

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2005
O'LENO STATE PARK – LAKE CITY, FLORIDA**

Presidents, Garland and Carole McKenzie, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Ann Slocum 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.

Introductions: Elsa Huddleston introduced the Hutchinsons - Bruce Morgan introduced the Olgabees - Penny Green introduced Henry Snipes - Bob and Lisa Walls.

A motion was made by Don Slocum and seconded to accept the minutes of the May 29th, 2005 meeting – approved as published. The motion passed.

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS' TREASURER REPORT
May 29, 2005 – November 05, 2005**

Beginning Balance - All Accounts

Wachovia Checking Balance	\$
Contingency	\$
Insurance	\$
Total All Accounts	\$

Checking Account Balance \$

Receipts

2006 Association Dues (FASSRD)	\$
2005 & 2006 Association Dues (Northwest Association)	\$
2006 Association Dues (Central)	\$
2006 Association Dues (Cloggers)	\$
Wachovia Interest (05/26/2005 - 09/30/2005)	\$
Total Receipts	\$
	\$

Disbursements

Ken Brown - Secretarial Expense	\$
Suzie Q Creations – Badges	\$
USDA Dues	\$
Tom Perry – Web Site Maintenance	\$

Total Disbursements

\$

Checking Account Balance 05/28/2005

\$

Ending Balance - All Accounts

Wachovia Checking Balance

\$

Contingency

\$

Insurance

\$

Total All Accounts

\$

Respectfully Submitted

Randy & Carol Poole, Treasurer

Charlie Newsom made a motion the Treasurer's Report to be filed for audit.

Parliamentarian Report

November 6, 2005

(54th National Square Dance Convention – Portland, Oregon, June 2005)

Paul and I enjoyed the National Convention; we would like to thank those that volunteered to work the "Showcase of Ideas". Our display was well received; we handed out our pencils along with notepads, the Bow & Swing donated to us at the convention.

We held our drawing for the "Weekend Getaway" in Fort Walton Beach and Destin Area. Mr. Boyd, from the American Square Dance Magazine also donated a year subscription to the magazine to be drawn from our entries. We had 2,042 entries for our drawing. So we had quite a crowd. The weekend getaways both were won by entries from Texas.

We received entry bars for each association; would each President or representative of the associations please pick up your bar during the break time, as well as your display board. Southeast and West Coast – Train Station and Display Boards are at the back of the room.

We would like to thank Jack and Barbara Hoffman and Joe and Joy Vacarri for carrying the Federation Showcase items to Portland.

On a final note the 58th NSDC was awarded to Long Beach, California.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul and Cheryl Miller – Parliamentarian

Sunshine Report

Cards have been sent to the following:

Bessie Stovall

Mary Stewart

Worley Carrier

Pee Wee Stewart

Val Newsome

Correspondence

Carole reported there was no correspondence.

Coordinating Committee Report

Jim McConnaha reported there have been no meetings of the Committee since the last Federation Meeting and therefore there is not a report at this time.

ASSOCIATIONS

C F A Report

November 6, 2005

Presented by Jan McConnaha

We would like to apologize for not being in attendance for the Federation meeting. Our excuse is that we are in Branson, MO. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

Our 2nd term of office started on October 1 along with our newly elected board. We are asking our board to support us in this term of office at least as well as they did last year.

We held the annual elections at the General Membership Meeting in St. Cloud on July 31st, 2005 and the newly elected officers were installed at the Presidents Ball that evening. We are anticipating another very successful year. Seven of our Past Presidents were in attendance.

By the time this report is read, our October 29th fifth Saturday Dance will have occurred. We are sure that Jerry Reed and Vera Smith did a great job of calling and cueing the dance, and that it was well attended. Wilma just missed this dance.

C F A made the decision to cancel the December 31, 2005 dance, so our next dance will not be until April 29th, 2006 at the Masonic Hall in Leesburg. The caller will be Don Hanhurst and the cuer will be Loretta Hanhurst.

The 6th Annual Shamrock Swing will occur on March 10 and 11, 2006 in Maitland. Flyers and Ribbons are available from almost any CFA official.

The 2009 State Convention Chairmen, Randy and Carol Poole are starting to prepare for that function. Please support them as much as possible. I am sure they will have a report for this meeting.

Jack and Barbara Hoffman - President, CFA

Northwest Association Report

November 6, 2005

Northwest is getting ready for the 2007 State Convention. A report with more details will be given later in this meeting.

Two major dances were held in the Northwest Association in June. The 46th annual Billy Bowlegs Festival Dance was held June 3rd and 4th at PASARDA Hall in Ft. Walton Beach. The Caller was Darryl McMillan, and the Cuer was June Leverette.

On June 11th, the Pensacola Twirlers hosted their annual Fiesta of Five Flags dance at the Bayview Senior Citizens Center. They were scheduled to entertain Don Tristan de Luna and his court, which is always a spectacular event. De Luna was the Spanish explorer who founded the first settlement in the Pensacola area. Every year, as an integral part of Pensacola's Fiesta of Five Flags, a prominent citizen is designated Don Tristan de Luna to commemorate this. Unfortunately, tropical storm Arlene intervened. We had our dance, which was still a success, but

the DeLuna court decided not to attend because of predicted heavy rains. They did not want to get their elaborate costumes ruined, and it was hard to blame them. Willis Simmons was the caller, and Bill Bovard cued.

Unfortunately, three of our callers, Robert Funderburk at the Quincy Curley Q's, Peter Richardson at the Whirlaways, and Sammy Lee at the Chautauqua Squares, are having serious health problems. Their clubs are pretty much inactive now.

One of the callers in our area, Stan Sullivan, left us early in May. He has accepted a new job in another area. We will miss him.

Dennis the Menace messed things up for us. (Hurricanes are getting to be old news now.) Our annual July Jamboree, with Tony DiGeorge calling, which would have been July 15 & 16, had to be cancelled, along with several club dances that week, because of the effects of the storm. We were not able to reschedule the Jamboree. Fortunately, no one in our circle of square dance friends was injured.

PASARDA Hall was active in August. There was a Mainstream/Plus/Advanced dance on August 13, with Chuck Myers calling. On August 27, we had Berlon Graham calling Mainstream and Plus.

Ragon Hall was jumping, too. A Dynamite Weekend with Bob Poyner and Tom Miller was held August 5 & 6. Seaside Squares' Anniversary dance was held August 20. Darryl McMillan was the caller, and Paul Hutchison cued.

Also, NWFSRDA held its third quarter meeting that afternoon. Next year's officers were re-elected: President, Dave Henn; Vice-Presidents, Louie and Wilma Flowers; Treasurers, Joe and Patricia McLendon. We were unable to nominate a Secretary, and Geraldine Pitts declined to serve another term. Later on, the President appointed Alice Helton, who has served previously as Secretary, to another term.

Round dance lessons have resumed at Ragon Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 P. M. on Sunday afternoon. Bryan and Sharon Gerdes are instructing.

There was a Mainstream/Plus/Advanced dance at PASARDA on September 10, with Bob Poyner calling.

The NWFSRDA Ice Cream Social on September 17, also at PASARDA, was a fundraiser for the 2007 State Convention. The homemade ice cream was delicious, and was a very welcome and pleasant break from our scorching summer. We want to express our appreciation to Bob Poyner, Patty Ping, June Leverette, and Bryan Gerdes for donating their times to call and cue for us.

Fortunately, we did not get another unwelcome visitor like we had last September.

On September 24, many NWFSRDA members participated in a fish fry and dance at Azalea Hall in Mobile, AL, to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. There were 14 squares in attendance, and almost \$2,600 was raised for hurricane relief. Thanks to callers Chuck Myers (who did most of the organizing), Bob Poyner, Ted Kennedy, Cecil Hurley, Henry Marshall, Paul Bischoff, and Dave Gerrard for donating their time, talents, and, in two cases, their 50/50 winnings, to make this benefit dance a huge success!

Our Association held its 31st Annual Round-Up in DeFuniak Springs on October 21 & 22. This was a great dance! There was square dancing at the Mainstream, Plus, and Advanced levels, with Bob Poyner, Willis Simmons, Jack White, and Ted Kennedy scheduled to call. Bill Bovard cued the rounds. We owe many thanks to all who helped to put this dance on, especially Louie and Wilma Flowers. Cheryl Miller installed our officers at our quarterly meeting the morning of the 22nd.

Also at this dance our Association's Dancer of the Year, Dave Henn (Seaside Squares), was recognized. Tim and Terry Wilaby (Pensacola Twirlers) and David and Sandy Sturgis (Swinging Squares, Panama City) were also recognized as the nominees from their respective clubs.

On November 12, the Pensacola Twirlers will host their 19th Anniversary Dance at the Bayview Senior Citizens Center on E. Lloyd St. in Pensacola. Ted Kennedy will call, and June Leverette will cue. This should be a great dance, as usual, so plan to attend.

We are looking forward to the New Year's Eve dance at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. This has become a tradition in our area, and there is no better way to start off the new year with a good square dance.

Dave Henn, President

Southeast Association Report
November 6, 2005

As you know by now, the Southeast Association has dropped from monthly dances to four dances a year: February, May, September and December. We were thrilled to have nine squares at our September dance and in addition to the paid caller and cuer, we had eight guest callers and two guest cuers show up unexpectedly. This was such an overwhelming show of support by the callers that we have been so encouraged and hopeful that this will just be the beginning of more of the same. Ray and I attended the Southeast caller/cuer meeting the following week to express our appreciation for their support. The callers have scheduled their meetings to immediately prior to the Southeast dances to encourage more caller attendance at both the caller/cuer meetings and the dances.

As stated above, the September membership renewal dance was a resounding success. We also found the dancers like ice cream! September was our Sundae on Sunday dance. Board members were also installed at this meeting. The slate is the same as in the past except for Joel and Sherry Solomon who have agreed to take the office of Secretary. We are very fortunate to have them as new board members and are grateful that the others continue to serve again: Bob Sorenson as Vice President, Stan and Elaine Wyler as Treasurer, and Ada Trott as Membership. Jerry and Helen Rhodes continue again as Insurance Chairmen.

After we contacted Carole and Garland McKenzie and all the association presidents, a statewide fund raiser was started for square dancers in New Orleans and the surrounding area who have suffered from the affects of Katrina. Then Wilma hit Southeast Florida with a tremendous force. Al Guthrie has been a caller in the Southeast area for many years. In July, Al and Betty suffered damage to their mobile home and filed an insurance claim which was paid – and then their insurance was promptly cancelled. They were unable to get insurance coverage before Wilma hit and totally destroyed their home and most of its contents. Although about \$1,500 was collected by the Southeast Association for Katrina, the Southeast Board has agreed that the money should be donated to Al and Betty. However, before this can be done, we want the Southeast dancers to have the opportunity to request a refund of their donated money, if they wish, since we are recommending that it be used for another purpose for which it was originally collected. We expect to finalize this issue at our next Southeast Association dance in December. I would like to take just a few minutes to read an e-mail that their granddaughter sent.

E-mail from Donna R. Gipson

As we all know Palm Beach County, Florida was hit hard by hurricane Wilma. This letter is not really about that storm. It is about two people that were affected so hard by it; my Grandparents. Al and Betty Guthrie.

For those of you who know them you know all the work they have done over the years to help others. The help they have given to sooo many in their lives. They have been there for anyone that needed them, from a Grandchild that fell short of paying the bills to handicap able Children that wanted to learn to dance, to raising money to assist with a lung transplant, to help victims of other hurricanes over the years. These people have given so much more than just money; they give hope, faith, love, support, and all that they are to anyone that needed it. They have always given these things without ever expecting anything in return.

Well, now I am asking for help to help them. You see, the hurricane has taken their home. For my Grandparents it was much more than a building, it was a place where everyone was welcome and where so many of us spent our holidays. I am unable to give them anymore than my love and support so I am asking everyone to help them in anyway you can as they have helped so many others. They are left without a home. They are staying with my Aunt and Uncle for now; but, I would love to be able to help them get a new home. As we all know, FEMA only does so much and it is not enough to put you in a home and furnish it. So, I am asking for help. I know my Grandparents will never ask for help; but, I think it is time that they get the love and support that they have given so many. I hope that you will help. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. There is no other way I can think of to help them other than asking all their friends and family.

Donna Gipson
Mailing address:
Al and Betty Guthrie
c/o Nancy Danley
3807 Heather Drive East
Greenacres, Florida 33463

Our next dance will be the December cookie dance on the 11th. We also ask dancers to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Child Net. The thank you letter we received last year from this organization was so thankful and appreciative that the board decided to donate to that organization again this year.

It seems that the only way dancers know what's going on and can plan ahead, is though flyers so we have created an on-going flyer called Dancing' Notes. We have tried to keep this flyer updated and get it to all the clubs. However, this flyer is only as good as the information we are given.

Please don't forget the one and only Southeast Association fundraiser – the Snowflake Frolic. It's on January 15 at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. Frank Bedell and Mike Doughty are the callers, and Jerry and Joyce Viola are the cuers. We have ribbons here to sell to you!!

Ray and Elsa Huddleston - President

President's Meeting Report

On Saturday, May 28, 2005 a breakfast meeting for the Presidents of the Associations was held at Fred's Restaurant in Lakeland, Florida. Present were:

Bud and Anita Taylor, Hosts for the meeting – Northeast Association
Jack and Barbara Hoffman – Central Association
Dave Henn – Northwest Association
Fred and Jan Smith – West Coast Association

Absent were:

Ray and Elsa Huddleston – Southeast Association,
(Because of practice for the kickoff that night.)

Discussion was begun and we all seem to have the same problems; how to attract new dancers and once you get new dancers how do you keep them? How do we keep afloat, in the face of rising costs? And how do we get dancers interested in helping with the work that needs to be done for dances and State Conventions?

No one had any answers, but we were all enthusiastic about the meeting. We all agreed that the meeting was worthwhile. We wished it could have lasted longer, and we all believe that we were enriched by each others ideas and information.

As the hosts, we were pleased with the meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the 51st State Convention for funding the President's Breakfast. We hope that the meetings will be continued, and will once again become a tradition of the State Federation.

Respectively submitted,
Bud and Anita Taylor

Northeast Association Report
November 6, 2005

This is the first report since the 51st State Convention. It was a wonderful Convention and the credit goes to Charlie and Val Newsome and all their committee members for such a wonderful time. Of course we have to thank all the dancers who attended for their support.

We had several important anniversaries in June. The Silver Fox Squares celebrated their 20th, the Teddy Bear Squares celebrated their 21st and the Grand Squares celebrated their 30th. Congratulations to them all and we hope many more to come.

On Saturday, July 30, 2005, we held our 5th Saturday dance in Lake City at the American Legion Hall. The theme was Sock Hop; they had wonderful nostalgia posters for specific years in the 50's. It was very well attended. Thanks to the Dixie Dancers for hosting; R.J. Hogan and Ernie Rollen for Calling and Maggie Tripp for Cueing.

In September we celebrated the 14th anniversary of the Yellow Rockers Plus club and the 24th anniversary of the Square Wheels camping club.

Our next big dance was a charity dance for the Donna Hicken Breast Cancer Foundation. Donna Hicken is a local TV anchor that has twice survived breast cancer. She set up a foundation to provide money to men and women with breast cancer who are having trouble paying their bills because of their illness. They help with rent and mortgage, electric bills, car payments etc. They have pink bracelets with the words "carpe diem" (seize the day) on them. We sold these bracelets as the entrance to the dance instead of ribbons or buttons. We sold the big pink ribbon magnets for your cars and the little pink ribbon magnets for your refrigerator. Jane Raymond, our wonderful angel, also made pink angel pins. She raised over \$200.00. We worked on three Saturdays to earn money. We sold these items in front of two different Publix's and two different Cracker Barrels. We challenged the clubs to bring theme baskets to the dance for the silent auction. The callers and cuers donated their time and talents. We were very successful and collected \$4,606.76 for this very worthy cause. Thanks to the many dancers for all their help.

Our next big dance is our annual Fall Festival on November 18th and 19th. Charlie and Val Newsome are the Chairmen of the event. They promise an extremely good time. We will have our local callers and cuers for the evening on Friday. On Saturday we will have guest caller, Mac McCall and guest cuer, Jackie and Gene Tyre. Please make time to attend this special event.

Our final big dance for the year will be our New Year's Eve dance. We are planning a great dance. We plan to have 3 callers from our area, John Robbins, Gary Murphy and Lawton Smith and guest Cuers Tim and Nana Eum. We plan to also have a catered meal, with a special toast at

midnight. All of this for the unheard of price of \$5.00 per square and round dancer. We will not be able to have non-square or non-round dancers at the meal. If you cannot attend the meal the cost is still \$5.00. This has been planned to give back to the dancers for all their hard work this year and to show the appreciation of the association.

Respectively submitted,
Bud and Anita Taylor

West Coast Association Report
November 6, 2005

It's been a quiet summer dance wise, but not weather wise since the last Federation meeting that was held in May at the Florida State Convention in Lakeland. We had two West Coast meetings. The folding of the West Coast Dancer precedes all of our meetings and with help from our association members, we are able to fold and distribute the West Coast Dancer to all of the 16 counties in our area at no charge.

We had a great time at the National Convention in Portland. Florida was well represented, considering the distance people had to travel.

Our VIP Dance was held on August 21st at 'Strawberry Square' in Plant City with 20 squares in attendance. This dance is FREE for all who attend. Sam Dunn was the caller and Loretta Hanhurst cued. Our VIP dance is held in recognition of all the volunteers that donate their time to make our dance activities run as smooth as possible. It's also the kickoff for our annual Fall Fun Fest held in November at the Lakeland Center. A very successful Chinese auction was held as a fundraiser for the 2008 Florida State Convention, which will be hosted by the West Coast.

At our meeting on September 14th we filled our slate of officers for next year. They are as follows:
Penny Green – President
Shirley Pfeffer – Vice President
Burt Devorsetz and Dottie Fitchett – Secretary's
Fred and Jan Smith – Treasurers

The President's Ball was held on September 18th at 'Strawberry Square' in Plant City with Allen Snell calling and Pat Hagen cueing. They kept the dancers moving with 15 squares on the floor. The new officers were inducted at this dance.

The 31st annual Fall Fun Fest is being held at the Lakeland Center on November 11th and 12th (that's next weekend) with Jerry Biggerstaff and Sam Dunn calling and Don and Loretta Hanhurst cueing. For those who are making the trip to Lakeland, we have ribbons available today, which will save you some money. We will also be holding a silent basket auction fundraiser again this year, as it was very successful last year.

Since this is our last report to the Federation, we would like to thank all of those who have made it a very enjoyable year. We have learned a lot and will pass it on to others.

Respectively Submitted
Fred and Jan Smith – Past Presidents

FASSRD Report

Twenty-two Florida dancers (of which the majority were from Jacksonville) attended the National Singles Dance-A-Rama in Columbus, OH over the Labor Day weekend. It is reported that we had 486 dancers registered; however, I heard that several who had registered did not show up. You

may recall that was the weekend that the gas prices started sky rocketing due to the impending arrival of our first hurricane of the season. Probably had a huge impact on the decision not to come at the last minute. The 2006 convention will be held in Rochester, NY.

The 2005 Yellowrock Directory has been distributed and I was pleased to see many of our Florida clubs listed. This is a directory of all the "single" friendly clubs in the U.S. I refer to this directory a lot when I travel on business, and know many others refer to it too.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Single Rama in October due to the anticipated arrival of another hurricane that weekend, which didn't show up until Monday. We are already planning for 2006 back at the Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring. I have e-mailed Joe Fioretti about calling for us again, but am awaiting a reply. This means, among other things, that we weren't able to hold our annual elections. So guess who you're going to continue hearing from for another year!

SIDEBAR: I was told last weekend that Joe isn't doing very well. This on top of an e-mail I received the week before that his cancer isn't improving but it's not getting any worse and that he is going up north for further treatment. I asked in my e-mail if this will be a permanent move.

The 2005 State Convention Singles Chairman and I had planned to meet about the convention during Single Rama; however, since the weekend was canceled and she has now gone to stay at her son's in North Carolina until she can get back into her house in Ft. Lauderdale we still haven't connected.

The 2006 Fuzzy Navel in Jekyll Island, GA will be hosted by Florida. Jim Cosmin, who calls for the Seabreeze Singles in Jacksonville, will be calling and Misty Hannah from Alabama will be cueing. Sandy's Boutique will be the vendor for the weekend. We will be staying and dancing at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort on Jekyll Island on March 24 & 25.

I just received the latest edition of the Intercom, which is the Single Square Dancers USA newsletter, and Florida was mentioned two or three times. This was good to see.

The monthly SSDUSAGram gets longer every month as more clubs and associations forward information on their dances. Our Single Rama, Fuzzy Navel, and state convention are listed, as well as several club dances from the Space Coast area.

I continue to write articles for each of the square dance publications in Florida and serve as the "unofficial" Florida representative to SSDUSA.

As I have mentioned many times previously, although the singles host their own dances and festivals, any one is welcome to join us. Please encourage the solos in your clubs and associations to join us. I know they will have a great time.

Penny Green, President

PUBLICATIONS

Keepin' Posted
No Report-

Panhandle Press
No Report-

The Grapevine Report
November 6, 2005

Subscribers are down, but the Grapevine continues to operate in the black and prints between 275 and 300 copies six times a year.

We continue to print all the news we can find about Square Dancing . . . which includes rounds, contra, country western and lines. We make sure as much information as we can get about both the State and National Conventions is contained in each issue. We are probably the only publication in the State that includes all the major dances of the other Associations in our Calendar of Events. We hope someday to see all the publications do this so that dancers will have a choice of where to dance, especially if they are traveling throughout the state.

Since its inception, the "Feature Article" continues to be one of our most popular items in **The Grapevine**. Another popular one is the "For Your Address Book: which gives our readers changes of address, telephone and e-mail. This past issue we started a "Business Directory" for dancers, callers, cuers, etc., to list their business and a telephone number. For this column we charge a nominal fee of \$2.00 (since it may take the place of an ad).

Being Editors of **The Grapevine** has given us the chance to promote Square Dancing to its fullest potential, and that has always been our goal. The material contained in any of our publications may be used by any other publication, however we do ask only that you give **The Grapevine** credit for any article used.

As usual, we invite anyone's comments and suggestions.

We have been Editors of **The Grapevine** for 11 years and 4 months, and have been a delegate to this body for about the same time. This will be the **last report** we will make to the Florida Federation for The Grapevine, as we have submitted our RETIREMENT papers to the Northeast Board. Our Retirement - - or resignation if you prefer - - takes place January 1, 2006. We have enjoyed the job and feel that we have done the very best job we could for the Northeast. There is always a time for everything and this is the time for us to retire as Editors and let someone else step up with new ideas and realize the rewards that come with the job.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie & Val

Charlie and Val Newsome

At this time, we'd like Bud and Anita Taylor, Presidents of NEFSARDA, to come forward and introduce to you the next **Editors for The Grapevine**.

Introduced were the next Editors for the Grapevine, Bob and Jean Raymond.

West Coast Dancer Report
(Read by Penny Green)
November 6, 2005

Good Morning,

We had some anxious moments this past August while working on the Dancer magazine. The computer decided to quit, completely, and could not be restored. So the hard drive was wiped clean. After a week and nice piece of cash a new operating system was installed. Of course all the data and installed programs were lost. Fortunately the Dancer was backed up on a disk and after many hours most everything was reinstalled. The lesson here: Back up everything.

I thank the other Association publications for printing the West Coast Fall Fun Fest Ad. It looked great. The Fall Fun Fest is next Friday and Saturday the 11th and 12th. Hope to see you all there.

Coincidentally, I too have been frustrated at times the way Club News is written and this months Grapevine outlines the problems. One concerns writing about an event that is going to happen but is past when the publication comes out. Other equally important suggestions are made. And I would like to add one more. And that is: do not put a dance listing in the publication and forget about it. Some listings are not updated for months and after a while we get suspicious and decide to purge them if not reconfirmed.

Respectfully submitted:
Ed Henning - Editor

Bow & Swing
No Report-

A short break followed

FLORIDA STATE CONVENTIONS

2005 Florida State Convention Final Report
November 6, 2005

This is our Final Report on the 51st Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention which was held May 27th-29th, 2005 at the Lakeland, Center in Lakeland, Florida. Before we pass out the Final Reports to the Board, and present the president, Garland and Carole McKenzie, with a check representing the Federation Share of profits realized from the Convention, we have just a couple of comments and figures we'd like to share with the Delegates.

Total **PAID** registration was only **950**, but when the callers, cuers, and committee were added, our total attendance at the convention was **1,131**.

The two areas we received the most favorable comments about was (1) the Youth Party, and (2) the Dance Program – both squares and rounds. Comments were received not only from dancers, but the callers and cuers as well. We give our Caller Coordinators – Bill and Mary Chesnut and Ernie and Frances Rollen – and our Cuer Coordinators – June and Frank Leverette and Lisa and John Wall – all the credit for the programming. While the Youth Party was an idea of ours, it was only a success because of two people who organized it – John Loveland and Linda Miller – along with the callers who came and had as much fun as the youth.

In fact, the entire convention was a success because of two reasons. Number 1, because of our Committee, who were very dedicated to the goal of a FUN Convention and worked tirelessly to see it accomplished. We wanted and asked for **TEAM WORK** from our committees and believe us, we got it! And Number 2, because of the absolutely fantastic job the Northeast did with fund raising. We have personally thanked each and every person who worked with the 51st Convention – and if we missed anyone we are indeed sorry – for they are the ones who deserve the recognition of a Successful State Convention!

We would be remiss if we did not mention a couple of other reasons. . . .and that is the **callers, cuers, and instructors** who came and gave unselfishly of their time and talent, **AND the**

dancers from all over the State who supported the convention by attending, and in some cases working side by side with us.

We hope you can readily see that the way to success is to make it a **STATE** convention with everybody working on the **TEAM**. We started out with a goal of putting on a **FUN** weekend with **GREAT DANCING** and to make it a fun four years of work for our committees by making sure it was **TEAM WORK** all the way. We believe we met those goals and we feel somewhat elated that we did what we wanted to do and still made a profit.

We want to **thank the Northeast Association** for having the confidence in us to ask us to chair the 2005 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention. We have made many new friends, strengthened old friendships, and enjoyed immensely the fun and fellowship throughout these past four years as we worked together for a common goal. We feel honored to have had the support of so many in the Northeast Florida Square Dance Community.

We also want to **THANK** all the **dancers, callers, cuers, prompters and leaders** in the State for your assistance and support during the past four years. We now ask that all of us throughout the State continue to help each other so that we can continue to meet in Lakeland each year in May for a weekend full of great dancing, filled with fun and laughter!

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie & Val
Charlie and Val Newsome

Now, if Garland Carole will come forward, we'd like to present you with a check for \$4,405.73, representing your share of the profits from the Convention.

54th FSSRDC Report
November 6, 2005

We held our first general meeting on October 30, 2005. It was a get acquainted and general discussion session.

Many ideas were discussed and an overall direction was set.

Much activity had preceded this meeting.

The theme has been selected and a prototype dress has been made.
The dress was presented to the committee and was enthusiastically accepted.

The ways and means committee, under the direction of Fred & Jan Smith, has been busy. Holding Chinese Auctions, Theme Basket Auctions and selling Enjoyment books have raised \$2853.00 plus they are now selling the new Enjoyment books for 2006.

The Sewing committee, under the direction of Shirley Walker and Betsy Curts, has been busy. They have made many items to be given to those that visit the sewing room. And are busy collecting materials to make more.

We want to thank Jack & Kathy McKinney and Bruce & Colleen Morgan for agreeing to take a committee. We still have a few openings, but hope to find someone to fill them. They are committees that don't have early work to do.

Respectfully submitted
Don & Ann Slocum

2009 Florida State Convention Report
November 6, 2005

We are moving along slowly, but surely. The executive board is in place, along with the caller and cuer chairmen and their assistants. Several other chairs are presently filled and others still need to be.

Our Historian, Judy Frye, came up with an idea for a theme. Bruce and Colleen Morgan have worked on a logo. And, we have our slogan and an idea for the convention outfit.

The convention center has us penciled in for May 22, 23 and 24.

It appears we have everything except money. We do hope to start fund raising after the first of the year.

Randy and Carol Poole – Convention Chairman

Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame
November 6, 2005

No Report-

Historian Report
November 6, 2005

We wish to thank Cheryl and Paul for providing us with a tape of the National Convention.

We have a bit of history occurring during the time of our last meeting. The hurricanes have caused some damage to some of our fellow square dancers. We have tied the record for the most hurricanes for the season and that's the kind of history we aren't trying to make.

During the State Convention, I met a gentleman from one of the associations and he and I agreed to trade photos with each other through e-mail. We have since lost that persons name and address. If anyone can help us out with the name and address, phone number of this person we would certainly appreciate it.

We have been trying to ho to different areas with our limited time and try to get some photos taken of the different events. The last dance we attended was at Oleano. The Northwest provided a lot of fun and a good time. They have a photographer who has been maintaining the history of the Northwest for many years. We are sure that the Northwest will provide us with some of the photos.

If any association has any photos and editorials involving square dancing activities, please share them with us so they can become part of history.

Manny and Sherry Gonzales – Historians

U S D A Report
November 6, 2005

The USDA Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2005, in Portland, Oregon. Attending the meeting were Florida Representatives Jack and Barbara Hoffman and Paul and Cheryl Miller.

I will highlight several points of interest:

New Officers elected:

USDA President: Charlie and Kitty Holley

Eastern Region Vice President: Len and Connie Houle

Central Region Vice President: Bill and Bobbi Shepard

Plains Region Vice President: John and Alitia Becker

Western Region Vice President: Michael and Kimberlee Streby

Secretary: Si and Marilyn Kittle

Treasurer: Bill Flick

Credit Card Program: Joe Vacarri

In His report, Joe emphasized a few items of concern. Since the affiliation account was depleted last year from the distribution there is now only \$4,131.00 in that account. Of particular significance is the total number of credit cards has dropped significantly over the past few years. Last year there was a drop of 285 and the past three years they have dropped 948, and of course this means less money is coming in from royalties, which means it will take longer to accumulate funds. Joe asked the delegates for their help to take an active role in promoting the credit card program nationwide. Remember that people can apply for a credit card online at WWW.usda.org.

Youth Report: Alitia Becker

Alitia introduced Bonnie Abrahamson, a Youth Leader from California who has been responsible for compiling the Teach the Teacher Program and has helped with the Youth Competition in California.

Alitia also presented the Youth Scholarship Certificate and check for \$1,000 to the delegates from Arkansas for the recipient who is Andrew Turpin from Arkansas. He is one of four boys in the family, and all four are square dancers, their father is a caller.

National Folk Dance: Mark Grumbine

Mr. Grumbine stated that as of the 12th of June we do not have a Square Dance Bill in Congress. Also, we have put the Folk Dance Bill on hold and we are going to work on making Square Dancing as a State Folk Dance in the remaining 19 states that do not have that. Our prime program now is to get coordinators in each state to push Square Dance as the National Folk Dance. Until we get everything going, we will be on hold.

ARTS (Alliance for Round, Traditional and Square Dance): The ARTS had a very prominent display at the Showcase of Ideas at the National Convention in Portland. Michael encouraged people to take a survey and fill it out even though you may have filled one out last year. This is to provide them with a stronger marketing position.

Bonnie Abrahamson, Youth Adviser from California thanked ARTS for the grant they gave the Youth Program in California and to the California Square Dance Council which has been very supportive. They put together a packet called "Square Dance 101" and it basically involves teaching instructions that school teachers can take and work with the students and teach square dancing. This consists of a four CD set, teaching instructions from the CALLERLAB definitions and the history of square dancing. It is a two-week program for the schools.

USDA Add-A-Buck Program: Tom Rudibock (The Add-A-Buck Committee Chairman) reported that the Add-A-Buck Program was initiated by the CALLERLAB's RPM Committee, that's Recruit, Promote, and Maintain. The purpose is to get festivals and conventions to voluntarily collect a small additional amount where the dancers agree to do so for donation to the Foundation for the

Preservation and Promotion of Square Dancing. The Foundation Mr. Rudibock is referring to is ARTS.

A resolution was presented. In a "nutshell", the resolution is for USDA to encourage its affiliates and their member clubs to voluntarily collect tax deductible contributions for this charitable foundation through the Add-A-Buck Program by increasing it's dance fees at regular and special dances and festivals or conventions to be contributed to the ARTS.

A motion was made by Missouri to accept the Resolution and seconded by California.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul and Cheryl Miller – USDA Delegate

USDA Insurance Report
October 31, 2005

Checking Account		\$
Balance Forward as of 5/1/2005		
Central	\$	
Northwest	\$	
West Coast	\$	
Southeast		
Northeast	\$	
Singles		
Cloggers	\$	
Total Receipts	\$	
Sub-Total		\$
Disbursements 5/1/2005 thru 10/31/2005		
USDA Premiums	\$	
Administrative Expenses		
Checks		
Envelopes		
Phone/FAX		
Copies		
Refund of Overpayment to West Coast	\$	
Total Disbursements	\$	
Balance on Hand as of 10/30/2005		\$

As of October 31st we had a total of 3,326 dancers from 76 clubs insured. Last year at this time we had 76 clubs insured, but there were more dancers at 3,520. Central gained 2 new clubs. Southeast gained 3 clubs while the others remained constant or lost a few. This balances out to a total gain of 1 club since last year.

The 2006 paperwork from the USDA has arrived and has been distributed. The cost of insurance has increased from \$3.90 last year to a total of \$4.10 this year. All paperwork has been distributed to the Association Insurance Chairman. Hopefully they are started contacting their clubs. The sooner they get their clubs paperwork submitted the sooner they will receive their insurance certificates.

Lorraine has asked me to make sure that the clubs use the current year's paperwork. Some of the forms that have been used over the years have been from years past. Some of them have been up to 3 or 4 years old. She stated that she will start returning forms that are not current. This will increase the postage rates for Lorraine, myself, your association chairman and the club insurance representative. As you can see this will affect a lot of people's administrative costs. Please stress this to your club insurance representatives and make sure that they have, and use, the proper forms.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce and Colleen Morgan – FFSD Insurance Chairpersons

ASCAP-BMI Report
November 6, 2005

No Report-

Extra Mile Award
November 6, 2005

Carole McKenzie stated, all candidates for the Extra Mile Award must be submitted to Jack and Kathy McKinney no later than February 1, 2006. Final decisions will be made during the Working Weekend. The Federation Board will announce the choice or choices at the State Convention in May.

Old Business

Web Site

Bruce Morgan made a motion: The Florida Federation to obtain it's own Web Site. The Web Site to add Florida Square Dancing.com to the domain name. Jack Taylor gave a second to the motion.

Discussion followed:

Cost to the Federation to be \$143.40 per year - \$11.95 per month.

Reasons for the change in policy include; some questionable material found on current site, charges for changes and maintenance excessive, lack of usage of white space. Bruce will offer free hosting of the site, 100 callers will be in agreement, site to be set up by Working Weekend. At present Bruce does Central's web page as well as the Whirl and Twirl through Yahoo.

Re-Organization Committee
No Report-

Convention Space Availability
November 6, 2005

After being appointed by President Garland and Carole McKenzie, Jan and I sought out some one in each Metropolitan area of the I-4 corridor to assist us in our search. We were fortunate in finding someone in each area to do some preliminary searching. In the Daytona Beach area, Kenly and Alice Spilman, in the Orlando area, George and Shirley Knapp and in the West Coast

area, Fred and Jan Smith, all of which proceeded to search for possible facilities in their respective areas.

After each of them had narrowed the possible sites, then we proceeded to visit the various areas:

West Coast; we spent one day with Fred and Jan in visiting two possible sites,

Clearwater; The Harborview Center would be a possibility. It has marginally enough halls of size that could be utilized for dancing, but no arena with bleachers for grand march, etc. Parking on site is free, but probably not enough spaces for all, however there are 450 paid parking spaces within walking distance. Pricing seems competitive with Lakeland and they said that the prices are negotiable and they would work with us. ALL HALLS ARE CARPETED.

Tampa; The Tampa Convention Center would be more than adequate. This is a beautiful facility for dancing and meetings, but no facility with bleachers for a grand march, etc. Their price is a little high, but they assured us that they would work with us to be competitive. An Embassy Suites hotel is attached to the Center and other hotels are closer than in Lakeland. A parking garage is attached to the facility. ALL HALLS ARE CARPETED.

Daytona Beach Area; we spent a day with Kenly and Alice looking at two possible sites;

Ocean Center; This facility would be very adequate for our use. It has an arena with bleachers and adequate meeting type rooms for dancing and meetings. Paid parking is just across the street. The center is currently being expanded. Pricing is high, but they would try to work with us. **Facility is not available on Memorial Day Weekend.** ALL HALLS ARE CARPETED.

Hilton Hotel; This is a beautiful ocean front facility. It has more than adequate ballroom and meeting areas. However to get the ballrooms at no charge, we must guarantee them 500 room nights rentals. The rate this year would be \$149 per night and by 2007 they would expect it to be \$189 per night. We did not pursue a price to pay for the ballrooms. ALL HALLS ARE CARPETED.

Orlando Area; we checked two facilities there;

Orlando Convention Center; this was an easy one to check – called Lane Vento, who was the person that we worked with in Lakeland putting on the 1999 State Convention. As he was cognizant of our needs to put on a convention, he advised us that the Convention Center was just too big and expensive for our event. Too bad, as he would have been great to work with again.

Orlando Expo Center; this is the facility in downtown Orlando where our State Convention was held in 1986, 1987 & 1988. Some of you will remember this as the facility where the grand march was held in the hall where you had to dodge around posts in the room. While this venue might be usable, it is no longer available. It is now part of University of Central Florida.

In summary, unless someone can come up with another facility to look at, it would seem that we have two choices, 1, learn to dance on carpet or 2, continue to work with the Lakeland Center.

[All brochures in support of this report are in Secretaries files]

Jim and Jan McConnaha, Chairman Alternative Site Search Committee

MOVE TO CHANGE THE DATES OF THE FLORIDA STATE SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION;
Revisit Convention Dates
November 6, 2005

As you may or may not know, I had a conversation with John Saunders regarding the Sunshine Festival's **LAST** dance in 2006. I was asked if I thought the State Convention would like to move into that time frame. I was told that he had the time slot "penciled in" for the next couple of years. He agreed to keep that time open to give me some time to contact others regarding the potential move.

After contacting the Coordinating Committee Board and the presidents of the Callers, Cuers and the Federation, I sent a letter out asking that each of the entities revisit the proposal (last visited in 1999) to change the State Convention time frame.

We attended the Caller's meeting in Lakeland and the subject was brought before the members. They agreed to support the dancers in their quest to move the Convention dates. At that same meeting, we were told that the folks from Square Dancing, Inc. had already locked up the time slot for the few years following the Sunshine Festival's last dance.

Upon returning to Jacksonville, I had a long conversation with John Saunders and he confirmed that he had heard, also, that Tony Oxendine had placed a deposit on the Convention Center. He wasn't sure if Tony went in on his own or if he had gotten word that we were looking to move to those dates.

My next call was to Brenda Townsend at the Lakeland Center. She confirmed that a deposit had been made (\$2,500.00 was mentioned) for the time being vacated by the Sunshine Festival.

Because of a lady named Wilma, I was unable to attend the Cuer's meeting (it was canceled), to see what their feelings were.

As it stands right now, the time frame that the Sunshine Festival now has, is no longer available.

If, in the future, the dancers again attempt to change the State Convention dates, I'm sure the Coordinating Committee will again take up the matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Newsome, President - Coordinating Committee

Letter from Tony Oxendine read by Bruce Morgan:

"Per our conversation, here is a brief synopsis of GSI's plans for the January weekend:

The event will be renamed the Florida Winter Festival (or maybe Ball). The staff will consist of John Saunders, Jerry Story, Larry Letson, Jerry Haag, Tim Crawford, myself, and two others (I'm trying to get a European caller as one of the two). The weekend will continue on the 4th weekend of January. GSI will establish a fund to be used for promoting square dancing in the state of Florida. After the initial funding by GSI (\$1000), the fund will receive 10% of the net profit each year from the FWF. The fund will be distributed and managed by a board (chosen by the Florida dancers or associations).

Right now, the details on this are sketchy. The exact particulars can be determined later with input from both the Florida representatives and GSI. Perhaps we can arrange some type of meeting at the 2006 Sunshine Festival to finalize everything.

It is our hope at GSI that this event will continue to be a square dance showcase for the state of Florida as it has in the past. GSI is not interested in making money off of any of their events. Any additional profits from this event will be used to help promote square dancing. GSI is a federally approved 501(c)(3) non profit foundation whose sole mission is to promote square dancing.

GSI established and funds a caller education fund (distributed and managed by CALLERLAB). In addition, GSI (since 2002) has funded a free callers school in Europe (attended by more than 70 callers each year). In 2006, GSI is sponsoring a similar free callers school in St. Louis, MO. There are plans for conducting these same types of schools in Canada, Japan and Australia in the coming years.

I realize that there has been some confusion regarding this thing. Hopefully, I can clarify things. As I told you on the phone, I was the one that approached John, Art, and Don about continuing the weekend. All of us are equal partners (including Jerry Haag, Jerry Story, and Larry Letson). I felt that as a partner, I (or any of the other partners that wanted to stay involved in the weekend) should have first right of refusal regarding the dates for the weekend. Unfortunately, word got out about the cancellation for the FSF prematurely. When I got the word from John, Don and Art, I contacted the Lakeland Center to confirm the dates in my name. I contacted Don, Art and John and asked them to remain on the staff. Don and Art decided not to, and John and Linda decided to stay on. John and Linda agreed to stay on as long as their work load (in organizing everything) was greatly lessened. After agreeing to this, I realized that I could not handle running the event on my own. I contacted GSI and asked them to sponsor the new event. They have the office staff to handle all of the administrative details. They agreed, hinging on the establishment of this educational/promotional fund.

John did not release the dates until after I contacted the Civic Center and had a check sent to them for a deposit for 2007-2009. In fact, the Civic Center would not confirm everything until after talking to John.

It is my hope (and GSI's) that we can all work together. The Florida dancers have a unique opportunity. You can be a part of an event that will (hopefully) help the square dance activity in Florida, be a part of a huge square dance weekend, and not have any financial responsibility.

I truly believe that none of us wants controversy. I sincerely hope that the Florida dancers and associations will embrace this new festival with the same fervor that you all have shown the FSF. It can be a "win-win" situation for everyone concerned. If I have not explained everything adequately, please feel free to contact me either by e-mail or phone. I will be happy to meet and discuss any questions or issues that you have.

Thanks,
Tony Oxendine

Bruce Morgan made a motion: We (the Florida Federation of Square Dancers) enter into negotiations with Tony Oxendine regarding the Federations part in the Florida Winter Festival (Ball). The motion was seconded by Ray Huddleston.

Discussion followed: Bob Raymond questioned the guarantee of GSI's revealing records, if in fact the future earnings would be based upon total receipts less expenses. Anita Taylor wished assurance that the task involved would be defined as registration only. Fred Smith reminded all of the "great deal of work required to hold an event of this nature. Charlie Newsome stated that the Federation board should have been contacted directly. He further stated that Oxendine was looking for legitimacy. Ken Brasfield amended the motion to include the words "to pursue further". He added we cannot jump in without further information. Most felt the Federation could not afford to refuse support until all of the facts are heard at a meeting during the 2006 FSF to be attended by the Federation officers, Linda Saunders, Tony Oxendine, Bruce and Colleen Morgan, and a representative from GSI. The motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report
November 6, 2005

The nominating committee consisting of Chairman, Dee Dee Stoval, Jerry Rhodes and Ken Brasfield make the following recommendations for officers to the board of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers:

President:	Jack and Kathy McKinney
Vice President:	Ken and Sue Brown
Secretary:	Randy and Carol Poole
Treasure:	Paul and Cheryl Miller
Parliamentarian:	Ray and Elsa Huddleston

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenneth H Brasfield

Don Slocum moved to accept the recommendations and Charlie Newsome seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business

Hurricane Relief Funds

Carole McKenzie reviewed events following the establishment of Relief Funds collected following the Katrina disaster. Ray Huddleston made contact with the President of the Alabama dancers Association. At this time it is impossible to access the needs of those dancers affected due to the lack of communication. Communicating with dancers residing in the Mississippi Gulf is impossible. In the interim, our own State has been faced with a similar disaster, affecting Florida dancers. Ray Huddleston made a motion "The Florida Federation redirect funds collected for the Katrina disaster to those affected by the recent hurricanes which hit the Florida Coast." The motion was seconded by Anita Taylor. The Motion passed. Don Slocum made a motion that the Florida Federation match the funds collected at the dance, "O'Lena". Mary Butlak seconded. The motion passed. Kathy McKinney stated the board will disperse the available funds to the Southeast.

Announcements

Kathy: Working Weekend to be held March 12, 2006 at the LaQuinta Inn, Lee Road, Maitland, FL.
Jack: Take this information back to the association – such as the need for advertising in the State Convention Program Book.

Kathy McKinney presented a gift to Garland and Carole McKenzie in appreciation of their service to the Federation.

Installation of New Officers

Ken and Sandy Brasfield conducted the Installation of New Officers. They chose the word Challenge, using each letter with decided information for the jobs of the offices; a very appropriate and impressive ceremony.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion made by Ken Brown and seconded.