

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by the President, George Knapp. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. George asked everyone to take a moment to reflect on our sons and daughters and other service men who are in harms way overseas. Carole McKenzie called the roll and stated a quorum was in attendance.

George welcomed the visitors and guests.

Don Slocum made a motion that the minutes of the May, 2003 meeting be approved as published. The motion was seconded by Jim McConaha; and approved by the delegates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack McKinney reported that as of November 23, 2003 the Checking Account balance was \$5,740.23. Total receipts for the period May 25, 2003 to November 23, 2003 were \$6,962.98. Total Disbursements were \$5,740.23. As of November 23, 2003 the Checking Account balance is \$5,470.23; Contingency Fund balance is \$4,000.00; and the Insurance Account balance is \$1,474.94. The total for all accounts is \$11,215.17. Jack reported that the Federation had paid Tom Perry for the Web Site Maintenance and that each Association owed us \$35.00 for their share of the fee.

SUNSHINE REPORT: George advised that PeeWee Stewart and Sue Brown-WC were both ill and could not attend this weekend. Carole McKenzie reported that Ken Brown-SE had a pace maker/defibrillator installed 2 weeks ago and was not up to making the trip to attend this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: In the absence of Sue Brown, George Knapp brought up the expense of renting space at the Florida Welcome Stations and the printing of the Where to Dance Brochures. Due to online access of the web site, it was suggested that we eliminate this expense. This item was tabled until the February, 2004 Working Weekend where a committee could discuss this item.

STATE DRESS: Kathy McKinney, Chairman of the State Dress Committee presented several samples for the group to choose from. There were two different outfits using the same Dolphin fabric, another used a flamingo pattern fabric and the fourth outfit was a Block Print using 3 different colors (Navy, White and Green) of fabric. This Block Print outfit could be made either as a dress or blouse and skirt. The models wore their outfits during the break so everyone had a chance for a close up look. After the break the ballots were collected and counted. The Block Print outfit was selected in a very close vote (1 vote separated each of the selections).

ASSOCIATION REPORTS: See attached reports.

PUBLICATION REPORTS: See attached reports.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Fred Cornett reported that the committee met on Saturday to discuss the State Convention Guidelines as they exist and possible changes that need to be made. We discussed the declining attendance, the manpower needed to hold a successful convention, some alternative methods of handling the State Convention in future years, and the vendor issues were also discussed. This was an informational type meeting and was not held to make decisions on how the procedures should be revamped. We will be meeting again during the Working Weekend in February. At that time we will formulate some suggestions to present to the Federation body. Hopefully, those suggestions will ultimately be approved by the Federation and the Caller and Cues Associations. We had some good input from both the Callers and Cues yesterday. We all care about the convention and want to see it continue; but we need it to continue profitably. The next meeting will be on Friday, February 27, 2004 afternoon at 4PM at the Best Western Diplomat

STATE CONVENTION REPORTS: See attached reports.

FLORIDA SINGLES: Penny Green, President reported on several Singles Conventions and Dances.

FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME: The Hall of Fame Committee has not had a meeting since the State Convention.

Now is the time to prepare and mail resumes for those deserving induction into the Hall of Fame. Mail them to Mary Butlak by January 15, 2004 for next years consideration.

I have a few copies of our brochure if you need to know the criteria necessary to qualify.

We received reimbursement funds from the 2003 Convention bringing our bank balance up to the maximum of \$1,500.00. Thank you 2003 Convention for a job well done!!!

This coming State Convention will be the time for me to retire from the Hall of Fame Committee. I feel this committee is in good hands and look forward to just being a contact person if there should be any question the committee needs help with.

Thank you for all your support over the past 14 years. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity, however, I am looking forward to retirement. If you are asked to serve on this Committee, please do not hesitate, we need faithful, dedicated people.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Butlak, Chairman

HISTORIAN REPORT: See attached Report

U.S.D.A. REPORT: See attached Report

U.S.D.A. INSURANCE REPORT: Bruce Morgan reported that from April 30, 2003 to October 31, 2003, we had income of \$1,083.05; disbursements of \$1,074.73; leaving a Balance on hand of \$1,474.94.

The Insurance enrollment packages for 2004 have been distributed to the six (6) different associations. The cost of insurance for 2004 increased to \$3.75 per person, up from \$3.00 per person in 2003. Plus, there is another major change. For the past few years, any additional members enrolled after July 1st were insured for free. This is no longer the case for 2004. All members will pay the \$3.75 no matter when they are enrolled.

Bruce Morgan made a motion to make the Florida Singles (FASSRD) associate members of the Federation to afford them the same opportunity the cloggers have to access USDA Insurance for their members. Joe Vaccari seconded the motion and the motion passed.

ASCAP-BMI REPORT: Dave Nihart reported they received notice from ASCAP that dues for next year will increase from .064 to .065. To date we have not received any correspondence from BMI as to any increases.

OLD BUSINESS: Dewey Hendricks, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for 2004.

President	Fred & Shirley Cornett
Vice President	Garland & Carole McKenzie
Secretary	Jack & Kathy McKinney
Treasurer	Ken & Sue Brown
Parliamentarian	Randy & Carol Poole

George Knapp requested nominations from the floor for each position. Since there were no further nominations forthcoming the slate was elected as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Dewey and Donna Hendrix installed the new officers.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shirley Cornett asked everyone to sign up for a committee for the working weekend.

The next meeting will be at the Best Western Diplomat in Lakeland at 9 AM on Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, February 29.

Joe Vaccari urged all members to request their congressmen support the Promenade Act.

Jim McConnaha moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Garland & Carole McKenzie
Secretary

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

CFA Members are planning to attend as many special dances as we possibly can to encourage dancers to attend the 2004 convention. When you see us at your dance come by and say hello.

On Saturday 31 May 2003, the weekend following the State Convention, we had our first opportunity to promote the 2004 State Convention at CFA's 5th Saturday Dance.

What a howling success it was, twenty three squares enjoyed calling by Ken Perez who seemed to call an even better than his usual excellent dance. Jeannette Chauvin's fine round dance program was the icing on the cake. This dance was hosted by the Orange Blossom Squares and was held at the Villages of Lady Lake.

The 2003 PRESIDENTS BALL was held on August 29th. Sixteen squares of dancers enjoyed Danny Robinson & Joanne Helton at the Whirl & Twirl Hall. Nine past presidents honored us by attending. Prior to the dance the CFA General Meeting was held and the 2003-2004 board was elected. Joining the board this year are: George & Shirley Knapp (Area Vice President), Vinnie Dalman & Richard Douget (Area Director South Brevard/Indian River), Dick & Dorothy Jarvis (Area Director South Lake/West Orange). Returning to serve another year are Dan & Anna Foust (President), Jack & Barbara Hoffman (Executive Vice President), Terri Little (Membership Vice President), Jim & Jan McCannaha (Blood Bank Vice President), Randy & Carol Poole (Insurance Chairman), Tom & Eivor Brown (Keepin Posted Editor), Bruce & Colleen Morgan (2004 State Convention Chairman), Judy Frye (Historian), Woody & Mary Lou Cole (Area Director North Brevard), Bill & Sandy Yakel (Area Director South Lake/Sumter), Bill Pulver & Marilyn Armstrong (Area Director Marion). Bing & Marsha Bingham (Area Director East Orange/Seminole), Mike Mikeal (Area Director Osceola), Gale & Laura Boak (Area Director West Volusia), Kenly & Alice Spilman (Area Director East Volusia).

The 2004 Shamrock Swing our 4th annual, will be held at the Senior Center in Kissimmee, Florida on March 12 & 13. This year our callers will be Tony Oxendine and Whit Brown. Jimmy and Carol Griffin are featured Cuers.

We actively seek your support in promoting our 50th State Convention. Lets make this years convention the best ever. Talk it up every chance you get.

Thank you.
Dan & Anna Foust
President

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

Happy Holidays from Northwest Florida!

On October 24 & 25, NWFSRDA held our Annual Round -Up, we would like to thank the visitors from the other Florida Associations who attended. At the association meeting held during the weekend, we installed the following Officers: Presidents - Paul & Cheryl Miller; Vice Presidents - Don & Wanna Caverly; Treasurer - David Henn; and Secretary - Alice Helton.

Mr. Joe Vacarri (NWF Rep. for the USDA) gave a startling report to our members, only 21 State Representatives out of the United States have co-sponsored the H.R. 645 Bill, also known as the "Promenade Act", and not one of the 25 Florida State Representatives in congress have co-sponsored this bill. Paul & I felt this was unacceptable, so I contacted our State Representatives Jeff Miller (District 1) and F. Allen Boyd, Jr (District 2) requesting a meeting. I have been granted an appointment to meet with Representative F. Allen Boyd, Jr. for Tuesday, November 25, and will continue to pursue my appointment with Representative Jeff Miller. I cannot tell you how successful this meeting will be but it's time to have a face-to-face meeting with our Florida Representatives and get them to co-sponsor this bill. I would urge

other associations to appoint someone to help pursue this cause and let's finally get Florida on the list of co-sponsors. The work on getting this bill a reality has been long in coming and we as dancers need to really get behind this cause and see it accomplished.

Upcoming dances to be held in northwest Florida is December 1st – Toys-for-Tots Dance held by the Canoe Squares in Milton, and December 31-Seaside Squares Dinner Dance at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. NWF will be holding our 1st Qtr. Association meeting in Tallahassee on March 13, 2004, we also will be having a dance that evening with Elmer Sheffield Caller performing with a live band, the ESP Recording Band, and June Leverette, cueing between squares. This live band dance is being sponsored by NWFSRDA and the city of Tallahassee with a grant from the Leon County Tourist Development Council.

Paul & Cheryl Miller, President

SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION

We would like to start with an apology on not being able to submit this lovely missive in person but, as you probably know, the elder part of this presidency has finally had his sense of self-care realigned by the good Lord. He is recovering nicely at this time but was unable to make the ride up just yet and I of course was not going to leave him home alone. We are grateful to the lovely Carole for presenting this in our stead.

The Southeast association has had its ups and downs of late. We continue to fight with the problem of finding halls to hold our monthly dances. The so-called monthly dances have been reduced now to 10 per year. We have cancelled our annual January picnic and mid summer dance as well. We found this move to be necessary due to the high cost of halls and lack of their availability. We have also noticed a drop in our membership, which is also reflected, in our dancers participating in our association dances. Membership at present is just under 100 regular members down approximately 1/3 from last year. We regret that our dances are only being attended by about 5 squares each, instead of the previous 8 & 9 squares per dance.

On the up side we were steered to a lovely hall in Lake Worth by one of our members and had a successful dance there on Nov. 9. We are looking forward to being able to use this hall again during the upcoming year.

We will be holding our annual toy drive and cookie dance this Dec. 14 in Ft. Lauderdale. This has been a very popular charity event as we ask the dancers to bring unwrapped toys for children and each year we choose a charity in alternate ends of our area. This year will be the "Kids in Distress" in Broward County, if we are as successful as previous years we will have a truck full of toys for those in need.

Our former presidents Ray & Elsa Huddleston have put together what looks like it will be a wonderful time at our annual fundraiser on January 17, 2004- speaking of course, of our SNOWFLAKE FROLIC. This is being held at the Boynton Beach Rec Center, ribbons are available from Ray & Elsa as well as several other delegates. This is a lovely hall and we welcome one and all. BRING FRIENDS TOO!!!!!!!

Our 2006 convention chairpersons, Carole & Garland, are forging ahead with committee chairs, outfit decisions, kickoffs, themes, etc. Once again it is difficult to get commitments from the dancers sometimes.

To end on a high note, we are finding we are getting more cooperation from our area callers and cuers. They are getting our flyers out to the dancers and participating more themselves. Every little bit helps.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken & Su Brown, President

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

This is our final report as the President of the Northeast Association. It has been an interesting two years as the President and we have enjoyed all of the visits and gatherings and the hospitality that has been extended to us when visiting the many clubs. The new executive committee is made up of the following, most of whom are here; President, Bud and Anita Taylor, Vice President, Smitty Smith and Shirley White, Recording Secretary, Tom Trammel and Ouida Taylor, Corresponding Secretary, John and Mary Bruzo, and Treasurer, Bob and Jane Raymond. We are looking forward to a fun filled and successful year of Square Dancing in the coming year under this very capable leadership.

We just completed one of our most successful Fall Festivals ever with John and Mary Bruzo as the Chairmen. The attendance was very good with most of the dancers in the Northeast in attendance. The callers and the cuers were outstanding under the direction of Master of Ceremonies Mike Akers and Jack Herpy. The after party featured the New York Rockettes and many other local actors with various talents being directed by Harvey and Mary Lou Morton. Hopefully the Grapevine captured most of the finer points of the party for all to enjoy.

We had three 5th Saturday dances during the year that were well attended and a very successful Hospice Dance that we will repeat on May 1, 2004. We invite everyone to attend this Dance and support this most worthy cause. We continue to lament the fact that we lose many experienced dancers during the year and the Hospice has been most supportive of our dancers.

We have added many new dancers during the year and though they can never replace the loss of the many old friends and experienced dancers we are most fortunate and pleased to welcome these new dancers and urge everyone to make them welcome in the clubs and encourage them to continue enjoying our national pastime.

We look forward to the 2005 State Convention with the able Chairmanship of Charlie and Val Newsome and everyone is pitching in to help. We also appreciate the cooperation of all of the Callers and Cuers during the past year and the super publication being published by Charlie and Val.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe and Martha Hardcastle

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION

It hardly seems possible that four years have gone by since we became members of the West Coast Board. We have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the West Coast Board and The Florida Federation.

Serving as Presidents of the West Coast Association this past year has been a delightful, fabulous fun-filled experience. We were blessed to have Jane Dent serve as Treasurer, Jan & Fred Smith as Secretaries and Don & Ann Slocum as Vice presidents. These five individuals are extremely dedicated to promoting square dancing and were always available to go the extra mile to help us whenever we needed them. In addition we had great support from our county reps and other members who serve in various positions on the board.

In spite of the fact that we were two hours north of the Tampa/St. Pete's area, we managed to attend all board and Federation meetings, all of the West Coast Dances, and most of the 49th State Convention Meetings. All of the West Coast Sunday dances from the Pinellas area to Fort Myers area were well attended and supported by West Coast members, guests, callers and cuers. We felt very honored that so many of these individuals came out to show their love and fellowship to each other.

The 49th State Convention, under the chairmanship of Ken & Sue Brown and their committees was a great success, and even though numbers were down a nice profit was made. The dancers who attended provided positive feedback.

The 2002 Fall Fun Fest Committee did an excellent job on this annual event, which also provided the West Coast with additional revenue.

Even though it will be extremely difficult for us to remain as active with the West Coast Association as we have been, we will continue our West Coast membership, will remain as members of the Fall Fun Fest Committee, as Treasurers for the 54th State Convention, will support as many of their dances as possible, while serving as Secretaries of the Orange Blossom Squares in The Villages, and as members of Central Florida Association.

We know that we will see many of you in your travels and in our travels and we hope to see all of you in a square. Thank you for sharing your friendship with us.

Bob & Jennie Courter

KEEPIN' POSTED

Another year has come and gone. We would like to thank all who have supported us in the Central Association and especially our contributors. Of course, our printer, GRMAC, has done an excellent and superb job of squeezing in our work between takes of the American Dancer and Bow and Swing. Our distribution has remained stable at 400 copies and the page count has fluctuated from 32 to 48; we consumed about 32,000 pages of paper over the course of the last year.

Our readers favorably responded to items of personal interest; they want to know about what our dancers do when not on the floor. The first article centered on our centenarian. Our recipes section fell flatter than an unrisen cake. The ladies just did not support. Perhaps they feel ownership and copyright should attach to their recipes. I don't blame them.

Advertising revenues were down which probably is due to the decline of the economy and the overall decline in square dancing memberships. As people age, they are reluctant to commit to a long term commitment or even dances they have attended in the past. They won't commit to purchase tickets in the long term future.

We published ads for the other Associations keynote dances.

We will continue to search for the right combination for our readers.

Respectfully submitted;

Eivor and Tom Brown
Editor, Keepin' Posted

PANHANDLE PRESS

We are the new publisher of the Panhandle Press and we are looking forward to working with all the associations for the next few years.

Since just taking over, we published our 1st quarterly publication and two weeks later put together the NWFSRDA booklets for our annual dance.

We want to make sure every one has our correct addresses and phone number:

June & Frank Leverette
1301 Walden Road
Tallahassee, FL 32317
850-216-2634
Panhandlepress@att.net

Submitted by :
Frank & June Leverette, Editors

4W's -- NO REPORT

The Stricklands have now completed their year commitment to publishing the 4W's. The SE Caller's & Cuer's Association have now taken over this responsibility. Conrad Protzman & Larry Chatos are spearheading the transition.

THE GRAPEVINE

THE GRAPEVINE continues to publish approximately 325 copies on a subscription basis. The deadline for the next issue is December 10th. This means we will be getting it back from the printer around December 23rd. Guess what we'll be doing Christmas eve?

The November-December issue consisted of 76 pages and included many Christmas messages from the dancers--more than any other Christmas issue. We continue to receive favorable comments on our Feature Article which usually gives interesting facts about a club, or, as in the last issue, interesting insight into the hobbies and "other life" of one of our square dancers. We currently have an article almost ready for the January issue, and a good idea about the March article.

The summer was quiet for The Grapevine. Fall brought dancers and callers back from vacation, and classes got underway in most of the clubs. Then came the Christmas issue, and right after that the coverage of our Fall Festival -- which, of course, will be printed in our January issue. We continue to advertise and push the State Convention for 2004 -- and beyond. We managed to stay busy during the past six months and are looking forward to the Christmas and New Years Day holidays.

We thank the other publications who ran the ad for our Fall Festival, and we reciprocated with ads for festivals of the other Associations. We hope to continue this exchange of Ads for major Festivals with the other Associations. Our thanks also to Bill Boyd (Bow & Swing and American Square Dance) for his support of the Association and Club activities.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving -- a Merry Christmas -- and a Great 2004!

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie & Val Newsome

WEST COAST DANCER

For those of you unfamiliar with the West Coast Dancer, we cover 16 counties, from Levy county at the north to Collier county in the south and all westernly counties in between. Distribution is free and circulation is holding up well, down only about 200 from past seasonal averages of 1000 to 3000 copies. Income from Advertising seems to be holding steady at about 50% of printing costs.

We print bi-monthly and after each printing I delete all copy that will not be repeated. Then known changes get implemented. Even so, right on up to a couple of days before the deadline for the next issue, I say to myself, "How am I going to fill all those remaining spaces?". Two or three days after the deadline a flood of changes and new copy comes in. Now the question is, "Where is it all going to fit?". Somehow it all seems to come together. I'm sure each editor has the same experience.

We printed Memorials for six persons who left us this year. They were very active in Square and Round Dancing. Most held many posts in clubs and organizations and all actively promoted square and round dancing. It's possible some names were missed and we regret not knowing or being informed.

Dance schedules are listed by day and place. There is a notice in the current issue detailing how the contents of the dance listings will change. We will no longer include the names of multiple guest callers and cuers at a particular club during the period covered. We will encourage the use of Ads to announce this or any special events.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed & Ginny Henning, Editors

BOW & SWING

Bow & Swing is alive, well and having fun. We feel the emphasis on Square Dancing is **FUN** (especially from our photo captions). Bow & Swing continues to support Square Dance Charities, Associations and Fund Raisers.

We thank you all for your support and look forward to many great years of Dancing.

“Send MORE pictures”.....We will handle the captions!!

Respectfully,
Bill Boyd

2003 STATE CONVENTION FINAL REPORT

The 49th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention's success was due to the cooperation, time and talent of a great many callers, cuers, and dancers across the entire State of Florida. Each Committee Chairman, Volunteer, and members of the five Associations worked hard to assure the event provided a fun filled weekend. Thank you to all does not seem enough.

Comments:

1. The Lakeland Chamber of Commerce continues to be a great help to the State Convention. They printed 20,000 registration forms free of charge. The Housing Chairmen chose to contact hotels and campgrounds on their own and this continues to be a far superior arrangement.
2. The Lakeland Center met our needs and provided us with all necessary facility requirements. However, several problems in the past have become an issue. Resin or powder on the dancers shoes have caused carpet cleaning problems to the staff, and we were advised if these continue the Center may be forced to charge for the cleaning of these carpets. Setup of vendor area and storage of decorations and props used for Kick-off prior to the scheduled Friday opening may result in additional charges.
3. Table cloths and skirts were contracted through a local caterer, thus, eliminating the Center's rental fee for these items.

Problems:

1. Parking passes have been reduced and lot fees have increased to \$5 per day. The City does, in some cases, allow a group to pay a fixed rate and thus eliminate a parking fee for the specific event. This may necessitate a minimal increase in ribbon prices; but would benefit a large number of dancers. A study of this change would be of value.
2. General Meetings of the committee became a logistical nightmare.
3. Vendor seniority positions were honored in 2003; but full service vendors refused to accept the committee's requests for additional specialty vendors. There seems to be a problem in defining a specialty as opposed to full service vendor.
4. Vendor Committee access to the vendor area on Thursday afternoon for layout of the vendor spaces need to be negotiated in the Convention Contract with the Center each year.
5. Lakeland Center continues to carpet more of the halls.
6. As printing costs continue to rise it is suggested that a nominal fee be charged for Round Dance Syllabi and Sewing Books.

Positive Items:

1. "Welcome to our World" was felt to be a great success. The room was used by both new dancers as well as those who Square or Round Dance only and wished to experience other disciplines.
2. Relocation of vendor area; elimination of the arena wa extremely cost effective and the vendors felt the main floor exposure was profitable.
3. Elimination of the Singles Hall was well accepted.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. The Florida Callers and its members were extremely helpful during the planning and preparation. Ribbons were distributed and sold by the callers in a systematic program. Rapport with members of the Round Dance Council seems to loose something between the appointed Chairmen and the organization. A request was made to attend the Council meeting in the Fall of 2002, but this

request was denied. Later it was learned that such an appearance is allowed according to the Council By-Laws. Perhaps this oversight was due to a misunderstanding, but it would seem that as long as the Council shares in the profits of the Convention, it should be willing to promote attendance.

2. Most publications were helpful in promoting the 2003 Convention. Criteria needs to be set and met for each issue printed during the entire year for the publication to be remunerated for publicizing the convention.

With fond memories and grateful appreciation.
Ken and Sue Brown, Chairmen

2004 STATE CONVENTION

November 23, 2003 Florida Federation Meeting

Different members of the Convention Committee have attended a number of special dances around the state since our last meeting. At some of these dances we have not sold very many ribbons but we have made ourselves known. Our ribbon sales are at 640 right now. I am well pleased with that amount at this stage of the game. Things will pick up as the convention draws near.

Randy & Carol Poole, George & Shirley Knapp, Larry & Margie Heffner and Colleen & I attended the Northwest Round-up in DeFuniak Springs the last full weekend in October. The Pensacola Special Steppers also attended this dance and put on a performance Saturday evening. After their performance Colleen & I presented them with a **LARGE** check for the \$8,115.01 that was collected in their behalf. You should have seen the joy on the dancers faces but I am sure that they had no idea how much money we just gave them. Frank Cherry, their caller, says that they are overjoyed when they are presented with any amount of money. After the presentation Colleen & I joined them in another room for pictures. While there we were almost mobbed. Each and everyone of them came up to us and gave us a big hug and thanked us. One of the dancers asked what day of the week the convention was. When I told him he was disappointed as he was afraid that he would have to work that day. Frank assured him that he did not and that he would be able to make the convention. The reaction from them made the whole process worthwhile. The deposits have been paid for their hotel and bus transportation. We will keep enough of the money so that we can pay the remaining portion of these items and then issue the Specail Steppers a check as time draws closer to the convention.

Our continual fund-raisers are as follows: The Serger Raffle. This is a \$800.00 value. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Another fund raiser is a raffle for a 3-night stay at the Holiday Inn North during next year's convention. This will be the Convention host hotel and the home of the Central and Northeast Associations along with the Callers. If the winning party doesn't wish to stay at the Holiday Inn that's OK also. We will give them the money and you can stay wherever they wish. You can also sell your friends & neighbors chances. We know that they probably won't attend the convention but we'll give them the money. This is a \$195.59 value for only \$5.00. You can't beat it. Get your tickets today. We will be drawing the winner for the Hotel Stay at the Shamrock Swing in March. Margie Heffner donated a beautiful afghan that we are raffling. Margie & Larry are our Ways & Means Chairpersons. The tickets for these are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. As of right now we haven't even made enough money to pay for the hotel room and will end up costing us money if we don't sell some tickets. Get your tickets now. Avoid the rush. I have them with me and you can purchase them right after the meeting.

Last night was our latest fund raiser. The Convention sponsored the dance that we hope you attended right here in this hall. Joe Fioretti and Phyllis Williams kept us going well into the night. Plus we held our silent auction that you are all getting so used to seeing. I don't have a final figure on how much we cleared but I know that we did make some well needed money to help fund the convention. If you

all enjoy the silent auctions then you will most assuredly want to attend the Shamrock Swing on March 12th & 13th. We will be holding our last Silent Auction at that dance. But it will have different look. We have asked all the clubs in Central Florida to donate a theme basket. These will be offered in a true silent auction. We will have a minimum price put on each of them and you will bid by placing your name and amount that you want to pay for the basket. You will have to keep ckecking back to bid over and over again as someone will probably out bid you if you don't. Let's keep those bids going. You know that there will be something in these baskets that you will just have to have. There will be all kinds of themes. Baby, Margaritaville, Picnic, Car, Convention, Christmas & Fun at Top of the World are just some of the them. Bring your check books as we will accept your checks. This is looking like a fun filled weekend. If you haven't purchased your ribbon for the Shamrock Swing please see Jack & Barbara Hoffman. They have some with them and will be glad to sell you one. Kissimmee, FL is the place to be on March 12th & 13th. Don't miss out. We are now accepting advertisments in our Program Book. Commercial Ads are \$60.00 for a full page, \$35.00 for half page and \$25.00 for a quarter page. But personal ads can be purchased for \$10.00. These ads are 4.75" x 1.8" in size and only have text, no graphic. If you would like to purchase an ad, either personal or commercial, please see Colleen or myself. You can either send me the finished ad or you can just give me the text you want and I'll format it for you, it's your choice choice. Don't forget all those special dances that you hold every year. There is no better way to promote these throughout the state.

Bill & Peg Gowen, our Sew-N-Save chairpersons, will be sharpening scissors in the Sew-n-Save Room during the convention. We have flyers that we are passing out informing the people to bring their scissors to the dance and drop them off at the Sew-N-Save Room. They will be sharpened and ready for pickup at the end of the evening. There will be a room full of sewing machines and sergers. You will be able to sign up for a time slot and try out the machines and actually make things. This will be a sew-n-save not to be missed. There will also be outfits that will be given away. One for each month of the year. Make sure you visit the Sew-n-Save Room this year.

I have delivered the registration forms to the editors of all the state publicaitons so that they can be inserted in their respective publications. This has helped empty out our spare bedroom. That will be the best thing about the convention being over with. Getting our spare bedroom back where we can, at least, see the bed and dresser. We have almost forgotten what they look like.

Now I would like to call the 5 Association Presidents up front with me. And if all the Convention Waiters and Waitresses will go get their items. Colleen & I would like to present you with your Traveling Artifacts. Charlie & Val Newsome have agreed to donated 2 ribbons for the 51st Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention as prizes for the Association that gets the most club visits between now and the start of the Convention. As you visit the clubs in your area get the club representative to sign a flame with the club name, date and their signature. Inside each cake is a compartment where we have placed some registration forms, candles, the flames and some glue. Since the flames will not stay in the candles by themselves you will need to glue them once the club representative has signed it. Now take these cakes back to your associations and visit as many dances as you can. Bring them to the convention in May and return them to us. We will count all the flames and determine the winner. Our decisions are final. No wining. Whichever Association wins the ribbons can do what they want with it. You can use them for fund raisers or just give them to someone. Or if you are so inclined you can just give them back to Charlie & Val. Thank you.

From now on all of you in this room are working for the 50th FSDC as ribbon sellers. If you need ribbons to sell please see Randy & Carol Poole. They will be glad to issue you some ribbons. All that we ask is that you return the completed registration forms and money to Randy & Carol in a timely manner at least at the working weekend and the convention itself. All money, registartion forms and Unsold ribbons are to be returned to Randy & Carol Poole on Friday, May 28th at the Convention.

That is about all right now. Remember these conventions are evernone's not just Central's. Without each and every dancer from the state of Florida we would not be able to put on a convention. So if everyone would just consider this as their convention and work to support it we will all prosper.
Bruce & Colleen Morgan, General Chairman

2005 CONVENTION REPORT

As reported in May, the contract has been signed with the Convention center. We will not be using the Arena on Friday night and we will not be using the Theater - our Fashion Show will be in the Arena.

We have established our logo and are in the process of finishing the design so we can order ribbons and stationery.

We had eased off on our fund raising in deference to our Fall Festival but will start up again soon. We have one more fund raising dance planned for next fall. A couple of other fund raisers are in the works. Our candy, Entertainment Book and Angel sales have helped tremendously. We have a hanging quilt that is ready and will be raffled off STARTING AFTER our Kickoff.

Our publicity Chairmen are just waiting for the finale' of the 50th Convention to start sending information your way. Their ad program will start in the fall of 2004.

Our Registration Chairman is getting set for the Registration forms and will be ready for Kickoff day.

Many of our dancers have the Convention Dress or are in the process of making them in preparation for the Kickoff. The Kickoff has been determined and we are busy getting our "props" ready.

We believe we are "on schedule" but every day brings new ideas. Our committee is dedicated to making the 2005 Convention a FUN weekend for all of you.

One final comment! We can't say enough about the help we have received from the other Convention Chairmen, especially the people of the 50th.
THANK YOU ALL!!

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie & Val Newsome
General Chairmen

2006 CONVENTION REPORT

The planning for the 52nd State Convention is proceeding. Since our association no longer has any active past convention chairmen or active past presidents older than ourselves, we were relying on the coordinating meeting yesterday to give us some insight on how we need to proceed. Although we have been players in two previous productions, it is much easier to be the player and handle your part than to be the director of the production. The last time we were actively involved in a State Conventions was 10 years ago. Although we worried about attendance and profitability back then, it certainly was not the issue it is today.

Since the last report, we have had more changes in our cuer and kickoff chairmen line up. After our original kickoff chairman resigned, we are happy to report that Henri Arsenaault volunteered to do the kickoff ONE MORE TIME!. He will be assisted by Al Guthrie & Sonny McCartney who will be coordinating the practices in the central and north parts of our association. Henri is anxious to begin the planning. We are now actively contacting association members and non-members to determine how many are willing to participate in the kickoff so Henri can formulate his plan. When Henri did his first Kickoff in 1989, the Association had over 300 active paid members, last year we had just under 100 active paid members and this year we have less than 50 active members so far. With a rapidly declining and aging square dance population in our area, it becomes more difficult to orchestrate this production. But we know Henri will do a great job with whatever we have to work with and you will be entertained again in May, 2005.

We are planning a Convention Benefit Dance on Saturday, March 6, 2004. The Southeast callers and cuers will be doing the calling and cuing for this evening. The dance will be held in Ft. Lauderdale at the Holiday Park Social Hall.

We are actively looking for a bank to open a checking account to deposit our seed money. We are looking for one that has LOW or NO Fees associated with the account and has a branch in Lakeland. This is no easy task.....We have banks on every corner but most do not have branches in Lakeland. We are exploring the idea of opening up an account, in a bank that has a branch in Lakeland, that would be strictly for deposits during the Kickoff weekend and Convention weekend. Then we would withdraw the funds and make one deposit into the checking account to pay the bills and disburse the remaining funds. We need to accomplish this task to be able to meet with the Convention Center staff to finalize arrangements and get a signed contract. We were also waiting to make Hall decisions until we met with the coordinating committee to get ideas on what the past and current chairmen felt worked well or didn't work at all and an idea of the associated costs.

Respectfully submitted,
Garland & Carole McKenzie
General Chairmen

2007 CONVENTION REPORT

No Report – Still looking for a Chairman

HISTORY REPORT

As usual Zonie is maintaining the Florida History. She is well into putting together the Album for the 50th Florida State Convention. We have already collected a lot of material to make it a great book. She has also collected a great amount of material to be displayed in the "History Room" at the next convention. We feel the display will be super, it will include caller and round dance displays also.

As we always do we request that any pictures submitted to us have the names and the occasion written on the back. It will save me a lot of hassle of trying to come up with a name. The more submitted the better the book. We, (Zonie), should have it ready for display at the Annual Meeting in October next year.

We again thank the editors of the States? publications for sending us copies of the publication for our archives. We have quite a library.

One important note to the next Parliamentarian, the next National Square Dance Convention will have to be notified that we need a new plaque for History participation the one we have is full of the bars of participation.

Sincerely Submitted,
Jack and Zonie Taylor
Florida Federation Historians

USDA REPORT

We attended our first USDA meeting as Florida Federation Representatives at the National Square Dance Convention in Oklahoma City on June 25th, 2003. The following items came out of that meeting.

The USDA credit card program is returning money directly to this activity. The money is being divided this way, 25% to the youth program, 25% to the Handicapable Dancers Program and the remaining 50% to the affiliates. If you don't have one now, we are asking that you get one and encourage all dancers to get one.

We want to convey to all dancers the news of the prescription drug card. If they do not have insurance coverage for prescriptions, this card can be a great savings. Please include the group plan on all the cards for prescriptions. It is **MIMNE**. The money USDA receives from this plan goes to support the USDA Travelers program. This program encourages dancers to travel and visit and dance in other states. So get your form and start traveling. After 12 states send the form to Bill and Bobbie Shepard and they will send you a badge and a 12 state bar and a new form. More information at www.usda.org.

Remind all young dancers about the USDA collage scholarship fund. For more information contact the youth representative: John and Alitia Becker at www.usda/youth.org.

USDA is soliciting your help in letting people know of the ARTS Alliance. We were informed at the meeting, the major dance groups have come together to form this organization. They are the National Executive Committee, USA West, Roundalab, Contra, American Callers Association, Caller Lab Foundation and the United Square Dancers of America. They are still in the forming stages, but the future looks bright for our activity. Your help is appreciated and needed to further this cause. If you desire more information, please contact Charlie and Kitty Holley at: Kittycharlie@charter.net or www.usda/centralregionvp.org.

If you have questions about anything to do with USDA, please contact us. If we don't know the answer we will do our best to get it and get it to you.

We are pleased to be your representative to the USDA and respectfully submit this report to you.

Jack and Barbara Hoffman

Florida Federation of Square Dancers

SLATE OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	FRED & SHIRLEY CORNETT
VICE-PRESIDENT	GARLAND & CAROLE MCKENZIE
SECRETARY	JACK & KATHY MCKINNEY
TREASURER	KEN & SUE BROWN
PARLIAMENTARIAN	RANDY & CAROL POOLE

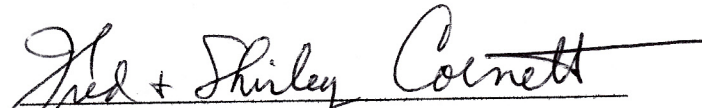
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

Fred & Shirley Cornett
1472 Champions Green Drive
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

October 2, 2003

Dear Fred & Shirley as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Florida Federation of Square Dancers we are writing you to ask if you will be moving up to take the Office of Presidency for the year 2004.


I will be moving up to the office of President


Fred & Shirley Cornett

When you have signed this please return to:

Dewey & Donna Hendricks
1949 Snook Drive
Deltona, FL 32738

Thank you,


Dewey & Donna Hendricks, Chairman Nominating Committee

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

Garland & Carole McKenzie
10186 Penzance Lane
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

October 2, 2003

Dear Garland & Carole as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Florida Federation of Square Dancers I am writing to you to see if you will be moving up to Vice-President for the year 2004.

Yes I will be moving up to Vice-President.

Garland W.M. McKenzie
Carole McKenzie
Garland & Carole McKenzie

Please sign and return to:

Dewey & Donna Hendricks
1949 Snook Drive
Deltona, FL 32738

Thank you,

Dewey & Donna Hendricks
Dewey & Donna Hendricks, Chairman Nominating Committee

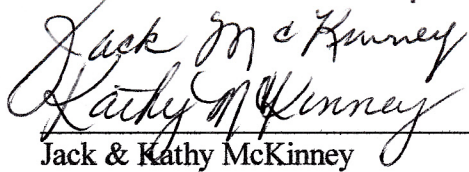
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

Jack & Kathy McKinney
709 6th Avenue North
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

October 2, 2003

Dear Jack & Kathy as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Florida Federation of Square Dancers I am writing you to see if you are moving up to Secretary for the year 2004.

Yes I am moving up to Secretary for 2004.


Jack & Kathy McKinney

Please sign and return to:

Dewey & Donna Hendricks
1949 Snook Drive
Deltona, FL 32738

Thank you,

Dewey & Donna Hendricks, Chairman Nominating Committee

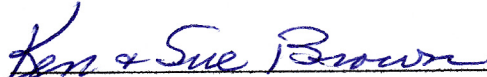
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

Ken & Sue Brown
3802 Old Salem Road
Lakeland, FL 33811

October 2, 2003

Dear Ken & Sue as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Florida Federation of Square Dancers I am writing you to see if you are moving up to Treasurer for the year 2004.

Yes I am moving up to Treasurer for 2004.




Ken & Sue Brown

Please sign and return to:

Dewey & Donna Hendricks
1949 Snook Drive
Deltona, FL 32738

Thank you,



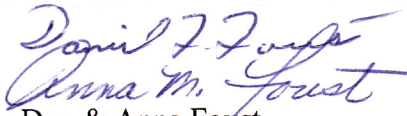
Dewey & Donna Hendricks, Chairman Nominating Committee

23 September 2003

From: Dan & Anna Foust; President, Central Florida Square and Round Dancers Association

To: Dewey & Donna Hendricks, Chairman of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers nominating committee for 2004 Parliamentarian.

On 30 August 2003, the Executive Board of the Central Florida Square and Round Dancers Association by unanimous vote approved Randy and Carol Poole as our nominee for Parliamentarian on the Florida Federation of Square Dancers Executive Board for 2004.


Dan & Anna Foust

Copy to George & Shirley Knapp

The Seminole Indians were divided into 2 tribes. The Mo-T-Sa and the Ferkarwee tribes. The Ferkarwee tribe was a lost Tribe that had a different way of leadership. Every 12th moon they would change leaders. The Chief was a Chief President, the second down was the Vice-Chief, the Secretary was the recorder for the Pow-Wows, the Treasurer was in charge of the Tribes Tradings and the Parliamentarian was the keeper of the tribes Traditions and Laws.

Pass Chief President: Will pass the leadership to the upcoming Chief President. Ritual Tradition was to Pass the head dress and smoke the Peace Pipe: The immediate Past-President shall be ex-officio member of the Executive Board for purposes of continuity. (SMOKE AND PASS PEACE PIPE)

Chief President: Leads all Tribes Pow-Wows: The President is to act as the Executive Officer and the official representative of the Federation. To preside over all Federation Meetings and to conform to Robert's Rules of Order, revised edition. To schedule meetings and arrange for meeting places. The President must hold a minimum of one meetings a year. To prepare an agenda for each meeting in co-ordination with his Executive Board as he deems necessary. To appoint standing and special committees, special Federation representatives as required, one member as liasion to the Florida Callers Association, and one member as liasion to the Florida Round Dance Council. To be ex-officio member of all committees. The President may attend committee meetings as he deems necessary. (SMOKE AND PASS PIECE PIPE)

Vice-Chief: Would stand in in case of absence of Chief-President: To aid and assist the President in his Federation duties as required or requested. To arrange for tokens of appreciation for proper recognition of the out-going President and to make presentations at the annual meeting. To assume the duties of President in their absence. Shall welcome the new delegates to the Federation and provide a packet of information consisting of Articles of Incorporation, Officer and Delegate duties and responsibilities. This shall be done before the annual meeting and prior to assumption of duties as Delegate. To prepare and maintain an on-going history of the Federation, including a scrapbook whenever possible. (SMOKE AND PASS PIECE PIPE)

Secretary: Records all Chiefs Pow-Wow words spoken: To serve as recording and corresponding Secretary of the Federation. To record all minutes of meetings and to provide one copy of the minutes to the officers, delegates and alternates of the Federation, President of the Florida Callers Association, President of the Florida Round Dance Council, and editor of the Bow and Swing, at least thirty days prior to scheduled meetings. To maintain a complete up-to-date roll of the membership and as a first duty prepare a new roster of the Board of Delegates for the upcoming year. To notify the Board of Delegates at least thirty days in advance of all meetings. To recommend to the Board of Delegates the deletion from the active roster of the names of Past Presidents who have not attended a meeting for a period of one year as provided by Article V of the By-Laws. Shall insure that a copy of the Square Dance Proclamation is obtained with the signature of the Governor of the State of Florida recognizing National Square Dance Month and distribute to all Associations not later than 60 days before National Square Dance Month. Shall file a Charter renewal each year with the Florida Secretary of State

prior to July 1.(SMOKE AND PASS PEACE PIPE)

Treasurer: Takes care of all Tradings and assests of the Tribe: To be custodian of all Federation funds, collect all dues, and pay all properly approved bills. To keep complete current financial records and provide a report of the financial status of the Federation at each meeting and upon request of the President. To act as Chairman of the annual Budget Committee. To obtain bank resolution forms and bank signature cards prior to the annual meeting to facilitate the orderly transfer of the office of Treasurer. Shall insure the financial records are in audit at the annual meeting. (SMOKE AND PASS PEACE PIPE)

Parliamentarian: Acts as Sargeant of Arms and keeps Tribal Pow-Wows to Tribal Traditions and Laws: To interpret and counsel the Executive Board on all points of parliamentary procedure which may come to controversy. Shall have a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, revised edition, at all meetings and be familiar with its contents. Shall be co-ordinator and be responsible for the Florida Showcase and its display at the National Convention and such other places as directed by the President. He shall make reservation of sufficient space when the notice is received by the Federation, usually about 1 January of each year. Shall revise the Federation Dancer Contact folders each year and have additional copies printed as necessary and distributed to the appropriate Florida Welcome Stations. (SMOKE PEACE PIPE)

NOW THE NEWLY INSTALLED CHIEF-PRESIDENT WILL STAND UP ON THE HIGHEST HILL LOOKING OUT OVER THE LAND AND TURNS TO HIS TRIBE AND SAYS WE'RE THE FARKARWEE.

THE END.