, Cuers, Prompters or any other deserving individual that has made an impact statewide. There is a new brochure in the works for the submitting of nominations.

Remember the deadline for submitting Nominees is January 15 of each year. This means that the committee must have received the resume by this date.

Jack and Zonie Taylor **CHAIRMAN**

HISTORY

The Florida History is in good hands with Zonie working many hours to compile and create books for the State Convention and also taking care of the Photo albums.

We will have a great showing for the 50th State Convention. We plan for every association to have their own table to display memorabilia. We are sure that it will be a great addition to your Convention. You will given more information from the General Chairman, Bruce & Colleen Morgan.

Please identify the items that you have, to be sure they are returned to you. We are sure that many of the items have special meaning for you.

We plan to have more information for you as we go along.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack & Zonie Taylor, **HISTORIANS**

USDA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting *was* held on Wednesday afternoon, June 26, 2002, at the National Convention in Saint Paul, MN.

Several guests were present and were invited to make comments.

Jay & Gail Richards, Chairman of the 51st NSDC, welcomed the delegates to St. Paul.

Harry & Pat Nelson, Chairmen of the 52nd NSDC, extended an invitation to attend the next convention in Oklahoma in 2003.

Mike Jacobs, Callerlab Chairman; Larry & Ellen Cole, Callerlab Vice Chairmen; and Jim, Freelance Marketing Director; all thanked USDA for its efforts. They talked about the willingness of Callerlab to share information with the dancers, and that the dancers need to get involved with marketing square dancing. Herman & Pat Myers, National Square Dance Campers Assn., stated that the group is in the process of changing its rules and opening up their activities to all. Information is available on their website, nsdca.org. Ron Holland, Single Square Dancers of America, spoke on uniting square dancers throughout America.

The Youth Chairmen, John & Alitia Becker, introduced Lottie & Ray Anisworth, who created the video distributed by USDA to all delegates at this meeting. The video is a "teaching" tool for teaching new dancers. (I would like to mention that we obtained 3 videos and have distributed one to a school in Duval County interested in teaching middle students, and one to the Clay County Official responsible for recreation programs in the school system.)

USDA Affiliates collected funds for the September 11th relief efforts, Dave & Shirley Nihart presented a check for \$4,158-10 to the Salvation Army. Other funds and needed items have been collected by affiliates and sent directly to various relief groups. The Missouri Federation reported they had collected \$2,538 and purchased 637 pair of needed leather work gloves for the work crews at the recovery site.

Two applications for membership were presented; one from the Capital District Square & Round Dance Association in the Eastern Region, with 636 members in 23 clubs; and one from the South Dakota State Square, Folk & Round Dance Association in the Plains Region, with 750 members in 25 clubs. Both memberships were approved.

It was reported that the Prescription Drug program has leveled off at about 700 prescriptions a month. A new Travel Program was presented. The purpose of the program is to promote square dance travel between states. The new program was approved and began immediately. If you want more information on this program, we can provide

you with some details and to whom you should contact. The Credit Card program is still going strong. Joe & Joy Vaccari presented checks for \$2,500.00 each to Alitia & John Becker for the Youth Fund and to Dave & Shirley Nihart for the Handicapable Program.

John & Alitia Becker, Youth Chairmen, presented a Founders Memorial Youth Fund Scholarship Award of \$500.00 to Pat & Ave' Herndon, California Square Dance Council, for presentation to the award recipient, Robert Salas of the Palomar Square Dance Association in California.

The USDA Publications website had over 90,000 hits last year. All pamphlets may now be downloaded from the website. Also, remember that anyone may receive the USDA News for an annual subscription rate of \$5.00.

An updated Resolution of Support for the United Square Dancers of America's National Folk Dance Campaign was passed out at the meeting. The resolution was adopted. Congressional supporters names will be published in the USDA News. The Executive Committee will be meeting in Washington, DC in January and plans are to take an additional day to talk to the congressmen at that time.

New officers were elected. They are: Presidents: Lyie & Jean Beck; Vice President Eastern, Bill Flick; Vice President Central, Kitty & Charlie Holley; Vice President Plains, Dan & Pat Liska; Vice President Western, Sam & Marianne Baines; Secretaries, Kimberlee & Michael Streby; and Treasurers, Bob & Lorretta Welsh. (Following the recent resignation of the Treasurer, Dave & Shirley Nihart, were asked to take the position and they have accepted. Congratulations Dave & Shirley!)

Several Resolutions were presented and were approved by the Delegates. A Resolution of Support for the Formation of an Alliance of Square Dance Organizations; A Resolution of Recognition; A Resolution of Recognition of Service Policy, USDA Executive Committee; and A Resolution of Recognition of Service Policy for Retiring Presidents. If you are interested in any further information on the resolutions, we have copies you may read.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome, USDA DELEGATE

I might add, these meetings start at 1:00 PM and go until approximately 4:00 PM, and we have found them most interesting. If you have never attended one, please set aside time at the next National Convention and see what USDA is all about.

PARLIAMENTARIAN— SHOWCASE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

First of all, we want to thank the previous Parliamentarians, Garland and Carole McKenzie, for their support and guidance. On their last report they made some constructive suggestions. We tried to follow those suggestions, and found them to be most helpful. They suggested we cut back on the amount of tables, we did and the effect was just fine. Each association was well represented thanks to Garland McKenzie for making dolls and each association for painting their doll. They suggested we find another giveaway, since the candy was not well received. We acquired thousands of shells from Pee Wee and Mary Stewart, and we made thousands of small multi-colored pin shells. They were very well received. All in all we found these to be very helpful suggestions. Thank You!

Since our last meeting, we transported the Florida Showcase to Minnesota for the National Convention. We had 3 tables, one for the historian that Jack and Zonie Taylor set up, one for flyers, pamphlets, and maps, and one representing the 5 Associations. On the tables we had a large frame of the Florida State Seal and a plaque showing all the National Convention showcases participated in, a plaque denoting that we had participated in 25 National Convention Showcases, a framed certificate proclaiming that the Florida Federation had contributed to the preservation of the Statue of Liberty in 1985 and a framed proclamation that the Florida Federation was a charter member of USDA (there were 12 associations or councils represented). We also had maps of Florida and Square Up brochures. On the center table we had a backdrop of blue material with stars on it and lettering that stated Florida Federation. Also, we had wooden cutouts of square dancers, one for each association, painted different colors to represent their colors used in the State Dress. For giveaways, we had colored shells with pins on the back so they could be pinned on the dancers ribbons or if preferred worn as earrings. We had some items that were donated by the Citrus Commission, bags, embroidered oranges, writing pens, and key chains. Also, there were small bags of seashells for those who wanted a little piece of Florida. We want to thank Sherry Gonzales for making the beautiful backdrop of midnight blue with silver lame stars and lettering, we want to thank Dee Dee and Bessie Stovall for helping us glue all the pins. Pee Wee and Mary Stewart for donating almost 9,000 shells, cleaned and packaged.

We had greeters from each association on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We truly want to thank all the associations for helping with the hospitality. We feel that the Showcase was well received and enjoyed by all that visited.

On Saturday afternoon we dismantled the showcase. The theme for the National Convention Showcase was "Looking To The Stars", and we were very proud to have won a certificate for depicting that theme on our showcase!

We also received a new plaque, at no cost, to continue our brass bars indicating participation in the National Showcase each year. For next year, we have a lot of shells, maps, and other miscellaneous giveaways left over from this year.

Also this summer, we had 10,000 Square Up Brochures printed and we delivered them to the welcome stations around Florida. There were 2,000 brochures delivered to each welcome station, 1-95, 1-75, 1-10, and Hwy 231. We have 2,000 in reserve. We want to thank John and MaryAnn Lawrence for helping us with the panhandle deliveries, getting them there earlier than we would have been able to deliver them.

As for further suggestions, we feel that the current procedures are working very well, thanks to the previous suggestions. Our only thoughts may be to review the backdrop for the Federation table in the Showcase. We admire the backdrop that Jack and Zonie Taylor have for the history table. They do not have to use a large pvc frame. We would like to see the new committee design a backdrop similar to the history. The set-up procedures would be so much easier to perform. No matter how much practice you do with setting up those large frames, the difficulty level is very high. And accidents causing injury to the people setting them up is always lurking. We need a backdrop that could be easily set up and transported.

In closing, we want to thank all the delegates and board members for giving us the opportunity to serve as Parliamentarian. We have enjoyed our year and we look forward to moving into the Treasurer position. We want to offer our support and best wishes to the new Parliamentarian.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Jack and Kathy McKinney* PARLIAMENTARIAN**