

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE & ROUND DANCERS MEETING
SATURDAY, February 26, 2005
BEST WESTERN DIPLOMAT, LAKELAND, FL**

President, Garland and Carole McKenzie called the meeting to order, at 9:00 AM. Ken Brasfield gave the invocation. President McKenzie led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sue Brown called the roll and stated a quorum was in attendance.

A motion was made by Bruce Morgan and seconded by Don Slocum to accept the minutes of the October 31, 2004 meeting - approved as published. The motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT:

Beginning Balance – All Accounts

Wachovia Checking

Contingency

Insurance

Total All Accounts \$

Receipts

Disbursements

Ending Balance – All Accounts

Wachovia Checking

Contingency

Insurance

Total All Accounts \$

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken and Sue Brown, Treasurer

The report was filed for audit.

SUNSHINE REPORT:

President Garland McKenzie reported that Worley Carrier is undergoing Chemo for Cancer. We are asked to keep them in our prayers. Carole spoke to Nan and learned Worley is having both good and bad days. A card is to be sent.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Carole McKenzie read a "Thank You" from Fred and Shirley Cornett. They wrote " Thank you for the Crystal Plate. We use it often". They further stated they had enjoyed a gratifying 5 years service on the Florida Federation. They wished the new board success in the promotion of Square Dancing.

MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE & ROUND DANCERS MEETING
October 31, 2004

Following a delicious breakfast provided by the Northwest Association and Fred and Shirley Cornett, the meeting was called to order, at 9:00am by President Shirley Cornett. Fred Cornett gave the invocation and led the delegates in the pledge of allegiance. Jack McKinney called the roll and stated a quorum was in attendance. Shirley Cornett welcomed all the guests. Guests include, callers, Ted Kennedy and Bob Poyner, Northwest Treasurers, Joe & Patricia McLendon, Northeast Corresponding Secretary, Frank & Barbara Meyer.

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted by a motion from Bruce Morgan and seconded by Ken Brown.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ken Brown reported that as of October 31, 2004, the checking account balance was \$4,844.41. Total receipts for the period May 30, 2004 to October 31, 2004 were \$16.91. Total disbursements were \$173.33. As of October 31, 2004 the checking account balance is \$4,687.99 Contingency fund balance is \$4,000.00; and the Insurance account balance is \$1, 683.68. The total for all accounts is \$10,371.67. The report was filed for audit.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: See attached

SUNSHINE REPORT: Condolences went for the deaths of Joy Vacarri's sister, Colleen Morgan's brother, Howard Crowe's sister, and Shirley White's grandson. Get well wishes were extended to Joe Fioretti, diagnosed with liver cancer and John Swindle with tumors on his kidney and bladder.

CORRESPONDENCE: Fred Cornett received a letter from Mary Butlak thanking the Federation for her lovely gift. Fred also received a letter from Doc Tirrell stating that closure of Legacy has been completed.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: No report.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS: See attached

PUBLICATION REPORTS: See attached (Keepin Posted and West Coast Dancer, no report) Panhandle Press, acquired new copy machine and is doing well. They are behind because of the hurricane.

STATE CONVENTION REPORTS: The Central Association presented the Federation with a check for \$3,681.73 for their share of the proceeds of the 50th Florida State Square Dance Convention, hosted by the Central Association. They received a standing ovation for their hard work and success! (See attached for other state convention reports)

FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME REPORT: No report. However, they now have a web site linked from the Florida Dance Web.

HISTORIAN REPORT: (See attached.) Jack and Zonie Taylor were presented with a gift for all their years of hard work and dedication at the NW Fall Round-Up the previous evening. This was their last report. Manny and Sherry Gonzales have graciously taken over the Historian duties.

U.S.D.A. REPORT: The Federation received \$400 from the U.S.D.A. credit card program. They told about looking on their web site, USDA.ORG for information about long-term health care (See attached for report).

U.S.D.A. INSURANCE REPORT: Bruce Morgan had a list of dancers and clubs insured. Dances being held in January and February need to send information to Bruce as soon as possible. (See attached for report)

ASCAP-BMI REPORT: no report.

OLD BUSINESS: Ken Brasfield presented a proposal from his committee, including himself, Dee Dee Stovall, and Ray Huddleston, for the Extra Mile Award. (See Attached) Ken Brasfield made a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Ken Brown. Don Slocum suggested the Federation look into possibly adding an Extra Mile Plaque at Strawberry Squares. Charlie Newsome asked for more specific guidelines. Ken Brasfield suggested the Federation Board determine qualifications of submissions. Bruce Morgan suggested the funding for the awards, would be provided by Federation. Motion Passed.

The subject of the Square Dance Competition being sponsored by the Federation at the Senior Games was set to be a topic at the Working Weekend. Fred stated we need to review the competition slated to be at the upcoming Senior Games in Lake Wales.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom Hancock, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate and asked for nominations from the floor. The current officers agreed to move up and Paul and Cheryl Miller were pronounced Parliamentarian. The Hancocks initiated the officers with a very innovative and humorous Naval flair! The new "Captain" of the ship, USS FL FED are Garland and Carole McKenzie! A beautiful crystal plate was presented to the Cornetts. The Cornetts presented gifts to all their board members.

Don Slocum made a motion for the Parliamentarian to provide the Federation with a "Traveling Banner". Motion Passed.

Charlie Newsome asked for the Federation to set up a disaster fund. Garland McKenzie said this has been tried in the past and did not work. Garland said most associations have disaster funds and have better control over destinations. Charlie made a motion to discuss this at the working weekend, seconded by Ken Brown. Motion Passed.

Bruce Morgan said he was contacted by square dancers in the Washington DC area that are having fund raisers for people suffering damage from hurricanes. Bruce will distribute the funds to any association requesting money for their area.

Shirley advised the delegates that money is available through the United Way for families suffering damage from hurricanes. You can also call the Red Cross at 1-866-getinfo, for funds, or contact Volunteer Florida. There is money available if you do some research!

Carole McKenzie reported that the next meeting will be in Lakeland, FL on February 25-27, 2005 at the Best Western Diplomat.

A motion was made by Don Slocum to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Morgan. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack and Kathy McKinney, Secretary

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

February 26, 2005

The Southeast Association is alive – but not necessarily well. We persisted with our "Circle of Support" between the dancers, the SEA and the callers & cuers association and visited nearly all the clubs within the Association. We have had more caller/cuer participation, and our membership increased by about 20. Part of that increase was due to the fact that we decreased our new membership rate. Unfortunately attendance at the dances has only marginally increased. Quite a few members joined only to support the SEA and have not attended the monthly dances. In an additional effort to encourage attendance, when we have an advance level caller, we have at least one and sometimes two advance level tips called. We announce this at the advance level clubs and we have had about two additional squares, but we are not sure it is because of the star tips or the fact that the advance level callers bring a following.

In addition to lack of attendance **at the dances, we also continue to experience lack of interest in participating on the board. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated board members who are real die-hards: Ada Trott continues keeping track of the membership; Jerry and Helen Rhodes still continue with the insurance, Bob Sorensen is a big help as vice president. And last but definitely not least Stan and Elaine Wyler who steadfastly handle the treasurer responsibilities. We owe these people a tremendous thank you for staying with us and allowing the SEA to continue crawling over the humps as we go downward.**

We are considering dropping our dances from nine a year to four a year. We will continue to have board meetings the week before these dances, but will discontinue most of the business meetings held for the SEA membership 30 minutes prior to each dance. Most dancers do not show up until they know the meeting is over. They just don't care.

We do have good news! Our annual toy drive was a great success. The people from ChildNet who came to pick up the toys were overwhelmed at the amount of toys that were donated, and we received a very appreciative thank you letter from them.

Our annual fundraiser, the Snowflake Frolic, was also a tremendous success as it has been for the last few years. We had about 15 squares on the floor. Although Frank Bedell has not been well and was not able to attend, Henri Arsenault and Mike Doughty helped to make the dance the success that it was. At this point, it is questionable as to whether we will have another Snowflake Frolic.

It is with a sad heart that all the dedicated SEA board members face making some very serious decisions in the net six months – and it is not for lack of money but lack of dancers.

Respectfully submitted,

gn=justify>Ray & Elsa Huddleston

As read by Elsa

SEA President

NORTHEAST FEDERATION REPORT

February 25, 2005

The highlight of NEFSARDA'S activities for 2004 was the Fall Festival. The Chairmen, Jack & Kathy McKinney, along with their committee did a marvelous job. They gave us a night to dance in a "STARLIGHT WONDERLAND", to the wonderful voice and showmanship of Debra Carroll-Jones.

The Cuers, Tim and Nana Eum did a beautiful exhibition dance and were enthusiastically received by all the dancers. The decorations were among the most spectacular we had ever seen. We sincerely thank Jack and Kathy and their committees for making this a very successful Fall Festival.

The New Year was ushered in with a unanimous re-election of the NEFSARDA board. The officers for the year 2005 are: President-Bud & Anita Taylor, Vice-President-Smitty Smith & Shirley White, Treasurer-Bob & Jane Raymond, Recording Secretary-Tom Trammel & Ouida Taylor, Corresponding Secretary-Frank & Barbara Meyer, Immediate Past-President-Joe & Martha Hardcastle. Bud and I really appreciate all of these people for agreeing to serve another term. We have become very close to all of them and consider them as family.

The NEFSARDA Board hit the ground running in January. The second Saturday in January was the first board meeting of the year. Later that night we joined the Gypsy Squares at Pacetti's Campground for their dance. Their regular caller John Barrett was unable to be there that night, but Bill Chesnut was there to lend a helping hand.

The next day was our delegates meeting. In our meeting we have done away with the President's message. I felt that I should not be the one to do all the talking. Instead we have opened up the floor to everyone calling it a time for JOY'S and CONCERNS. This has been modeled after several churches to give everyone a chance to give good news of what is going on in their lives or their clubs, or share their concerns on their health or the health of family or fellow dancers. It has been a little slow going at first, but I feel they are starting to loosen up. The highlight of the meeting was the beautiful visitation medallions that were given to the clubs. We have Bronze, Silver, and Gold medallions signifying the number of visitations each club made. They were engraved with the name of the club and the number of visitations. The Board also announced plans for a 2005 New Year's Eve Dance. December 31, does happen to be a 5th Saturday and we decided to send the year out with a bang. We have hired 3 of our local callers, and I have hired Tim and Nana Eum to cue the rounds. We are also planning a catered dinner.

On February 15th we had our last official fundraiser for the 51st State Convention. I am going to let Charlie and Val Newsome tell you all about this dance.

The annual Circus Dance by the Silver Fox Squares was a great success. The dance is a charity dance for Dreams Come True for critically ill children.

Our first 5th Saturday dance of the year had the theme "THE SUPER BOWL" (I wonder how they came up with that theme?) It was a cold and rainy night, but everyone enjoyed the dance.

The Blue-Grey dance was held on February 19th. We danced to the ever-marvelous Mac McCall. The Dixie Dancers do a wonderful job planning such a fun filled weekend.

We have had several of our dancers who have started off this year with illness. We pray for their speedy recovery and hope that the rest of 2005 will find them in improved health. We also have had some of our dancers, or members of their families that have passed away. We are praying for them and hope they find comfort in the New Year.

As always we invite you to join us Memorial Day Weekend for the 51st State Convention and hope you will want to 'GET ON BOARD'.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud and Anita Taylor

As read by Anita Taylor

President-NEFSARDA

WEST COAST FEDERATION REPORT

February 26, 2005

Since the last Federation meeting, in DeFuniak Springs, we have had a very busy schedule. Our Fall Fun Fest, held at the Lakeland Center on November 12th & 13th, 2004 was well attended, with Tom Roper and Bob Barnes on squares and Jimmy & Carol Griffin on rounds. A special recognition award was given to Penny Green for all the hard work she does to promote square dancing. Our next Fall Fun Fest is scheduled for November 11th & 12th with Jerry Biggerstaff and Sam Dunn doing squares and Don & Loretta Hanhurst cueing. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Many clubs, in our Association, are sponsoring classes for beginners. We hope everyone will help angel and support the new students to make them feel welcome.

Our Association meeting was held on November 17th at the Jan Platt Library in Tampa. The folding of the West Coast Dancer precedes our meetings. The West Coast has been very fortunate to have a wonderful group of dancers turn out for our meetings, which gets the task of gathering and folding the West Coast Dancer done in a fun and timely manner.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend with our family. Then it was off to Estero for our Associations' Christmas Holiday Dance. The dance was a success with Jack & Alice Newsom, Lee County Reps. Hosting. Dick Chase was the emcee, along with the support of local Callers & Cuers donating their time. We can't say enough about the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association. They always seem to be there when we need them.

On January 9th our Association's Winter Frolic Dance was held at the Brooksville Shriners Club. We had 13 squares with Bob Bourassa emceeing. Hernando County Reps., Carlyle & Jean Hammond, along with the Cloverleaf Leprechauns, hosted the dance.

Our first West Coast meeting for 2005 was held on January 26th. Twenty seven hundred issues of the West Coast Dancer were gathered and folded. This is the busiest time of the year with all clubs dancing. Our folding started at 5:30 and we were still able to have time for our meeting and finish by 9:00.

Our Associations Valentine Dance was held in Bartow on Feb. 13th, with Clyde Stocker as the emcee. The Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association held their meeting prior to the dance. With so many Callers & Cuers at the dance, Clyde did an excellent job, working them all in. There were 18 squares with red, white & Pink everywhere. Buttons & Bows of Lakeland hosted the dance. After the regular dance Sam Dunn did an advanced tip.

We are happy to report that on February 16th, at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, 245 dancers from 20 clubs, 7 callers and 2 cuers put on a demo from 11 AM to 5 PM. Merle (and the late JoAnn) Lewis, Hillsborough County Reps. And members of the Temple Twirlers in Tampa, have been promoting our activity at the Fair for a number of years. People of all age groups attend the Fair. This demo has always been successful in attracting new dancers. A big thank you goes out to all the dancers, callers & cuers who donated their time and to Merle for continuing to promote the enjoyment of square dancing.

The "2005" Express" has made several stops in the West Coast area. It will continue to steam down the tracks until it reaches its final destination at the Lakeland Center for the 51st Florida State Convention. As of today we have 17 crossties and as our schedule permits, we will be adding more.

We are sponsoring our 6th annual Red, White & Blue Dance tonight for the Federation at the request of Garland & Carole McKenzie. The dance will be held at the Stardust Dance Center in

Plant City. Early rounds are at 7:30 with squares from 8:00—10:00. Henri Arsenault from Hollywood, FL will be Calling & Cueing. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

Respectively Submitted,

Fred & Jan Smith

As read by Fred Smith

**Central Florida Square & Round Dancers Association
CFA Presidents report to FL Fed at Working Weekend Feb 2005**

Since the last Federation meeting we have had 2 well-attended 5th Saturday dances, on Oct 30th and Jan 29th.

Central Florida was hard hit by the hurricanes, as were all sections of Florida. CFA has a small disaster fund meant to help People who were hit by some disaster. Hurricanes qualify. In late October we received communications from the Washington (DC) Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association through a past President of WASDCA now living in Central Florida and members of CFA. They expressed a desire to hold a dance to benefit Florida dancers who suffered severe damage from the hurricanes. They proposed to let us administer and distribute these funds through our disaster fund. We agreed to do this. The dance was held and funds were sent to CFA in the amount of approximately \$1800. CFA then decided to contribute \$1000 of its 2004 Convention profits to the Disaster fund also. We then set up a 3 couple committee to screen and administer the applications for this fund. So far, we have awarded \$500 to each of two individuals that the committee recommended. There is still more money available for this, so please let us know about anyone in your area who needs help along these lines. They do not have to be in the CFA area, but may come from anywhere in Florida.

All clubs in the CFA area were affected by the hurricanes to some degree. Some had to shut down for a short period, some had to move to different facilities temporarily and others had to repair their facilities. Most are back to some degree of normality at this time.

Orange Blossom Squares in the Villages have 4 classes going with about 40 couples attending. Buckles and Bows in St. Cloud/Kissimmee have folded.

Don't forget the Shamrock Swing coming up in 2 weeks (March 11th & 12th). Tickets are still available but going fast. See any CFA rep this weekend for ribbons.

Our next 5th Saturday Dance will be April 30th hosted by the Clermont Squares at the Clerbrook RV Park. Whit Brown will be calling and Joanne Helton will do the cueing. Details and a map are on the flyers.

CFA is sponsoring a dance for the benefit of John Swindle & Joe Fioretti on April 24th (Sun) from 2PM to 5PM at the Whirl & Twirl Hall in East Orlando. Flyers are available from any CFA rep.

And last but not least, CFA would like to announce that Randy & Carol Poole have agreed to be the General Chairmen for the 2009 State Convention. We will, and would like everyone to pledge to them our full and enthusiastic support over the next 4+ years.

Two cans on the back table for donations for Joe Fioretti and John Swindle.

Jack & Barbara Hoffman

As read by Jack Hoffman

Presidents, CFA

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION
REPORT February 26, 2005**

Our hurricane benefit dance on November 14 was a great success! We raised \$2,785 to provide relief for square dancers affected by Ivan the Terrible. The Northwest Association is very grateful for all that attended and contributed, for the callers and cuers who donated their time for this dance, and also for the \$510 donation from the Northeast Association.

This dance was also a surprise retirement party for Ben Williams. Ben has been a great caller for this area for many years, and is having to retire for health reasons. The various clubs for which he has called presented him with gifts and tributes. Northwest gave him an engraved stein (which he assures us will NOT be used for Prune juice), and a generous gift certificate for Wal-Mart, his favorite store.

Ann Brown has agreed to be our Dancer of the year Chairperson for 2005.

Our new Florida Federation delegates are Louie & Wilma Flowers, Joe & Pat McLendon, and Joan Koile. Don and Wanna Caverly are staying on. Fred & Joyce Collum and Gene & Mary Hamilton are retiring after many years as delegates. We appreciate their faithful service.

The Pensacola Twirlers club has moved as of December 14. They are now dancing at the Bayview Senior Citizens Center; 2000 E. Lloyd St. This place has a nice level wooden floor. Anyone who has ever danced on the sloping terrazzo floor at the Miga Center, where they were previously, will appreciate the difference.

The Swinging Squares in Panama City held their annual Blue & White Ball on January 15. The caller was Darryl McMillan, and the cuer was Bill Bovard.

Canoe Squares held its annual Toys for Tots Dance on December 6, and it was well attended. They collected about 90 toys and \$154.50 in cash to buy more toys.

(The Pensacola Twirlers had its Christmas Dance in their new home at Bayview Senior Citizens Center on December 14.)

Seaside Squares hosted the annual New Years Eve Dance, along with a covered dish dinner. Bob Poyner and Stan Sullivan were the callers, and Bill Bovard cued the rounds. We started the New Year off right with a couple of tips after midnight.

Other dances in the area were the Mardi Gras Dance February 5 at Grand Square Hall in Panama City (quarterly NWFSRDA meeting was held in conjunction with this dance), and the annual Sweetheart Swing sponsored by the Northwest Callers Association February 12 in DeFuniak Springs.

We have two new clubs in our Association. The Agape Squares in Niceville had their graduation and halfway there dance on January 8. The club callers are Berlon Graham and Bill Van Hoesen. The High Steppers dance Club has started in Fort Walton Beach.

Unfortunately, we also lost a club. The Swinging Saints in Pensacola have ceased dancing because of age and health reasons, and are now meeting monthly as a luncheon social group.

We had two dances on January 29: the second annual January Frolic at Ragon Hall in Pensacola, with Stan Sullivan calling and Misty Hanna cueing; and a dance at PASARDA Hall in Ft. Walton Beach, with Chuck Myers calling. Both were great dances.

Stan Sullivan started beginner square dance classes at Ragon Hall in Pensacola on January 16. So far about ten new dancers have started.

Patty Ping held a Plus Refresher course on January 22 at East Pensacola Heights Community Center. These refresher courses are much appreciated by the dancers in our area.

Patty Ping will have another weekend beginner square dance class on March 11, 12, and 13 at East Pensacola Heights.

The Pensacola Twirlers have put on several exhibitions for senior citizens and nursing homes. In

January they danced for the Felix Miga Center on January 8, the Golden Agers at St. Paul Catholic Church on January 12, and participated in the Senior Spirit Exposition at Cordova Mall on January 26.

On March 11 the annual Charlie Polk Memorial Dance was held at Ragon Hall in Pensacola, with local callers and cuers.

PASARDA Hall will host a Mainstream, Plus, and Advanced square dance on March 19, with Bob Poyner Calling.

Dave Henn, President

NWSRDA

FASSRD REPORT

Saturday, February 26, 2005

In my last report, I mentioned the devastating news about Joe Fioretti. I am pleased to let you know that he was at the Timber Pines benefit dance on the 16th and he looked great! He didn't look sick at all; he has lost more weight. He called a few tips and even danced a couple of rounds. He had his wife, Betsy, there along with her parents and one of his cousins from New Jersey with his wife. Joe reported that he has to go through 28 weeks of chemo and that his doctors say there has been some improvement. However, Betsy said he is still stage 4. Betsy and I discussed about Joe calling for our Single Rama in Sebring. She said he wants to do it if he can, but of course we don't know right now. We agreed that I would go ahead and announce that Joe will be one of the callers. I do have two callers on "stand by" if we need a replacement.

And to report on the success of the dance, we had about 15 squares with Joe, Doc Gray, Bob Boroussa and Al Smith calling, and Pat Hagen and John Ayres cueing. The Fioretti's were presented with \$5,600 in donations; some from as far away as England. Joe asked that we keep the cards coming. He reads them everyday and it gives him a real boost.

The next singles weekend is the Fuzzy Navel in Jekyll Island, Georgia, March 18th and 19th. Our host hotel will be the Holiday Inn, and we will be dancing in the ballroom at the hotel. Bob Sloman will be calling and Rita Mason will be cueing. Florida will be hosting in 2006 and I have booked Gary Monday from North Carolina to call and Misty Hannah from Alabama to cue. They both did the last Georgia Singles Weekend and I thought they were great, and they worked together really well.

I have been promoting the 51st, I haven't sold any ribbons but I sure have given out and mailed a lot of flyers! A letter will be sent with each ribbon for the solo registrations, giving them details about activities for solos during the weekend. There will be a solo hall on Friday night for them to get together and meet the other solos at the convention, and every effort is being made to schedule cuers in the hall too. Lack of cuers is usually why the solos do not stay in the solo hall. The host hotel is this hotel and we have two DJ's booked for the after parties on Friday and Saturday nights.

The National Singles Dance-A-Rama will be in Columbus, OH, this year and in Rochester, NY in 2006. I hope we will again have good representation from Florida. This convention is always over the Labor Day Weekend.

Our Single Rama will be at the Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring in October with Joe Fioretti and Whit Brown calling and the Griffins cueing.

I am working with Single Square Dancers USA© (SSDUSA) to create a new dancer packet or tri-

fold for use in promoting our organization. Their Publicity Chairman has started a monthly email **SSDUSAGram** which contains information on singles dances all over the country. The last one went international, when Taiwan added one of their dances. The Fuzzy Navel, Single Rama and the State Convention have all been added to the list of dancers. I believe the **SDUSAGram** distribution list has about 400 names on it.

Our website on the Florida Dance Web has been updated, and I continue to write articles for **BOW & SWING** and each of the association newsletters. **FASSRD** has also been supporting each of the association annual festivals and the state conventions by purchasing ads in the program booklets. Although singles associations sponsor all of our dances, we welcome any square and or round dancer. We promise we won't make you dance with someone other than your spouse or significant other! We also welcome you to our club dances. Your support of our events would be greatly appreciated. I guarantee that after coming to one of our weekends, you'll wonder why you didn't come sooner!

Respectfully submitted,
Penny T. Green
President

PUBLICATIONS:

KEEPIN' POSTED

Feb 2005

Over the past year, interest waned and has rebounded.

A couple of human-interest articles drew favorable comment. But Jack Taylor still calls on the commas and dotted "i"s. So we leave a few to challenge him.

We're still running 400 copies of 46 pages quarterly.

It seems each quarter; a new club seeking "to get the word out" passes us an article. That's always good press. Many digital photos are showing up - makes our job & the printer's job much easier.

A side note: Brevard County Presidents Club had a meeting in October. The Barefoot Bay President announced the cancellation of the Toys for Tots Dance, because of no lighting thanks to "Charlie", "Floyd" and "Jeanne". It was suggested to change the time to afternoon. The president's face slowly changed from a frown to a grin as the suggestion soaked in. The dancers

banded together to work the dance – it was superb, a truck-full of toys went to the Marines including several bicycles.DIV>
Tom Brown, Editor

PANHANDLE PRESS

No report

THE GRAPEVINE REPORT

FEDERATION MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2005

The Grapevine is published bi-monthly six times a year and is sold by subscription. We currently print approximately 300 copies each issue.

During the next two or three months we will be visiting all Class Graduations and presenting the graduates with a copy of The Grapevine, the Bow & Swing, and the American Square Dance Magazine. We'd like to thank Bill & Randy Boyd for the free copies of their publications so that we can make this presentation to the graduates. In addition to this presentation, it gives us a chance to meet the "new dancers" and welcome them into our activity.

Our Feature Article remains one of our "most read" columns. Our more recent addition is "For Your Address Book" where we update addresses, telephone numbers, and emails as they change and of course, as we hear about them. It's catching on and we received several changes for the current t issue.

Pictures are still a problem – as to their clarity when published. We are currently looking into other equipment, which may help solve this problem.

We continue to print any news about the State and National Conventions, and any Ads for Benefit Dances for any Associations. Free of charge, of course. We also include any 5th Saturday Dances of other Associations – if we know about them – in our calendar of events, as well as all Association Festivals throughout the state. We try to keep our dancers informed of where they can dance...whether or not it is in our own Association.

We are into our 11th year as Editors of The Grapevine and still feel that Editors of publications have the greatest opportunity of anyone to promote the activity of Square Dancing.

The material contained in any of our publications may be used by any other publication, however we do ask that you be gracious enough to give us the reprint credit.

As usual, we invite comments and suggestions

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome

THE GRAPEVINE

A N E F S A R D A PUBLICATION

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WEST COAST DANCER

February 26, 2005

Good Morning:

was reading an article in the National Square Dance magazines last month about the difference between the calling and cueing profession of, say, 50 years ago and today. Among other things it said many more today call or cue on a full time

basis than years ago. What's this got to do with the West Coast Dancer? Well, it got me to thinking of how many callers, cuers and clubs are represented in our magazine.

<DIV align=justify>I hope you like numbers because I have just a few I'd like to pass on to you.

As you may know we represent 16 Florida counties. Within those 16 counties 36 clubs regularly keep us updated on their schedules and activities and several of these support us with Advertisements. There are 44 callers listed and 26 cuers.

Now I know there are many more dances held and several callers and cuers who choose not to list with us for whatever reason. But, if they would like to, they are welcome.

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Henning, Editor

BOW and SWING

No report

President McKenzie announced a 15 minute recess – and announced coffee, tea, and treats, provided by the Southeast Association, were available in the rear of the room.

The meeting resumed with the following:

FLORIDA STATE SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE CONVENTION REPORTS:

FLORIDA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION – May 27, 28, 29, 2005

REPORT TO FEDERATION MEETING February 26, 2005

Committees have been hard at work on their individual responsibilities. Programs for dancing are in and currently being formatted and typed for the Program Book. The Singles asked for Rounds to be included in their hall this year, and our Coordinators of Squares and Rounds worked together to make that a reality. The Ads Chairman has done a great job obtaining ads for the Program Book. We'd like to thank all the Associations for their Ads. We are finalizing the Opening Ceremonies part of the program, and the Vendors we have are ready to come. The Sew & Save and Un-Fashion Show are wrapping up their programs this next month. We had told our Committee Chairman we wanted to be ready to "come to the Convention" no later than April 30th, and we believe we will reach that goal.

We held our last Benefit Dance on January 15th and made a profit of about \$900.00. The Hobo Stew & Chili, Too was a big success, but attendance was down due to an untimely death in the Northeast, as well as several dancers being ill. The callers and cuers really put on a great non-stop dancing program and everyone enjoyed the evening.

We have been "On the Road" for the promotion of the convention throughout the past year and have been well received everywhere we have gone. We still have a few Golf Shirts left, and one

cookbook. If you are interested in either, Val or Kathy will be happy to take your money. We will be having a "GET ON BOARD" promotion at our April 30th Fifth Saturday Dance. We'd love to have you join us. Kathy is planning a Bake Sale that night, and who knows what else she will come up with.

Our Program Book Chairman decided she was not physically up to the job in late December, but we have found a replacement who is already hard at work and doing a great job.

We'd like for anyone in other Associations who are selling registrations to turn in the money and/or unsold ribbons immediately after April 30th. You can return them directly to the Registration Chairman, Gerry Fredrickson, or to us. By all means, keep trying to sell through April 30th. We appreciate your help.

Registrations have been slow and we have not reached 600 yet. We certainly hope that is not an omen. If you have not registered, we have registration forms and ribbons with us and will be quite happy to help you. We have also made up some flyers about the Convention - we'd like each President to take some and make sure they are distributed around your Association.

The main problem we have encountered has been in the Vendor area. As you know, our contracts are written for final payment to be received by January 15th. Approximately two weeks prior to that time, our Vendor Chairman contacted - or tried to contact - by phone those Vendors (three of them) who had not completed their payments. Being unsuccessful, he sent a letter giving them until February 15th. By the 15th of February one vendor finalized payment; the records vendor decided he would be unable to come & his deposit was returned, and the badge vendor has never responded, even though a letter sent return receipt requested was signed for. Subsequently on February 16th a return receipt requested letter was sent to the last know address notifying him he was no longer eligible to attend the convention as a vendor. We have contacted a records vendor in Georgia who declined to attend due to the decline in sales to Callers & Cuers at Conventions. We also have contacted a badge maker out of Texas who also declined to attend this year. We were able to obtain a specialty shop in western wear as an addition to our vendors list.

We were hoping to meet with Brenda at the Convention Center this weekend but she is on vacation. We will be meeting with her around the middle of March to finalize Convention arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

ustify>Charlie & Val Newsome

Read by Charlie Newsome with editorial comments provided by Val Newsome

Penny Green raised a question regarding specific Vendors Participation. The Problem is that of a costly Liability insurance required by the Lakeland Center. Many vendors feel the returns do not outweigh the expense. Su Brown offered to do some further checking on possible available policies to satisfy the requirement.

2006 CONVENTION REPORT

Report to the Florida Federation February 26, 2005

Planning for the 52 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention is proceeding well, although the storms have diverted a lot of our attention in the last 6 months.

The Afghan raffle for the Decoration Committee was completed and the winner was Dot Anderson of Kissimmee. We want to thank all those who participated. A 2005 convention ribbon raffle is now underway and will be drawn at our March 13th dance.

A flea market that was being planned for the fall had to be postponed due to storm recovery. It is now scheduled for March. Joe Fik has asked for donations to be brought to the March 13th dance.

I spoke with Jackie Johnson of the Lakeland Chamber regarding printing or the registration forms. She advised that they closed their in-house printing facility at the end of 2004. She said the equipment was getting very old and it was not cost effective to repair or replace it. She said we would need to get the printing done elsewhere but that they would reimburse us up to the amount it cost them last year to print the forms in-house. At the time we **spoke she did not have that figure. I have contacted Bow & Swing and several local printers for prices for printing and folding. It appears that the cost will be between \$1000 and \$1500. Also, this year's registration form will have many hotels saying, "Call for Rates" as they have not established a rate yet or will not return my phone calls or letters.**

Henri Arsenault is proceeding with the Kickoff planning. You may have already heard that he is retiring from calling. This is the case, but he is continuing with things he has already committed to prior to his decision to retire.

The material for our outfits did not arrive as planned. The order was cancelled and Plan B is now in progress with Betty Guthrie helping with the design.

We met with Brenda Townsend of the Lakeland Center in October when we came up for the caller programming. She had just met with Charlie and Val regarding the changes for their convention and said she would send us our contract as soon as she finished theirs. As of February 18, we have not received a contract or a return of phone calls. We will attempt to meet with her on Friday prior to the working weekend to get a contract finalized. When we called for an appointment, her message said she would be out of office until March 9. So we still don't have the contract.

I recently made final calls regarding how people wanted their names on the badge and found out that the people who were going to do the fashion show no longer plan to do it. So, now we are looking for someone to be a fashion show chairman...any volunteers??

Badges have been ordered and ribbons will soon be ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Garland & Carole McKenzie

align=justify>General Chairman

2007 CONVENTION REPORT February 21, 2005

After almost a year of recruiting I have the following positions filled:

Convention Chairman Tim & Terri Wilaby
Convention Treasurer Dave Henn
Convention Secretary Geraldine Pitts
Registration Chairman Louie & Y Wilma Flowers
Caller Chairman Patty & Gary Ping
Rounds Chairman June & Frank Leverette
Ways & Means Paul & Cheryl Miller
Entertainment Chairman Bob Poyner
50/50 Chairman Ida Guthrie & George Garich
Helpers Joan & Buddy Koile Jim Walters

Wendell & Norma Murphy Muriel Jones
Flo & Max Home Colby & Dawn Cooper

We are short on several committee chair positions:

Convention Co Chairman - Vendor Chairman - Publicity/Promotion Chairman - Housing Chairman

Sew & Save Chairman - Fashion Show Chairman - Grand March Chairman
Printed Program Chairman - Decorations Chairman - Singles Chairman - Hospitality Chairman - Camping Chairman -
Security & Parking Chairman - Kick-off Show Chairman

Even if all these positions get filled, they have to recruit their own committees. I have been trying my best but I **am not a retired person. I still work 45 to 50 hours a week and with the limited number of volunteers I have been able to recruit so far, I have no choice but to admit I have my limits and may be in over my head. A state convention may very well have to become a program put on by all the federations if it is going to succeed.**

V/R

Tim & Terri Wilaby

Dave Henn.

54th FSSRDC Report

February 26, 2005

Little activity so far. Our Ways & Means Chairman, Fred & Jan Smith, have been busy. They have raised \$2449.00 so far with Chinese Auctions and selling Enjoyment Books in Polk County.

We have decided on a theme and have an idea for the dress.

Most positions are filled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don & Ann Slocum

FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME REPORT

February 21, 2005

It is with great pleasure to announce our new Board Members, Dave and Shirley Nihart, who have replaced Mary and Art Butlak who served 15 years on the Board.

We now have a web page for the Florida Hall of Fame, thanks to Bruce Morgan, at no charge. You will find the web page at: <http://www.geocities.com/flhalloffame>. It is very informative, giving the History of the Hall of Fame, the Hall of Fame Inductees (Names and Year), Criteria and Outline Resume for Nominee into Hall of Fame, and Name and contact information for the current Board of Directors.

As of this date, we have not received any new resumes for nominee into the Hall of Fame.

Two items for discussion at our next meeting, which we hope to hold in March or no later than April of 2005, we will discuss the replacement of the cuer couple. And it also has been brought to our attention that Tom and Ethel Smith are going to full-time RV-ing. Therefore, we need to get a caretaker for the Hall of Fame items at Strawberry Squares in Plant City, FL.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joanne and Ken Helton

Chair Couple

Read by Ann Slocum

Ann and Don Slocum interjected a comment on the problems with I-4 travel.

HISTORIAN UPDATE

February 26, 2005

Manny wished all a Happy New Year – "We now have 14 years and 2 months remaining (His reference was made in regard to the fantastic record made by Jack and Zonie). He acknowledged the assistance received from Bill Boyd in a reference to the way he has taken him under his wing. He explained that both he and Sherry have been going like a "House of fire", due to their many commitments.

He assumes that the Taylors have received many pictures, and awaits the forwarding of these items. He has not received any thus far.

It is imperative that we send pictures and articles relating to Square Dance events in the State if we wish our legacy to be preserved. "WE NEED PICTURES AND ARTICLES."

The floor was open for questions, but none were forthcoming.

Manny & Sherry Gonzales

USDA Supplemental Report

March 29, 2005

By Joe & Joy Vaccari

Joe & Joy Vaccari attended the USDA Winter Meeting on January 21, 2005 in West Monroe, LA.

All the USDA programs were reviewed, and reports were received from Officers and Committee Chairmen. Preparations were made by the Executive Committee for the Annual Meeting in Portland, OR on Wednesday June 22, 2005 at 1:00 PM. The exact location of the meeting is to be announced (it will most likely be the Doubletree Inn).

The free USDA discount Prescription Drug Card has been updated, and packets for each Association will be brought to the Working Weekend by Paul & Cheryl Miller for distribution. The Program Chairman reported that in most cases the savings under the USDA card is better than the Medicare card which one has to buy. We should promote the use of the USDA card within the State. Complete information is available at www.usda.org.

We are sending a supply of Frog stickers. These stickers are to be worn on your badges and let youth dancers know that you are willing to dance with them and that they may join your square. Are you aware that USDA provides Youth Scholarship of \$100.00 to Youth Square Dancer? Applications are being accepted. For further details and requirements, and to print an application form please visit the USDA website.

(Val interjected the emphasis upon the youth during the upcoming Convention. Several other dancers interjected the importance of including the youth program.)

We are also including a supply of USDA USA Traveler forms. Feel free to copy the forms as needed or you may print a form from the USDA website at www.usda.org. After completing your first 12 states you receive a badge and bar. Then after completing each additional 12 states another bar is awarded. After completing 48 or 50 states USDA will purchase your admission ticket to the National Square Dance Convention.

Election of Officers will be held during the Annual Meeting in Portland. Through the years, Florida has played a major role on the Executive Committee of USDA. At the present time Joe & Joy are the only Floridians left on the Committee. We recommend that the Federation submit nominees for Office. All Officer positions are open for nomination, however, the Office of Vice president – Central Region, will be vacated by the current Vice President. A Resume' along with a letter from the Federation President submitted to the USDA Secretary is all that is required. We hope this will be seriously considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome

Presidents, Garland and Carole McKenzie asked if anyone would be interested in becoming a nominee for a Florida U.S.D. A. representative. Please see Garland or Carole McKenzie. A resume will be required.

Florida Federation Insurance Report
February 26, 2005

Florida Federation Working Weekend Meeting - Best Western Motel, Lakeland, FL

At the end of 2004 we had a total of 3,379 dancers from 76 clubs insured. As of January 31, 2005 we had 66 Clubs and 2758 dancers insured. We have dancers from all organizations except for the Singles. They always wait until all the clubs have submitted their rosters so that most of their dancers will have insured through their respective clubs.

There are a number of changes that have come down from the USDA that have been passed on to the association chairman but I want each of you to know what they are so that you can help pass the word to the clubs. And so that you can let them know that it is not your insurance representative that is requesting this information it is the USDA and the insurance carrier.

Every form that goes to the Insurance Company now has to have Florida Federation of Square Dancers along with the name of the Association. Since The Florida Federation is the one that is subscribing to the insurance with the USDA they are insisting that The Florida Federation be listed first on every piece of paper. The Full 10 Digit Telephone Number must be listed for each person. There are a lot of area codes. Even I don't know what area code services which towns. They want the city names spelled out. The insurance company doesn't know our silly little city abbreviations. Please, if the list of club members can be typed and not had written it would help tremendously. It is very hard to read some of the people's handwriting. With most people having computers now this should not be too much of a problem. I realize there are still some people out there that do not have computers. But most people do these days.

Another item that I will start enforcing effective today is that all clubs referenced in any other club's paperwork must be submitted before I will forward the paperwork and payment to the USDA. I am getting too many members stating that their insurance is paid with club so-and-so. Then when I get the so-and-so club they are not listed. This is causing a lot of phone calls between Lorraine Backus, the USDA Insurance Chairman and myself. I realize that this will punish the clubs that get their insurance in early but only if they are listed on the same 4-part form. If you, as the Association Insurance Chairman, cannot verify for a fact that the person is insured with another club do not include their paperwork when you send in a club that is completely verified. That way you will not be jeopardizing a club that is compliant.

Please make the clubs aware that not providing all this information just slows down the process of getting their insurance certificates. Plus it increases the cost of everything because there are a lot of phone calls generated because of lack of, or unreadable, information. Starting from this date forward if the information is not provided correctly, as I have outlined it above, I will be returning the paperwork to the Association Insurance Chairman for correction. As you can see this will do nothing but delay the insurance process. The Insurance Chairmen have been notified of a number of these changes previously and they are not being adhered to. Therefore, these changes are being enforced as of today. The Chairmen will learn of the remaining requirements in today's breakout session.

**Respectfully submitted,
Bruce & Colleen Morgan
FFSD Insurance Chairpersons**

Bruce

AMERICAN FOLK DANCE

February 26

Received notice H.R. 645, Promenade Act (The designation of the Square Dance As the National Folk Dance of the United States of America) will not be introduced in the 1st session of the 109th Congress by U.S. Representative, Ed Whitefield of Kentucky. However; one U.S. Representative and one U.S. Senator from Arkansas, and one U.S. Representative from New Jersey have been asked about introducing a Square Dance Bill into the 109th Congress. There had been no reply as of February 14th, 2005. We hope to receive a reply in the near future. As soon as word is received the information will be posted on the inter-net. We need all persons active in all forms of Folk Dance to continue to contact their U.S. Representatives and Senators, concerning the Bill. We urge a volunteer to act as coordinator for the letters. Cheryl Miller volunteered her services.
Submitted, Carol McKenzie

ASCAP-BMI REPORT

February 25, 2005

Dues for BMI have increased by \$10.00 this year. Dues for 2005 will be \$120.00. We have not received the cost to this year's convention from ASCAP as yet. The cost last year was .065 **per paid attendee plus ½ of vendors. We will need a check from the Federation to pay BMI.**

Respectfully,

Dave and Shirley Nihart

EXTRA MILE AWARD

February 25, 2005

As of this date no nominees have been received. Carol has the names of the two Southeast Callers who have received the award previously. No one present had served on the selection in the past. Résumés were to be received by February 1, 2005. This is to be an on-going presentation.

Garland & Carole McKenzie

OLD BUSINESS:

Disaster Fund – Believed to have begun in Southeast. Recently Central was given a donation to be used following the 2004 storm victims. The question posed, should such a fund be handled through the Federation or through individual Associations. Central assured the remaining associations that these funds would be shared throughout the state of Florida as needed. The general consensus was to continue to handle any funds within the Associations, with an understanding that all are willing to offer assistance as needed.

Senior Games – Fred Smith offered the information on a flyer that he had received. Games are scheduled to take place on Monday, February 28 in Polk City.. This came about in 2004, when J. Richards held a meeting to promote this concept. The event is not supported by any clubs; but by several area callers. Namely Keith Stevens and Don Hanhurst..

Bruce Morgan called attention to Sr. Games across the state. State Games are to be held in the

Villages. In order to register the participant must be at least 55 and a part of a formed square. Jack Taylor added that State Fairs used to hold Square Dance competitions. If we wish to attract the youth we must keep in mind that this is a group who enjoy competition, the hot-hash and the showmanship. Perhaps we should give some serious consideration to participation in this. Biloxi is including Square Dancing in their schedule, but not to be included as a part of the competition.

Jay would like to have a Square Dancer or Square Dance couple to chair the committee to pursue the inclusion of Square Dance as a part of the Senior Games. For more information see Bruce Morgan.

NEW BUSINESS

Kathy McKinney is planning the 2006 Working Weekend and suggested consideration of moving the date to the 2nd weekend in March and the location to Orlando; in support of Central's Shamrock Swing. Jim McConnaha stated both pros and cons for consideration.

Don Slocum made a motion to amend the working weekend date to read the second weekend in March with a second from Ray Huddleston.

Clarification from Jack Hoffman, to realize this would be the second Saturday and Sunday.

Don Solcum amended his motion to read the 2nd Saturday and Sunday. The motion passed.

Ann Slocum requested that the Hall of Fame Chair be added to the Roster to provide a contact. Request to add the entire Hall of Fame Committee.

Committee assignments for the break-out meetings were reviewed. Time 1:30 PM.

A motion was made & seconded to adjourn. Jack Hoffman/Ray Huddleston.

courage the advertisers advertise next year.

Kathy added that Hooters has great food.

The next meeting is Sunday, May 29, 2005 in Hollingsworth A at the Convention Center.