

**MINUTES OF  
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2004 – LAKELAND, FLORIDA**

The meeting was called to order, at 9:00am by the President, Shirley Cornett. Mary Stewart gave the invocation. Shirley led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jack McKinney called the roll and stated a quorum was in attendance.

Shirley welcomed guests Shirley Pfeffer, new delegate for the West Coast, Frank & Barbara Meyer, Corresponding Secretary for the Northeast, Bob & Jane Raymond, Shirley White and Smitty Smith, new delegates for the Northeast.

A motion was made by George Knapp and seconded by Pee Wee Stewart that the minutes of the November 23, 2003 meeting be approved as published. The motion passed.

Shirley Nihart asked about the website maintenance fee that was paid in 2003 by the Federation and reimbursed by the five associations. President Shirley Cornett stated they would check into it and report tomorrow.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jack McKinney reported that as of November 24, 2003, the checking account balance was \$5,740.23. Total receipts for the period November 24, 2003 to February 28, 2004 was \$121.29. Total disbursements were \$166.03. As of February 28, 2004 the checking account balance \$5,695.49; Contingency Fund Balance is \$4,000.00; and the Insurance account balance is \$1,652.89. The total for all accounts is \$11,348.38. The report was filed for audit.

**SUNSHINE REPORT:** Shirley reported that Jan McConnaha's mother and also the wife of Bill Donahue, a Northwest caller, passed away recently.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Shirley reported that the Federation received a letter from George & Shirley Knapp thanking the Federation for their President's gift.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:** Randy Poole reported that rent on the Welcome Stations was paid until June, 2004. More information after the committee meeting today.

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS:** See attached

**PUBLICATION REPORTS:** Panhandle Press, No Report; Bow and Swing (check Florida Dance Web for information about Bow and Swing); 4W's online at WhoWhatWhenWhere.org; See attached for other reports.

**STATE CONVENTION REPORTS:** See attached

Shirley congratulated Dee Dee & Bessie Stovall, on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

**FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME REPORT:** See attached

**FLORIDA FEDERATION HISTORY REPORT:** See attached

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

**ASCAP-BMI REPORT:** See attached

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Convention Procedures Committee voted 5 to 1 to have the President of the Florida Federation in conjunction with other Federation officers select a State Convention Committee with representatives from all of the associations. The callers and cuers will each select their representative to the committee. They will develop a proposal for changes to be made in the State Convention procedures and when the final wording is completed a copy will be given to each voting delegate and a vote will be taken at the May, 2004 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Square-Up brochures and a review of the Extra Mile Award will be discussed today in the Square Dance Preservation, Education & Publicity meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

Committee assignments were made at this time. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack and Kathy McKinney, Secretary

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**November 24, 2003 - February 28, 2004**

**Beginning Balance - All Accounts**

Wachovia Checking Balance	\$	
Contingency		
Insurance		
	\$	
<b>Total All Accounts</b>		

Checking Account Balance		\$
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**Receipts**

2004 Association Website (C.F.S.R.D.A.)	\$	
2004 Association Website (S.E.F.S.R.D.A.)		
2004 Association Dues (F.A.S.S.R.D.)		
Wachovia Interest (11/24/2003-1/30/2004)		
	\$	
		\$

**Disbursements**

Carole McKenzie - Secretarial Expenses - 11/03		
Shirley Knapp - Refreshments - 11/03		
B.M.I. Dues	\$	
Carole McKenzie - Secretarial Expenses - 02/04		
	\$	
		\$
Checking Account Balance 02/28/2004,		\$

**Ending Balance - All Accounts**

Wachovia Checking Balance	\$	
Contingency		
Insurance		
	\$	
<b>Total All Accounts</b>		

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken and Sue Brown, Treasurer

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT  
28 FEBRUARY 2004

In the last Federation Meeting it was decided that a committee would meet this weekend to come up with a recommendation as to whether will continue to print and distribute SQ-UP brochures. . After the committees recommendation we will take what action the Federation decides.

We are paid up until June of this year. I called each welcoming station and they all still have plenty of SQ-UP brochures

We have contacted the Colorado Show Case of Ideas and informed them that we would be sending in our table requirements after this meeting.

We will have more information on Florida's Show Case of Ideas after our meeting today.

Submitted by  
Randy & Carol Poole  
Parliamentarian

**CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE and ROUND DANCERS ASSOCIATION  
REPORT, 28 FEB, 2004**

The CFA held two well attended 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday dances between our last meeting and now, 29 November, 2003 our dance was hosted by the Space Trackers at the Travis Center in Cocoa, Whit Brown called and Phyllis Williams cued. We at CFA know that Whit is one of our best promoters for the CFA & the State Convention.

On January 29, 2004 we were at the Lake Wier Community Center in Ocklawaha, with Ken Perez calling & Joanne Helton cueing.

Although this is quite a trip for most of the CFA Board, the board was well represented. We were glad to hold a dance in Marion County, as it has been a while since we had been there. Marion County is one place where square dancing is on the upswing. I believe this is in part due to the dedication of Ken Perez. I know he has encouraged the dancers in his clubs to attend the State Convention and many of them are planning to do so.

I might add here that this writer has also noted those callers that do not support the State Convention. If we could obtain their support our convention would have much better attendance than we have now. There is nothing like having a caller say, join me! at the State Convention.

Our next event is the fourth annual Shamrock Swing to be held on 12 & 13 March 2004 it will held at the Senior Center 1099 Shady Lane, Kissimmee. Tony Oxendine & Whit Brown will be calling, Jimmy & Carol Griffin will be cueing. General Chairman for this event are Jack & Barbara Hoffman.

At our last Federation meeting, Bruce and Colleen Morgan presented each association president with a miniature version of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake used in the kickoff to be placed on display at as many club and special dances as possible. We were instructed to place a candle with place, date and signed by a club officer at each dance. To date our cake has been to 16 clubs & 5 special Dances. We will not slack off.

Anna and I are camping with the Canoe Squares this weekend to help them celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to promote the State Convention, we will see you in Lakeland May 28.

Dan and Anna Foust  
CFA President

# Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association

Good Morning,

Northwest continues to strive towards growth despite some clubs closing due to the shortage of members. It was a big discouragement when our own club closed last Friday. This was a big disappointment not only to us but also to our returning snowbirds that have visited our club for the past 4 years. Pensacola clubs are slowly growing with the success of "Weekend Fast Track Classes" offered by caller Patty Ping. We also have 3 callers in our area trying to advertise on local cable television to bring people in for classes in several local areas. Several clubs have graduated small classes in the past month. Cheryl attended the "Annual Sweetheart Swing" held by our northwest callers on February 14 and were pleased to see new students dancing with the old timers. She estimates there were approximately 1 ½ squares of new students between the clubs in our area attending the dance. On February 7, we attended the Special Steppers "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" dance and was asked to thank all the Florida Associations for their contribution in making it possible to attend the "50<sup>th</sup> State Convention" this year. A large hug goes out to Bruce & Colleen Morgan for making this happen.

Update on the co-sponsorship of the H.R. 645 Bill, also known as the "Promenade Act", we received an agreement from Representative F. Allen Boyd, Jr (District 2), however the internet had not been update to show the conformation. We received a response from Representative Jeff Miller (District 1) with no commitment to co-sponsor the bill, however, Cheryl will continue to hound him until he commits to the sponsorship or gives her a great reason not to. I urge other associations to continue to pursue this worthy cause. In fact, to help remind our association to pursue this we would like to give each of the Association Presidents this badge.

NWF will be holding our 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. Association meeting in Tallahassee on March 13, 2004, we will also be having a dance that evening with Elmer Sheffield (one of our Northwest Callers) 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. Upcoming dances to be held in northwest Florida; March 12, Pensacola Ragon Hall will hold it's "Annual C. P. Memorial Benefit Dance" with all proceeds to go to a NWF Caller Bill Donahue to help pay medical expenses for his spouse Polly Donahue who passed away recently after a severe stroke/heart attack. Weekend of Rounds April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Barbara Pierce will be the feature cuers. Spring Fling with callers Willis Simmons & Larry Belcher, the featured cuer will be Sue Corley. Both of these dances will be held in Pensacola Ragon Hall. If you get an opportunity to travel our way come visit.

With last years defeat of the flags on Northwest Florida's castle we have continued to pursue the candles on the cake with a vengeance. Sales have not been great, but as the convention draws closer it is our hopes to increase the sales.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul & Cheryl Miller,  
President, Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association

## **SOUTHEAST SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSN. REPORT**

What a surprise, the real Ken and Su Brown are here this time, no stand-ins needed. We are very glad to be here. Thanks to all for your prayers and well wishes.

We would like to report that the Southeast is alive and well but the reality is we are floundering. Our membership is down approximately one third of last year at this time. The problem of halls remains an ongoing fight. What else is new?

We have reduced our number of dances out of necessity on a month-to-month basis. We have had to cancel the March dance due to the hall not being available after all. April fell on Easter Sunday for us so we cancelled that one too.

Now on a positive note, we had a very successful December toy drive and dance. Once again our wonderful dancers came through with lots of new toys for abused children in our area. These were greatly appreciated by the children and the cookies were good too.

Our annual fundraiser dance, Snowflake Frolic in January was a success, thanks to Ray and Elsa Huddelston. We had a good attendance and even made a nice profit.

We are looking forward to being able to increase our dance participation since one of us is healthy again and seeing more of our dancing fool-whoops, I mean friends again.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken and Su Brown, President

## NORTHEAST REPORT

The New Year started with the instillation of a new executive board for 2004. President, Bud and Anita Taylor, Vice President, Smitty Smith and Shirley White, Recording Secretary, Tom Trammel and Ouida Taylor, Treasurer, Bob and Jane Raymond. Unfortunately the Corresponding Secretaries John and Mary Burzo resigned. Mary is retiring and she has lots of traveling planned. They felt they would not be able to fulfill their duties. We wished them well. Frank and Barbara Meyer were appointed to fill the vacant position. Frank said he enjoyed dressing up in all the wacky costumes and Barbara said she would do all the real work.

The Silver Fox Squares held a very successful Circus Dance on January 30<sup>th</sup> to benefit Dreams Come True. They raised \$1800.00+ for this worthy cause. They are sending a child and his family to a camp at Disney.

The next day, January 31<sup>st</sup> was the first 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance of 2004. It was extremely well attended with 18+ squares in attendance. The theme was Snowman's Paradise. About 6 years ago we started asking 2 clubs each time to host the dances. This really seems to work well. There has been a group of dancers that initiated Dangle Dances at the various clubs. People from each club participated by bringing all their dangles and the man and woman from each club was named the winners for their club. At the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday they held a dangle off. The winners from each club were in competition with each other to be crowned the King and Queen of Dangles. The King and Queen were Jack and Kathy McKinney. The clubs really seemed to enjoy this and there is plans to continue the Dangle dances for 2004.

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the clubs celebrated President's day with the Moose Promenaders at the annual President's Ball. Abe Lincoln was there to start the festivities. The clubs came together to honor the Presidents of their clubs. Each President or Delegate gave a 1 minute speech on why their club was the best. There were voting booths and no expense was spared to see that there were no hanging chads. Eileen Loncle was elected President of the Year. Her name has been added to the traveling plaque and she will have custody of the plaque until next year.

The annual Blue-Grey Dance was held on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Despite the miserable rainy weekend the dance was a great dance. Dixie Dancers are to be congratulated for all their hard work. Abe Lincoln and Robert E. Lee were very cordial in thanking everyone for attending.

The main purpose of the Northeast Association is to help promote square dancing. And to that end we are going to try sponsoring an intensive square dance weekend, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board and Delegates feel that we have to try to do something to attract more dancers. We have rented a hall, and hired a caller. The lessons are going to be at the beginner level and dancing will be Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. We also have several clubs that are going to be graduating mainstream students very soon. The trick then will be to retain the dancers. ★★

The Northeast continues to encourage all dancers to support all the State Conventions. We have been actively promoting this year's convention, ever mindful that next year will be our turn. We think that the cooperation among the convention chairmen is terrific and encourage them to continue.

★★ Student dance was held 2/14/04 with very good attendance. This was held by the callers. We thank them for all their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bud & Anita Taylor

★ Immediate Past Presidents, Joe + Martha Hardecastle

West Coast Square & Round Dancers' Association Report  
February 28, 2004

The West Coast has been very active. Our membership is about the same as last year. One long time member, well known, hard worker for sq. dancing and until recently took care of the Hall of Fame, Chett Vetter, found it necessary to move from Strawberry Sq. and in with a niece in So. Carolina. We have held Membership Dances in Dunedin, Estero, Bartow, and Sebring. Dances are schedule for March in Venice and Sun City.

\* Feb. President 1971-1972

On January 11, 2004, our Assoc. along with the Sun Coast Callers & Cuers Assoc., held a benefit Dance at the Stardust Dance Center in Plant City for Doc Gray, one of our Callers, who recently lost his wife to cancer, The great generosity of the Square Dance family came through again raising over \$2100.00 to help with the medical bills he has.

Our Fall Fun Fest Committee is actively preparing for our annul dance September 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeland Center. This year we have Tom Roper and Bob Barnes on Squares and the Griffins on Rounds. We hope you can all join us.

The Presidents of the W.C. Assoc. are honorary members of the Sun Coast Callers & Cuers Assoc. We attended their last meeting, just last week and they are having the same trouble as most of our clubs and Assocs. are having, That is, in getting someone to take office to run their Assoc. They are very helpful in all that we do. They have always donated their time and talents to do our membership dances, we always have many Callers and Cuers at our dances. It is good to have this rapport. They agreed to submit an article for our W.C. Dancer magazine to be titled 'Meet the Caller/Cuer', look for our first entry in our next printing.

We have several classes going through out our Association. One group had 50 new people on the first night. Most of them are continuing. Other classes range from one square and up.

We have been carrying the 50th Anniversary Cake all around our area and so far have 23 candles lit. As you can tell we believe in promoting the 50<sup>th</sup> State Convention in support of the St. Convention and Central Assoc.

At the request of Fred & Shirley Cornett we are sponsoring a dance tonight at the Stardust Dance Center and hope you are planning on joining us. Fred recommended the Caller that will be there tonight, Willis Simmons, and we are looking forward to a fun night of dancing.

Respectfully submitted, Don & Ann Slocum, W.C. Presidents



**FASSRD Report**  
**Florida Federation Working Weekend**  
**Saturday, February 28, 2004**  
**Lakeland, FL**

The next big Singles event is the 13<sup>th</sup> Fuzzy Navel in Jekyll Island, GA on March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. We have an all Florida staff; Joe Fioretti on squares and the Griffins on rounds. The vendor is Sandy's Closet from Ft. Pierce.

I am assisting the 50<sup>th</sup> State Convention Committee as the Singles Chairman. The Best Western Diplomat will be our host hotel. There will be a hospitality suite on Friday and Saturday afternoons. This will be a place for the singles to get together and meet, perhaps get someone to go to dinner with and maybe line up partners for the evening. There will be two after parties, also at the host hotel, on Friday and Saturday nights with DJ's both nights. Everyone is invited to join us and you don't have to be a member of FASSRD to come.

The 34<sup>th</sup> National Singles convention will be in Atlanta September 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>. Plans are well under way for a charter bus to take us to Atlanta. The trip will start in Davenport, with pick up points in Orlando and Jacksonville. We will return on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup>. Joe Fioretti is one of the scheduled callers.

Our Single Rama will be at the Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring on October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> with Joe Fioretti, Whit Brown and the Griffins.

I continue to submit articles to the various square dance publications in the state, and work to match up solos at the various conventions and festivals to ensure that everyone gets to dance.

Penny Green  
FASSRD President

## Semi-Annual Report to FL Federation

### Keepin' Posted

Another six months have come and gone.

As with time, so too has club participation. Club interest appears to be rebounding - articles are appearing, ads are coming in, and, complaints have fallen. We've added personal interest articles with favorable comment.

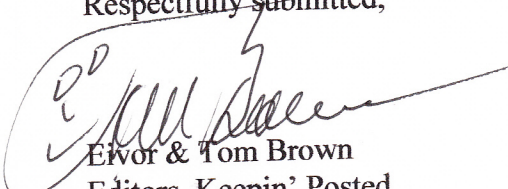
Circulation remains at the 400 copies mark with about 44 pages in each. Of course, we pilfer articles from other Associations that may interest our readers, with proper regard for "publication rights", we give credit where it is due. We share items of mutual interest.

The declining club numbers are a bit worrisome. In the three years that we have been Secretary/Treasurer for the Brevard County Presidents' Council, three clubs have gone; two have tried to start and failed. Reasons: two clubs lost their facility; one lost "office holders" and a loss of revenue contributed to one club's demise. Both startups suffered from lack of involvement with the existing square dance community.

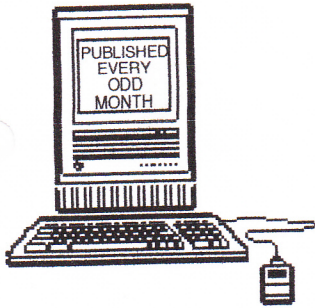
And we see evidence daily that our dancers are much less likely to make a long term commitment and/or even an advance commitment.

But, we sincerely believe a turn around will come. We'll change each issue of Keepin' Posted if we have to - our readers are important.

Respectfully submitted,



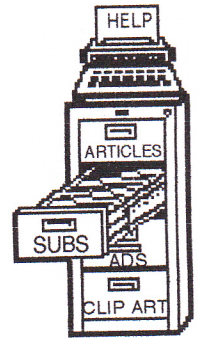
Elvor & Tom Brown  
Editors, Keepin' Posted



# THE GRAPEVINE

## A NEFSARDA PUBLICATION

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### THE GRAPEVINE REPORT

#### Florida Federation Meeting

#### February 27, 2004

The March-April issue of **THE GRAPEVINE** went to the Post Office the 26th. The deadline for the next issue is April 10th.

The "Feature Article" we started some time back, continues to be well received. This issue's Article highlights one of the Lake City clubs and their annually sponsored "special" dance in conjunction with the annual reenactment of the Battle of Olustee.

We continue to receive reports from nearly 100% of our the Association clubs for our Club News section. Some also provide pictures (with captions included - they may be afraid we'll let Bill Boyd help with the captions). This makes our readers happy to see what is happening with the different clubs and, we think, it has helped the club visitations Association wide.

We have lost numerous NEFSARDA friends and dancers since our last report. We hope 2004 will be a much better year for ALL of us!

We look forward to the continuation of ad exchanges with other Association publications for Association sponsored activities this year.

Val & I are planning to attend the National Convention in Denver this year. We also plan to do some traveling thru the Mid West in conjunction with the National, either before or after. We haven't decided which yet.

In keeping with the distribution of Square Dance publications to our newest dancers, we decided to pass them out BEFORE they graduated this year. So far, the reception has been very positive compared to past years. We again want to thank Randy & Bill Boyd for their support in supplying copies of the Bow & Swing and the American Square Dance books.

Respectfully submitted,

*Charlie & Val Newsome*

Charlie & Val Newsome,  
Editors

February 28, 2004

Submitted to Florida Federation of Square Dancers

## WEST COAST DANCER REPORT

Good Morning:

I'd like to bring you up to date on the latest action we're taking to help keep the dance schedules lists as current as possible. We often hear that some schedules have changed or out of date. In fact, the West Coast Association Presidents message in this Feb./Mar. issue, urged everyone to send us corrections when noted. By coincidence, the day we received their message, we were informed that a caller had canceled one of his dances 3 years ago. We were still carrying his listing since no one informed us to the contrary.

Simply put, we are informing everyone through e-mails and notices that unless we receive corrections or confirmation that your listing is correct, it will be removed in the Aug./Sept. issue. Many responses have come back and all express approval of this plan.

Whether you are in the West Coast area or not, if you see a copy of the Dancer- we'd appreciate your comments if you know of inaccuracies, be it time, directions, location or whatever. Our contact information is in the Dancer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed & Ginny Henning, Editors

Bruce & Colleen Morgan  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

Dan & Anna Foust  
ASSISTANT  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

Dewey & Donna Hendricks  
CONVENTION SECRETARY

Jack & Barbara Hoffman  
CONVENTION TREASURER

# 50th FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND CONVENTION

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**May 28, 29, 30, 2004**



February 28, 2004 Florida Federation Meeting – Best Western Motel, Lakeland, FL

Just 3 months to go. Time is really starting to fly by. Colleen & I are really looking forward to putting on a great Golden Anniversary Convention for the dancers of Florida. We held a meeting with our whole committee on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> just prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance. OK, not all committees were represented but we were brought up to date on all attending and a few of those that weren't able to attend. We think we are on schedule. Or, at least, we think we are. We had some surprise guests. They were a surprise to some, I knew they might be attending but I wasn't positive. Jay & Gail Richards, the General Chairpersons of the 51<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention and current members of the NEC, sat in on our meeting and even participated. After the meeting was over they congratulated us on a fine meeting and commented that they think we are on track and that we should have a successful convention as long as the dancers show up. This is where you all come into play. Since we are not able to cover the whole state we are relying on you to help us out. Please talk up the convention and get the word out to all the dancers that this is a special anniversary convention and they really need to come and be a part of it. We will take some guidance from Smokey the Bear, "Only you can promote a Great Convention".

We are on track for the entertainment each night. I think we have a good assortment for the dancers attending the convention. As you know the Special Steppers will be in attendance. The deposit has been paid on their hotel rooms and the bus transportation. The final payment on both of these will be paid in the near future. All of this was possible by the generosity of the dancers of Florida. If you remember, in only seven short months we collected \$8,115.01 in order to bring The Special Steppers to Lakeland for the 50<sup>th</sup> Florida State Convention. They have their ribbons and they are ready to head south whenever the time comes. By the way, they just celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. So this is really a special year for them. Two big anniversary parties for them the same year.

You will notice some changes with the convention center this year. Like last year, we are not renting the arena on Friday night. The entertainment and opening ceremonies on Friday will be in the Plus Hall – Exhibition Hall West. We will only be renting the arena on Saturday and Sunday. Please watch for signs as the arena will be arranged differently. There is a curtain that divides the arena into 2/3 and 1/3. This curtain will be down dividing the arena the whole weekend. The fashion Show will be Saturday afternoon at 1:00 PM. Saturday afternoon for the fashion show will be the first time that you will be in the arena during this convention. During the fashion show we will be using the small 1/3 section of the arena. This is the end where the elephant doors are located. You will be directed around the outside concourse of the arena to the far end and you will be seated on the end of the arena above the elephant doors. The curtain will be the backdrop for the Fashion Show. During the opening ceremonies on Saturday and Sunday evenings we will be utilizing the larger 2/3 section of the arena. But you will notice that the stage will not be on the long side of the arena as it always has been in previous years. It will be backed up to the curtain facing the tunnel and main doors. The audience watching the ceremonies will be setting on the end of the arena above the tunnel. The Grand March, which is being directed by George Knapp, will enter the arena from the two doors on the corners of the arena. This gives the dancers the whole length of the north and south concourse to assemble. But we are asking all the dancers to please be in the stands and watch the exhibitions. The people that put on the shows donate their time and talents and they deserve as large an audience as possible. So please inform the dancer from your portion of the state to please set in the stands and watch the exhibitions. There will be plenty of time to assemble for the Grand March. Colleen & I will let you know when to get up and go down for assembly. George has made signs to designate where each association should set so that they can get

assembled and ready for the Grand March with the least amount of time. We hope that you will like our new arrangement for the arena. Since we are not renting the arena on Friday it facilitates setting up for the Fashion Show and evening ceremonies a lot easier. Because they are using the different sections of the arena both can be set up at the same time on Saturday morning and then the arena doesn't have to be touched again.

Registrations have started to pick up a bit. We have 755 ribbons sold at this time. We hope that they pick up a lot more between now and the first of May when the cutoff for purchasing ribbons by mail arrives. If you know of anybody that is planning to attend the convention but have not purchased their ribbon yet please let them know that time is running out. They will want to purchase them now so that they can save \$2.00 over the price at the door.

The Shamrock Swing is fast approaching. Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> we will have the drawing for the 3 night hotel stay during the convention. If you haven't purchased your tickets on this drawing yet you better get them soon. You won't want to miss out on this prize. For a \$5.00 ticket you have the chance to win 3 night stay at the Holiday Inn North in Lakeland during the convention this year. This is close to a \$200 prize for only \$5.00. Buy them today. Please push this raffle at all your dances. If you need tickets please see me after the meeting today and I'll make sure that you have some. There isn't very much time left. You can sell this to anyone. They don't have to be going to the convention. If they win and are not going to the convention we will give them the money equal to the 3 night at the Holiday Inn. If you planned on staying at the Host Hotel you are out of luck unless you buy a ticket on this drawing. The hotel is completely full and the only remaining room is the one reserved for this drawing. Get your tickets today. But if you want to stay at the Best Western or Baymont that is OK also. We will gladly give you a room at one of those hotels also. SO you don't have any excuses now. Purchase your tickets today or at the dance tonight. Also at the Shamrock Swing we will have our Silent Auction. This will be the last Silent Auction for this convention committee. We asked all the clubs of the Central Area to sponsor a theme basket and donate it to the convention. We should have a lot of different baskets for you to bid on. Please bring your checkbooks as some of these are going to be worth a lot of money. The clubs are really going all out.

Our continual fund-raisers are as follows: The Serger Raffle. The Serger is over an \$800 value and even includes classes anywhere in the state of Florida. Margie Heffner, half of our Ways & Means Chairpersons, donated a beautiful afghan that we are raffling. The tickets for the serger and afghan are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. They don't have to be present to win and they don't have to be dancers. Anybody can win. These can be sold to anybody. Take them to your church functions and anything else that you attend. If you need tickets for either of these to sell please see me right after the meeting and I will be glad to give you some. We need for everybody to sell tickets for these items along with the registration ribbons.

Dan & Anna Foust, our Assistant General Chairpersons, along with Colleen & I hit most of the businesses in and around the city of Lakeland during the Sunshine Festival Weekend. Plus Colleen & I revisited a few of them yesterday. We were selling ads for the Program Book. We sold quite a few ads and even got money in hand for a number of them. E-mail was what I have used to sell most of our ad so far. I started sending out e-mails around the end of the year. I sent them to every square dancer and square dance related business that I could find an e-mail address. As of right now, I have \$1,500 in sales. We also have commitments for a number of other ads. We are selling Personal Ads in the Program Book for \$10.00. These are for individuals that want to express birthday or anniversary wishes, thank you and other similar ads. These personal ads are ¼ pages in size but without graphics. If you would like to purchase a personal ad please see Colleen or myself and we will be glad to take your money. Duke and Doris McCleskey purchased the first personal ad and they have the honor of purchasing the first ad, either personal or business, in the 2004 Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention Program Book. We had already sold the back cover and both inside covers prior to the Sunshine Festival weekend. The company that purchased the back cover contacted us. They were eager to purchase it. They would have done a lot more if allowed. The vendor I am talking about is Sheplers. They opened a store in Orlando a little over a year ago. Last year they provided us with 20% discount coupons. This year they have also given us 20% discount coupons, a \$50.00 gift certificate that we will give away Friday evening at the opening ceremonies. They also wanted to be a paid vendor and would have **paid extra** to hang their banner in the arena.. Current guidelines would not allow anything like this.

This needs to be changed. If we are to continue to hold conventions and have to struggle with rising costs each and every year we won't be able to make it without sponsorship from commercial organizations. I had to turn down this free money because of outdated guidelines. Sorry about the political speech but I believe this needs correcting if the state conventions are going to continue.

Colleen & I have passed out the invitations to our after-party on Saturday night after the convention closes for the evening. It will be held in the Ballroom of the Holiday Inn North across from the Best Western. Our After-Party Chairperson, Terri Little, promises a great time. If you haven't received your invitation please see us after the meeting. Or if for some reason you don't get one just show up at the party anyway. We wouldn't want anybody to miss the fun. Also if you have any short skits that you would like to do please see Terri. She will be glad to add you to the list of performers. Terri, please stand up so everyone will know who to look for.

Colleen & I have already placed a sign-up sheet at our club. There are two sections. The first section is for anybody that is going to the convention. The more people that sign the more the ones that have not committed to attend will ask questions about what goes on at the convention and why are you going. We have had a number of people buy ribbons after seeing that their friends are attending. The second part is if they want to attend our Club Dinner on Saturday afternoon. We appoint one couple to contact a restaurant and make reservations for all the Whirl & Twirl Dancers. This is even more enticement for the dancers to attend. You know how square dancers love to eat. Well, none of our dancers wants to miss a group meal so more and more are signing up every day. Right now, we have over 50 dancers on the list and we still have 3 more months to go. If every club would do this maybe we can entice more and more dancers to attend the convention. We held our class graduation last Wednesday evening. We already have 3 couples of the graduating class that have signed up for the convention.

Get out to all the dances that you can and promote, promote, promote. You are our best sales persons. Ask for the mic and talk about the convention. Make sure that you carry registration forms for the convention with you. That way the dancers that you talk with cannot say they don't know where to get one. You can just hand them one. Leave some with the club if they don't already have some. If you need registration forms see me after the meeting and I'll be glad to give you some.

Remember, this is the Florida State Convention not the Central Florida Convention. It takes everyone to make the convention a success. If all the dancers in the state don't support and promote all the conventions then we won't be able to continue to have them. Let's all get out and do what we can to help this fun weekend grow back to the level it once was.

Bruce & Colleen Morgan  
General Chairman  
50th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention

**51st STATE CONVENTION REPORT**  
**Florida Federation Meeting**  
**February 28, 2004**

Since November, we have been concentrating on a "little" fund raising and a "lot" of Kick-Off Planning!!

The last few fund raisers included a garage sale, and the sale of Entertainment Books, candy, and angel pins. Bob and Jane Raymond, who are the Sew & Save Chairman for 2005, and also are new delegates to the Federation, came up with the idea of the red, white, and blue angel pins. They thought they could make \$50-\$75 for the convention. Final figures are not in, but it looks like those little Angel Pins we hoped to make \$75.00 on will make a whopping \$1,000.00. (Ask Bob & Jane to stand). We are now getting ready to kick off a fund raiser that will be running from our Kick-Off on May 30th until the Convention in 2005. We also have another special fund raiser we hope to get underway after May, as well as our final Fund Raising Dance which we hope to hold in the early Fall.

We attended the Florida Callers Meeting as they programmed for the 2004 Convention.

We have contacted hotels/motels for the inclusion of their prices and other information on the Registration Form. Our Camping Chairman has also obtained pertinent information for camping facilities/prices to be included.

The Registration Form for the 2005 Convention has been delivered to the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce for printing.

Graphics has been completed for the Buttons to be made.

We have been in touch with "Ribbons Galore" on several occasions and are sending in the Ribbons order next week. Their promised delivery time is two weeks.

Our Host Hotel in 2005 will be the same as the 50th's Host Hotel in 2004. Randy Poole will again be handling all reservations for rooms at that hotel. (Thanks, Randy!) We have tried to help the 50th Convention staff by selling ribbons, raffle tickets, cups, or by helping in any way we could. We would also like Bruce & Colleen Morgan to know that we stand ready to help them in any way we can during the 50th Florida State Convention. We are truly convinced that only by helping one another can we keep the Florida State Convention alive. We thank Bruce & Colleen for all the help they have given us.

Garland & Carole McKenzie, 52nd State Convention Chairman, have advised us they will not use the Arena for their Kick-Off on Sunday evening; therefore, we immediately contacted the Lakeland Center and arranged to release the Convention Arena on Sunday, May 29th, 2005. We will only use the Arena on Saturday.

Registrations for the 2005 Convention will be sold for \$15.00 per person immediately after the Kick-Off. We also plan to sell registrations on Saturday afternoon; however, ribbons will be mailed.

Last, but not least, Kick-Off Plans have been finalized and the "star" of our presentation is Ready, Set, to GO! All props are finished, or in the final stages. Convention Attire is ready -- or also in final stages. Practices have been scheduled. We hope you will all be on hand Sunday evening, May 30th, in the Arena, as the Northeast presents their Invitational Ceremony to all of you. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Respectfully submitted,

*Charlie & Val Newsome*  
Charlie & Val Newsome  
General Chairmen



### **2006 CONVENTION REPORT**

Thursday we met with Brenda Townsend at the Convention Center. We were advised that there would not be carpeting of Sikes Halls by the time of our convention. We were also advised that all square dancing events at the center will have a 3-day parking pass that can be purchased only on the first day of the event. If someone comes in on the second day there will be no break on the parking fees. We will be meeting with our Caller and Cues Chairmen to determine how the halls should be programmed and how many we will need so we can get a contract at the convention in May.

On Saturday, March 6 we are having our first fund raising dance. We have requested all the Southeast callers and cues to participate at this event. We have distributed tickets to many of the callers and cues and have asked them to promote this event at all their dances. The tickets for this dance are \$5/person and we have asked the dancers to purchase tickets whether they are attending or not. This would be a donation to the convention fund. We have tickets with us if anyone here would like to purchase them.

Betty Guthrie, Chairman of the Decorations Committee has donated an afghan to be raffled for funds for her committee. She is in the process of making and distributing tickets for this raffle.

We are pursuing alternatives for our convention outfit. I have an outfit in mind but I am also looking for a ready-made alternative. Many of our dancers are non-sewers or like me don't have the time to make an outfit. Our daughter is helping us with a logo since she recently purchased a new sewing machine with embroidery options.

Henri Arsenault is working with Al Guthrie, Mike Doughty and Sonny McCartney to develop a kickoff program. We are seeking area dancers to participate in the program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Garland & Carole McKenzie  
General Chairmen

### **2007 STATE CONVENTION REPORT**

The Northwest is still trying to put together a committee. Fred and Shirley are a hard act to follow!

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul and Cheryl Miller

### **2008 STATE CONVENTION REPORT**

We have the Executive Board filled and many other Committee Chairmen positions. The Ways and Means committee has been working and has raised about \$800.00 to date. We are waiting to see what changes may be made in how the Conventions are going to be structured before proceeding much further.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don & Ann Slocum, Chairmen

**Florida Federation  
Historians Report**

February <sup>28</sup> 29, 2004

As I usually do I am here to heap good thought and kudos on Zonie. We have had a wonderful run as Historians of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers. We appreciate all the great compliments that we have had on the work that Zonie has accomplished. She works long hours compiling the albums and making a neat book for each of the Florida State Conventions. She will have another super book ready for the end of the year.

Many thanks to the people that have submitted pictures to us, the editors of the state publications and the association publications for donating a copy to us for the archives we have compiled. These publications are important to us when we are questioned about an event in the past. It is a good way to find information about this great activity.

We have really enjoyed taking a lot of the albums and books to the State and National Conventions. We fondly remember Tom Saville who painted the backdrop painting that we display each year. Again a super memory that we will cherish forever.

Finally we will be stepping down from this job in October at the Annual meeting. Zonie has told me to stop aggravating her or she will quit.

For several years now she has been looking at people in the Federation that would do super job like she has done.

We asked Manny Gonzales and he has accepted to take on this job along with his wife Sherry. So I would like to make a motion that Manny and Sherry be appointed this position to take over in October. We would need this extra time to complete the final book on the Convention and to work with Manny and Sherry to turn over all the files and material that we have gathered throughout the years.

Sincerely Submitted

*Jack & Zonie Taylor*

Jack and Zonie Taylor  
Florida Historians

### **HALL OF FAME**

The Hall of Fame Committee received only one resume. The Committee will be mailing this resume out to the Selection Committee next week.

If the resume meets all requirements when we count the ballots, we will proceed with ordering plaques and arranging the induction on Saturday at the State Convention.

As this is our year to retire from this Committee we will be selecting a dancer couple to take our place.

We hope to make this announcement at the May meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Butlak, Chairman

## USDA Winter Meeting

The USDA held their winter meeting the end of January in Paducah, Kentucky. It was attended by all but one of the committee members

.We would like to establish a square dance museum and have been courted by two different states so far and maybe a third one in California. They are Paducah, Kentucky and Clarksville, Tennessee. The Paducah location has only one building and has no place for parking but a lady in Clarksville has donated 10 acres if the person that is submitting this spot is able to get the money for the buildings she wants to construct. It is right off of route 24 and close to an army base. It will consist of a room for the museum for us to fill with any square dance memorabilia that we desire and a big room for dances, etc and smaller rooms for classes.

If we can secure a hall there will be another after party at the National Convention for the youth this year. We will also hold a plus dance at the convention on Friday evening.

We have 4 couple members working with the ARTS Committee in trying to promote square dancing. They held a meeting in October and will hold another one in March.

Our goal for getting the square dance as the National Folk Dance of the United States is not going too well, we only have 26 co-sponsors so far. They are going to keep working on this but do not have much faith in getting it passed this session. If not, we will try one more time in the next session.

We are still participating in the prescription and credit card programs. At our June meeting this year we will present each of the affiliates a check consisting of \$100.00 per each vote, example Florida Federation has 4 votes, therefore will receive \$400.00. All these funds come from the credit card program so those of you that use these cards help to make this possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave & Shirley Nihart

Saturday, February 28, 2004

BMI dues have been increased to \$115.00. We have received a check from the treasurer and it has been sent to BMI. ASCAP dues remain at \$.065 per convention attendee plus one half of vendors participating. This amount will due at the completion of the State Convention.

**Florida Federation Insurance Report**  
**February 28, 2004**  
**Florida Federation Working Weekend**  
**Best Western Motel, Lakeland, FL**

As of January 31st we have 58 Clubs and 2463 dancers insured. I have received paperwork from 5 Square Dance Associations and the Singles although I haven't sent the Singles paperwork in yet. That is why no money shows up for them. Penny Green has asked me to wait until most of the other clubs have renewed so that the Singles can pay the minimum payment of \$45.00. I have not heard from the Cloggers as of yet. I don't want this year to be like last year. They waited to the last minute before sending their request for insurance to me. I have informed Michael Roberts that I won't have time to do the same thing this year. Therefore, I informed her that I wanted her insurance paperwork by the first of April or I could not guarantee she will have insurance for the Cloggers' Convention. I have not heard from her.

I have a request for all the Association Insurance chairpersons. You need to send me 2 copies of everything. One to send on to the USDA and one for my records. If you have the listing of members in a file then you can e-mail me the file. That way I won't have to type all the names and addresses into my computer. All club rosters MUST include the dancer's name, address, city, state, zip code and telephone number. Some of you have been leaving a lot of the required information off the forms. While I am talking about names and address, please provide the complete names of the city, the state and the telephone area code. You have to remember some of us are not from your association and we do not know your area codes or nicknames for your cities. These forms are sent on to the USDA and then on to the Insurance Company. And they are not familiar with our nicknames and area codes.

Please fill out these forms completely. If the dancer is insured through another club please list that other club on the form. Sometimes it is very hard to figure out how many dancers you are paying for. Please take the time to complete the package before sending it to me. And please get the current year's forms to your clubs. I have had to ask some of the Associations and Clubs for additional money because they are still using forms from last year or, in the case of one club, two years ago.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bruce & Colleen Morgan**  
FFSD Insurance Chairpersons

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers  
USDA Insurance Financial Report  
February 1, 2004**

Checking Account

**Balance Forward as of 10/31/2003**

\$

Receipts 11/01/2003 thru 1/31/2004

Central	\$
Northwest	\$
West Coast	\$
Southeast	
Northeast	\$
Singles	
Cloggers	

**Total Receipts**

\$

**Sub-Total**

\$

Disbursements 11/01/2003 thru 1/31/2004

USDA Premiums	\$
Administrative Expenses	
Checks	
Envelopes	\$
Bank Service Charge	\$
Phone/FAX	
Copies	
Postage	\$
Refund of overpayment (West Coast)	\$
Refund of overpayment (Northwest)	\$

**Total Disbursements**

\$

**Balance on Hand as of 1/31/2004**

\$

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce & Colleen Morgan  
FFSD Insurance Chairpersons