

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
SUNDAY MAY 28, 2006
LAKELAND CIVIC CENTER, LAKELAND FLORIDA**

Presidents, Jack and Kathy McKinney, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Mary Stewart gave the invocation. President McKinney led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance. Carol Poole called the roll and stated a quorum was in attendance.

President Jack welcomed the guests and wished there were many more.

To refresh everyone's memory President Jack read a short synopsis of the minutes of the last meeting.

Dewey Hendricks moved that the minutes of the March 11-12 meeting be approved as printed. Garland McKenzie seconded. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 28, 2006 - APRIL 30, 2006

Beginning Balance - All Accounts		
Wachovia Checking Balance	\$	
Contingency		
Insurance		
Total All Accounts	\$	
Checking Account Balance		\$
Receipts		
Wachovia Interest (2/28/2006 - 04/30/2006)	\$	
Total Receipts	\$	
Checking Account Balance		\$
Disbursements		
Jack McKinney - President Expense	\$	
Ken Brown - Secretary Expense		
Carole Poole - Treasurers Expense		
Manny Gonzales - Historian Expense		
Florida Dept. of State "2006 Annual Report"		
Total Disbursements	\$	
Checking Account Balance 04/30/06		\$
Ending Balance - All Accounts		
Wachovia Checking Balance	\$	
Contingency		
Insurance		
Total All Accounts	\$	

Respectfully Submitted
Paul & Cheryl Miller, Treasurer
The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

We have been in communication with the Showcase Directors in Texas confirming the set up and tear down dates and times of the Showcase, and the hours of operation. We will be setting up the Showcase on Wednesday, June 21, between 10 am and 4 pm. Tear down time is between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday, June 24.

The Showcase area will be open from 10 am to 6 pm on Thursday and Friday, and from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday.

Our sign up sheet has quite a few vacancies. If you will be in San Antonio for the convention, we ask that you volunteer at least an hour to man the Showcase.

We have not incurred any expenses since we have enough pencils from last year and quite a few refrigerator magnets for the giveaways.

We will be taking all the displays to San Antonio in our van, but since we are continuing on to California, we would like a volunteer to bring the displays back.

We thank all the volunteers who have signed up to man the Showcase and also those who will be meeting us to set it up.

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Parliamentarians

SUNSHINE REPORT

President Kathy reported Bessie Stoval had an infection and was very ill. She was on a respirator for awhile.

Ray Huddleston reported Bob Sorenson had a pace maker put in and he is having a very slow recovery.

Correspondence: None

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Charlie Newsome reported they met May 27, 2006 at the Lakeland Convention Center.

1. After determining we did not have a quorum, we proceeded with the meeting.
2. With no quorum and unable to waive the reading of minutes, the secretary (Bruce Morgan was standing in for Jim McConnaha) proceeded to read while Val Newsome went looking for absent members. Some absentee's reported and a quorum was reached.
3. Convention reports: NW Chairman was absent. An update was given by Patty Ping. Central Chairman was absent. An update was given by Bruce Morgan.
4. New Business: Don Slocum will look into possible corporate sponsors for the state convention. There is a lot of expense on our dancers to fund and support the execution of each convention. Also, space rental is ever increasing.
5. New officers for 06-07 were approved. They are Chairman, Conrad Protzman; 1st Vice Chairman, Patty Ping; 2nd Vice Chairman, Don & Ann Slocum.

6. With no other business we adjourned.

REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Reorganization Committee members met with the Association Presidents at the presidents breakfast Saturday to discuss the future of Association participation in the activities of the conventions as well as their ability to continue providing members to serve on the Federation board.

After much discussion and unanimous agreement it was decided to present three proposals to the board:

1. That we eliminate the rule in our by-laws that restricts the location of the State Convention to along the I-4 corridor in a fifty mile radius, to any location more centrally located and with the approval of the Federation Board.

2. Beginning in 2010 the State Convention Chairman will be appointed by the Federation President and it will be up to the General Chairman to appoint his board and workers from around the state. He may ask members of any Association to participate and it will be the responsibility of that Association to assist in anyway they can in order to share in any proceeds from the convention.

3. The proceeds from the State Convention would be divided equally between the Federation, Callers, Cuers, and the Associations. This means each Association would receive a share from each convention, an amount equal to one fifth of the Association share which is one fourth of the total.

This proposal would be effective immediately upon approval by the Federation membership. If approved, the current Federation President will appoint a chairman for the 2010 convention and each successive president will do the same for the following years.

Understand that any rule or regulation that has been in existence for over fifty years will not be successfully changed overnight and will probably need some fine tuning to fit the new situation as time goes by. So be patient!!

Two things I want to add. Expect to see an increase in registration fees and we need to look for a corporate sponsor.

Respectively submitted
George Knapp, Chairman
Reorganization Committee

Jack Lascola asked what halls are available. George answered that Jim McConnaha is chairing a committee that is looking into finding a new location. They have not found one suitable at this time. Most have gone to carpeted floors. The convention will not move from the Lakeland Center until we have a firm place. Once we loose the Lakeland Center, we will not get it back. It is the feeling the Center is ready for us to leave.

Carole McKenzie stated the Lakeland Center is getting more expensive and more difficult to work with. Contracts for the following year's convention are not signed until a few months after the current convention. Labor costs have risen to \$16.00 per hour per person.

Many dancers want the convention to stay centrally located. They do not want the convention to go too far south, north, or northwest.

George: Present rules require us to stay in a 50 mile radius along the I-4 corridor.

Bruce Morgan reminded the delegation that the convention guidelines have to be approved by the Callers, Cuers and the Dancers. Two of the three have to approve the change. The guidelines will not permit the Federation President to appoint the Convention Chairman for 2010 immediately.

George: First, we have to get the Federation to agree on this. After much discussion the proposals were amended.

The motion now reads:

1. That we eliminate the rule in our by-laws that restricts the location of the State Convention to along the I-4 corridor in a fifty mile radius, *to any location with the approval of the Federation Board.*

2. Beginning in 2006 the State Convention Chairman will be appointed by the Federation President. *(In 2006 two (2) Chairman will be appointed for the years 2010 & 2011 and thereafter the President will appoint a General Chairman for five (5) years ahead)* and it will be up to the General Chairman to appoint his board and workers from around the state. He may ask members of any Association to participate and it will be the responsibility of that Association to assist in any way they can in order to share in any proceeds from the convention.

3. The proceeds from the State Convention would be divided equally between the Federation, Callers, Cuers, and the Associations. This means each Association would receive a share from each convention, an amount equal to one fifth of the Association share which is one fourth of the total.

This proposal would be effective immediately upon approval by the Federation membership and contingent upon approval of the Callers Organization or the Cuers Organization. If approved, the current Federation President will appoint a chairman for the 2010 and 2011 convention and each successive president will do the same for five (5) years out.

George Knapp moved to accept the proposals of the reorganization committee. Garland McKenzie seconded.

The motion carried.

Colleen Morgan asked who was conducting the survey being taken during the convention. This was one caller's idea and he did not get approval from the Callers Association or the 52nd Convention Committee. It has been stopped.

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS REPORT

Anita Taylor gave a very brief report.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSOCIATION REPORT

This report is going to be a short and sweet.

We have had two good milestones within Central Association since our last report. The Allemanders of Satellite Beach celebrated their 50th year of dancing with a great dance and lots of publicity. Many of their past presidents, callers, and cuers were present. The Canaveral Squares

celebrated their 46^d year with the Cinderella Ball, which had the wicked stepmother and sisters present. Watch the Bow & Swing for some interesting pictures.

Our 5th Saturday dance held in Leesburg in April was well attended with 10 to 11 squares. Our next dance July 29th will be held in St. Cloud where we hope to get many of our graduating students to attend.

Randy and Carol are coming up with all kinds of ideas for the 2009 Convention, but that is their job to report on.

Bruce and Colleen Morgan are the Chairmen of the 2007 Shamrock Swing, which you will be hearing more about in the up coming meetings. Since the Federation working weekend will be held on the same weekend and at the same place we're sure they will be getting ribbons out to any of you who will accept them to sell in your area.

We want to extend our congratulations and thanks to the Southeast Association and Carole and Garland McKenzie for a very fun and successful Convention this year.

Jack and Barbara Hoffman, President CFA

NORTHWEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION REPORT

Seaside Square's annual Weekend of Rounds, which had been scheduled for March 31 and April 1 at Ragon Hall in Pensacola, unfortunately had to be cancelled. Between hurricane damages along the Gulf Coast and the high cost of gasoline at the time, there would not have been enough dancers participating to make the dance a success.

Patty Ping continued with her classes in March. She held a plus workshop on March 11, and then had a beginner's class March 24, 25, & 26. All of the students in this class, except one, have joined the Pensacola Twirlers. Patty is an excellent dance teacher and these classes are always beneficial to square dancing.

The 15th annual Spring Fling was April 21 & 22 at Ragon Hall. This was, as always, a great dance, strengthening the bonds between northwest Florida and south Alabama. Calling the squares were Larry Belcher from Montgomery, AL and Willis Simmons from Eufaula, AL; the rounds were cued by John Williford from Montgomery.

On April 29, the Domino City Squares in Andalusia, AL held their Barn Dance at the Church Street School. Willis Simmons and Bob Poyner called, and John Williford cued.

The annual Panama City Beach Ball was held May 4, 5, & 6 at the Panama City Beach Senior Center. Callers were Tony Oxendine and Darryl McMillan, and the cuers were Jack and Muriel Wright.

Northwest is continuing its work on the 2007 State Convention. We are planning a really interesting kick-off at the 2006 Convention, which you will see tonight. Tim Wilaby will give a more detailed report later on in this meeting.

SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION REPORT

Prior to our board meeting on May 1 Ray and I were informed of the resignation of our secretary and vice president. As some of you know, Bob Sorensen, our vice president, has not been in good health for some time now. We were not sure how many of the remaining board members would continue, and we planned to discuss shutting down the Southeast Association. Imagine how delighted we were to learn that the board members who have been so faithful over the last

few years have agreed to remain on the board again! What a loyal group we have!! Even though you know by now who they are, we must mention their names again: Stan and Elaine Wyler remain as Treasurer, Jerry and Helen Rhodes remain as Insurance Chairmen and Ada Trott continues to be Membership Chairman. However, we have started announcing that if we do not get some new volunteers for the Board, we must face reality. This board is tired. Ray and I have been the board now for over 11 years, and Ada Trott has been active for much longer than that.

We are announcing to the dancers that we need volunteers if we are going to continue. Since those announcements, Sally & George Galik have volunteered to accept the position of vice president and there is a possibility that we may have a secretary. We have decided not to have another Snowflake Frolic, our annual fund raiser.

On a much happier note, our Mother's Day dance May 7 was very well attended but then we always have a big turnout when Chris Phillips calls and the Singles host this dance. Our next dance will be September 10, and we will have an excellent caller who is fairly new to the area, Scotty Sharrer.

I would like to end this report with one request - that you all join Ray and me in thanking the Wylers, the Rhodes and Ada Trott for their continued support.

Ray & Elsa Huddleston, President

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

The new editors of the Grapevine put out their first copy of the publication. It was wonderful in it maintained the same high quality of editorship that Charlie and Val set forth. We congratulate and thank Bob and Jane Raymond for taking on this monumental task. They enjoyed it so much that they have decided to down size and move into a new house so they can devote more time to the Grapevine and less time in "keeping up with the house and yard". Bob decided that he also needed a new "hobby" for part of his free time and has gone back to work, part-time.

The NEFSARDA Board attended their first Graduation of 2006 at the Seabreeze Singles. We always have a great time with the singles. A lot of the time they are more fun than the married couples clubs. I truly do not know where the Northeast would be without our singles. They volunteer to help out whenever they can and I have come to rely on them for a lot of things Northeast needs help with. One of the singles told me a long time ago that one day 50% of the dancers will be in their situation of being single. That has always stuck with me and I try to remember to share my husband with the single ladies as well as I have danced with the single men when my husband was unable to attend. I hope we can all do the same. They graduated 12.

On March 28th we attended the Mandarin Marauders graduation. This class/club did very well considering their caller Lawton Smith had been undergoing chemotherapy and for part of the time Ken Miller had helped out with the classes. We are very happy to report that Lawton is in remission and starting to feel like his old self. They graduated 7.

On March 25th the River Ramblers held their annual Shriner's Benefit dance in San Mateo. This was a new place and was a really great place to dance. They had a guest caller, Tim Crawford, who made the evening a great pleasure. The dance was a great success.

On April 11th we attended the 18th anniversary dance and graduation of the Rollaways. They graduated 4. We had a great time, as Ken Miller put us through our paces.

On April 13th some of us attended the Moose Promenaders 15th Anniversary dance. As usual Bill Chestnut kept us dancing all night along with the beautiful and gracious, Lisa Wall on Rounds.

On April 20th we attended the graduation of the River Ramblers. Ernie Rollen always plans fun things to do, or is that his wife, Frances. They graduated 7.

April 27th saw the graduation of the Moose Promenaders. I believe that they graduated 8. Do you ever think you can recite the "Four Corners" ceremony in your sleep? Every club does it different in how they present it but I try to remember all the words of honor, duty, commitment and yes, fun. It still is the most unique ceremony to welcome new dancers.

April 29th saw our first Fifth Saturday dance. We decided again to hold it in an out-lying area. We went back to the school in San Mateo. By the way this school, Browning Pierce Elementary school allowed us to dance in that school for free. Of course we did leave a donation. The theme of this dance was "The Cruise". Everyone donned their cruise wear and boarded the SS NEFSARDA and set sail. Our entertainment for the cruise was Ernie Rollen, R. J. Hogan and Irene Knapp on Rounds. Our co-captains for the cruise were the Flagler Ocean Waves and the River Ramblers. Our cruise ship was full with 23, yes count them, 23 squares on the floor and another 2 sitting the first tip out. I haven't seen a fifth Saturday this successful in years.

The Gateway Callers held their graduation dance for all the new dancers on May 6th. We had about 8 squares in attendance, but most of this was the old dancers who came out to angel.

On May 9 we attended the Grand Squares graduation. They always put on a great show with members of their club participating in cross-dressing for new dance partners, even Elvis showed up to dance. They graduated a total of 30, however only 24 were able to be there that night. It was quite impressive to see 24 graduation hats stacked across the front. Our hats are off to this club for graduating such a huge class. Now the trick will be to keep these new dancers. I think they are up to the task.

This does bring up the same old problem of how to attract new dancers. We've thought of every way to promote square dancing from television, newspaper, radio, demos, etc, but we still haven't found a way to attract new dancers except word of mouth. Most everyone has exhausted all their sources of friends and co-workers to drag to square dancing. The officers of NEFSARDA along with the delegates do not have an answer. DO YOU?

Respectfully submitted, Bud & Anita Taylor, Presidents'

(P.S.) This is probably the last report that Bud is going to write, I guess I will have to write the next one.

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION

Good morning.

Many of our clubs have shut down for the summer due to the departure of our snowbirds.

The Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association had their annual elections in April and they are Caller Keith Stevens, President; Cuer Pat Hagen, Vice President; Caller Sam Dunn, Secretary and Caller Van Coble, Treasurer. Art Springer and George Varney had been treasurer and secretary respectively for 11 years and they really wanted a break!

In early April, the Suncoast Callers and Cuers hosted a Student Ball at Strawberry Square and had about 10 squares of new dancers and angels in attendance. And, because they had a meeting just prior to the dance, many callers and cuers attended the dance. Due in part to the phenomenal relationship we have with the callers and cuers association, I was given the

opportunity to tell the new dancers about West Coast membership, the state convention, the Fall Fun Fest and FASSRD.

Heartland Squares in Lake Wales folded the end of April simply due to the fact that no one wanted to take an office. The majority of the time they had pretty good attendance. The officers had been in office since the inception of the club (about five years ago) and they wanted a break.

Good news though, another club formed in Lake Wales called Shufflin' Squares and they will be dancing year round on the first and third Thursdays of the month. This is a group of new dancers who are very excited about forming a club and getting involved in square dancing. Their caller is Keith Stevens.

For several years, we have had one of our association dances at Kings Point in Sun City, and we had one scheduled there this year. But one of the callers in Sun City assumed he should be the MC for the dance, and when he found out it was going to be someone else, he told us the hall was cancelled. This was after the flyers were already in circulation. We found out a few weeks later after we had already started announcing the dance was canceled, that the hall had not been cancelled and that the caller was still planning to have a dance that afternoon. This incident generated a letter of support from the other club in Sun City letting us know they were not involved in the decision to cancel the dance, and that they hoped we could have the dance at another location. We, as "outsiders" can't book anything in Sun City. We were able to have the dance at Kings Point as one of the dancers would book the hall in the name of Kings Point Squares. We are now investigating moving the dance to the Palace Hall in Arcadia, which is a square and round dance hall owned by Cuer Jennie Martin.

In another show of support from the Suncoast Callers and Cuers, a statement of support was issued to the West Coast Association, and a letter of "reprimand" was sent to the caller.

And here we are in May with the State Convention almost history and Nationals coming up on us very quickly. Using my email distribution list, I put out a request for people to staff the Showcase of Ideas and to participate in the 2007 Kick-off. I was surprised but pleased regarding the Showcase volunteers. I heard from two couples that I would not have thought to ask. We have four couples from West Coast scheduled to be in the booth, and two singles are on standby if needed.

Unfortunately, I didn't get any "new" people to assist with the kick off - just the same "tired" workers - Smiths, Walkers, Slocums, Henry and myself. And of course we had a square for the mini-grand march.

Our annual VIP Dance will be Sunday, August 20th at Strawberry Square. This is the kick off for our annual Fall Fun Fest and we also recognize all our volunteers. This dance is free to everyone. Keith Stevens will be calling and Dick and Darlene Chase will be cueing.

Our President's Ball will be Sunday, September 24th at the Stardust Dance Center in Plant City. Our new officers will be installed and I get to retire! At least I hope we will have officers to install. We have openings for secretary, treasurer and vice president. We try to have people work their way up the chairs, but....Since it would be good to at least have a vice president who has some knowledge of what needs to be done, I asked at the meeting Wednesday who was ready to "recycle"? Guess what? No one volunteered!

After numerous conversations with the Lakeland Center, we were finally able to close out the 2005 Fall Fun Fest, and we realized a profit of a little over \$1,000. Congratulations to Bob & Jennie Courter and their committee. Fred and Jan Smith are the chairman for the 2006 Fall Fun

Fest, which has been moved to Bartow and will be November 10 & 11. Free parking for everyone and free camping for up to 10 rigs. We have ribbons with us this weekend.

Penny Green, President

FASSRD Report

We hosted the 15th Fuzzy Navel at Jekyll Island in March. We had 10 squares dancing to Jim Cosman and Misty Hannah. Jim had four squares dancing on the beach to earn their "Son of a Beach" dangle. We realized a profit.

I again put out an email request to my singles distribution list for the mini-grand march and the kickoff square. I had enough responses that no one had to do both squares!

National Singles will be in Rochester, NY over the Labor Day weekend.

Our Single Rama will be October 20 & 21 at the Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring. Sam Dunn will be calling and Phyllis Williams will be cueing. We will be having our annual meeting that weekend so I can retire from this office too!

Penny Green, President

WHIRL & TWIRL REPORT

Colleen Morgan reported on the Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Club. We have a big club and we want to thank the dancers and callers of Florida for keeping us going since Danny Robinson passed away. We haven't had a Wednesday or Friday night dance since February that has less than twelve squares. We had calls from all over the place to help out. We had guest callers – Bill Chestnut, Don Hanhurst, Paul Place and John Swindle. We had calls from all over the United States on our search for a new caller. All I can say is all you dancers who came from all over the state to pack our house we appreciate it. Pretty soon we will have a new caller and we invite you back at that time to dance with us again. We thank everybody for supporting Whirl & Twirl through a bad couple of months.

PUBLICATIONS

**Keepin' Posted: No Report
Panhandle Press: No Report
Grapevine: No Report
West Coast Dancer: No Report**

BOW AND SWING

"Blessed is he who speaks short for he will be invited back"

Bow & Swing continues to promote square dancing to existing dancers, as well as information for the general public. Humor works – not only Bow & Swing – but any square dance publication. After reading the publication take it with you when you go to a doctor's office, dentist office, mechanic, etc. and leave it there. Circulation is steady (about 1200) plus callers, cuers, and clubs. Free issues are available for class graduates (just let us know in advance) and photos are always welcome. Occasionally, people send photos without captions. We love pictures without captions. As always – benefit dances and special events (Fall Funfest, Snowflake Frolic, etc) receive free space. Additional comment – a few years ago, there was a theme "just one couple".

If every club grew by just one couple that would add over 400 New Dancers in Florida – small steps BIG GAINS.

Bill Boyd Editor, Bow & Swing

STATE CONVENTION REPORTS

52ND FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION - 2006

We would like to thank everyone in the state who has helped us in any way. We have had people from every association selling ribbons and distributing registration forms to clubs in their area. We also have people from other associations heading some of our committees.

Three weeks prior to the start of the convention we received a call from our Registration Chairman saying he had just gotten out of the hospital after a weeks stay to get a pacemaker and would not be able to attend the convention. This was right after the pre-sale deadline so nerves kicked into high gear trying to get all the registrations and ribbons gathered and inventoried prior to coming into the convention. We had to enlist the services of our Vice Chairman to take over Registration at the convention (they were the chairmen in 2001 and have experience).

Our last event was our fund raiser dance in Orlando on April 1. Although the attendance was a bit disappointing, we did make a nice profit. We thank the caller, Bill Chesnut and cuers Pete & Jan Shankle for donating their time for this event.

Most of our contact with the Convention Center representative was done via phone, email or letter.

We came into the convention with 670 paid registrations. This was a decrease from last years 754 registrations going into the convention. We have had 10 refunds with several others pending.

For various reasons, our fundraising did not go as well as we had hoped. Therefore, we plan to meet expenses through on site registrations.

There will be a breakout meeting at the Best Western Diplomat at 9:00AM on Monday May 29. Our committee chairmen will be in attendance and we hope future chairmen will join us. There will be light refreshments.

Submitted by, Garland & Carole McKenzie, General Chairman

Additional comments: The Northeast Association had the most visitations with the traveling artifact.

The General Chairman made the following recommendations and comments:

Down size the number of halls

Eliminate the fashion show and sewing room

Increase admission prices

Envision “cookie cutter” dance – more like a big association dance

Don't publish hotel prices

Staffing from entire state

Traveling to promote the convention does not pay off. Very few ribbons sold

Convention Chairman & Committee can not adequately cover entire state. Each association should promote in their area

President Jack: Garland & Carole did a great job. You overcame a lot of problems and obstacles. I think it really points out the Associations need to work harder. And, we as delegates need to go back and get our associations to step it up doing various things for the state convention. Push registration. Get the people here. Put ads in the program book; promote booster names and announcements at weekly dances. We are not doing as well as we can.

President Kathy: I think Carole is right the General Chairman can't travel the state promoting the convention. I think each association should take it upon themselves to promote within their own association.

53RD Convention Report - 2007

Tim and I would like to thank Carole and Garland for a wonderful convention this year. We have taken many, many notes from their convention and hope ours runs as nicely as theirs.

Our kickoff rehearsal went well this morning. I am sure everyone will enjoy the show this evening as much as the participants did this morning.

Tim and I would really like to thank Carole and Garland for allowing us to set up our registration table early yesterday afternoon. Our Ways & Means did very nicely and we had 162 pre-registrations in the short time we were set up. We hope to do more tonight after our show. Thanks again!

Our website has been put together and will be ready to roll after this weekend. Thanks to Bruce Morgan it is wonderful. We have even managed an on-line catalog with an order form that can be downloaded and mailed for our flamingo items. Please encourage anyone who was unable to attend this week to visit it. Also, look for new pages to be added, as well as new items to our catalog. We hope this will be a success, something that can be built upon in future conventions.

Although we still have a lot to do, everything seems to be on task for 2007. Tim and I would really like to thank all the associations for their assistance. When we were struggling to fill positions, you all came to the fore. This has helped us to make this convention more of a state run convention. Almost half of our chairmen are from outside our association.

We would like to ask a little more assistance from each association. Tim and I got a late start on coordinating our convention. Then we had a rough year in 2004 with Ivan visiting us. 2005 was no better with 4 hurricanes hitting different parts of the state. So we have put together a basket for each association. Tim and I would like each association to take one. The baskets contain registration forms that can be filled out and mailed to our registration chairman, whose address is on the form. The basket also contains buttons to be sold for \$1.00 each.

We would also like each association to promote the three raffles we have going. Our Sew-n-Save room has a sewing machine that we are raffling off. Ways & Means has a quilt to be raffled off. We also have a "Mega 50/50" raffle. Tickets are provided for each of these with an envelope to keep things straight. Tickets and monies can be turned in to Tim or myself, Cheryl or Paul Miller or Dave Henn at any point in time. Each of these will be explained in detail when you pick up your basket after this morning's meeting.

And remember everybody; follow the bird to the 53rd!!!

Respectfully, Tim & Terri Wilaby, 2007 General Chairman

54th FSSRDC Report - 2008

We have raised over \$5000.00 and have received the Federation loan of \$3500.00 to help fund the early expenses of the Convention. The Federation is paid back after the Convention. We have purchased a CD for \$5000.00 @ 5.5% interest, as we won't need a lot of money over the next year.

We have received sample badges from two vendors and will be deciding on a vendor soon.

When we get the final report of the rent from this year's Convention at the Lakeland Center we will develop a budget.

We are going to sell golf shirts in both Men's and Lady's styles with our Convention logo embroidered on them. We do not plan on selling any small items other than the buttons.

The kick off program will be developed in the near future when we can get the Caller & Cues Chairman together with Ken & Sandy Brasfield and us. Many dancers will be required for the kickoff so look forward to being a part of it.

We are still in need of a Singles & Security Chairman.

Respectfully Submitted
Don & Ann Slocum

55TH FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION - 2009

Not much has happened since our last report.

We are in the planning phase of doing a fundraiser weekend. We are going to have a camping weekend with BINGO on Fri night and serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and a DANCE on Sat night.

The place we are looking at has an air conditioned hall and 12 cabin rooms and maybe 12 more by the time of the event. It also has 40 + full hookups for campers. We will send out flyers and WELCOME any dancer to come and share this party with us. We are looking at late March or April of next year.

Submitted by
Randy & Carol Poole

Additional comment: It is good for each association to get a hotel and have after parties. The dancers get to know one another. And many are willing to help.

FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame committee met this weekend. The committee rotated their positions. Dewey & Donna Hendricks are now chairman, Don & Ann Slocum, treasurer & Dave & Shirley Nihart, secretary. Bill & Mary Chestnut rotated off and Ernie & Frances Rollen came on. Dick & Darleen Nordine, cues, fill out the committee. As you know we inducted Randy & Carol Poole this weekend. The next meeting is not scheduled at this time.

Comments: The Presidents visited the Hall of Fame this weekend and found there was some information missing.

Mary Lee Van Valkenburg, Hall of Fame manager, has notified the associations and is handling the matter.

EXTRA MILE AWARD

President Kathy thanked Ken & Sue Brown for resurrecting this award for the callers and cuers. We had four nominations from around the state for this award. A biography for each was sent in and it was extensive. Everything they have done. It's amazing. We presented Bob Barnes, Skip Cleland, Bill Chestnut and Lisa Wall with a certificate and a round badge. We will also give them a dangle to hang from their caller badge.

Don Slocum moved we have a plaque made for the Extra Mile Award and put it in the Hall of Fame with their names on it. Anita Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

Mary Lee Van Valkenburg will ask Strawberry Squares for permission to hang another plaque.

HISTORIAN REPORT

Manny introduced PeeWee & Mary Stewart. They are a history making couple. They have not missed a convention since it started.

Manny thanked Barbara Hoffman for bringing an album donated by a Central dancer.

We would like to invite everyone to visit the History display of all the activities that you the square dancers have done through the years.

We would appreciate any help in obtaining more articles, pictures and other items of interest for the History collection.

We are now getting all of the associations' publications.

Manny & Sherry Gonzales, Historians
Assisted by Ray Huddleston

USDA INSURANCE

Prior to the insurance report Bruce Morgan gave a demonstration on the proper use of our style microphone. (Secretaries note: Listening to the tapes of the meeting some voices were barely audible. The audience remarks could not be heard at all. Applause and laughter could be heard. To help future secretaries all speakers should come to the podium.)

Florida Federation of Square Dancers USDA Insurance Financial Report

Checking Account

Balance Forward as of 2/28/2006 \$

Receipts 3/1/2006 thru 4/30/2006

Central \$
West Coast \$

Northeast Cloggers	\$	
	\$	
Total Receipts	\$	
Sub-Total		\$

Disbursements 3/1/2006 thru 4/30/2006

USDA Premiums	\$	
Postage		
Total Disbursements	\$	

Balance on Hand as of 4/30/2006 \$

As of April 30th we had a total of 2,758 dancers from 66 clubs insured.

Since the last Federation Meeting there has been little activity. We have gained a few dancers and a couple of clubs. The West Coast Association has had the most activity. They insured 216 Dancers during this time period. The next closest is Central with 53 being insured. The Cloggers were next with 21 and Northeast with 14.

There has been additional activity on the problem with the Clogger organization. I don't know what they are doing for insurance for their convention as they have not contacted me. Their Convention is this weekend too and is being held in the Orlando area someplace. Where I don't know!

Florida Federation Insurance Totals

Association	Total Clubs	Total Dancers
CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION	21	1166
FLORIDA CLOGGING COUNCIL	2	53
NORTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION	16	571
NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION	8	230
FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SINGLE SQUARE & ROUND DANCERS	1	29
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION	5	157
WEST COAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION	13	552
Total Insured	66	2758

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce & Colleen Morgan, FFSD Insurance Chairperson

WEBSITE

Bruce Morgan reported: More clubs are being put on the website. Callers and cuers are requesting space to advertise themselves and the clubs they call/cue for. Right now the clubs are using 10% of the site. If all the clubs in Florida were on the site, they would maybe use 50%. Since this site was set up by the Federation for the square dance clubs, I need to know how you feel about the callers & cuers sharing the space.

Jack Hoffman moved we open up the website to callers, cuers, prompters & leaders. Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

Ann Slocum moved the website fee be taken off the top of the convention expense so costs could be shared by the callers and cuers organizations. Jack Hoffman seconded.

After discussion, President Jack said we would vote on it at this meeting then it can be taken to the other meetings with George's proposals. The motion carried.

Bruce then needed to know when to submit his bill if this motion passes one of the other organizations. President Jack advised Bruce the Federation would pay the website fee from October to May. From then on it will be from May to May with the current convention paying the fee of approximately \$145.

ASCAP/BMI REPORT

We have received notice that ASCAP dues for 2006 have increased to \$.071 per attendee plus 1/2 vendors personnel. This is up \$.003 over last year. The minimum fee remains \$80.00. BMI dues for the year have already been paid.

Respectfully,

Dave and Shirley Nihart

Dave moved the Federation pick up the fees for ASCAP. With the lower attendance at the state convention this would help the current convention. The Federation has been paying BMI fees and the Convention has been paying ASCAP fees.

Motion died for lack of second.

George Knapp moved we place the ASCAP/BMI expense to the state convention. Ann Slocum. Seconded. Motion carried.

The Federation will pay BMI when it is due in Jan/Feb and then bill the current convention.

ARTS



www.arts-dance.org

1-866-445-ARTS (2787)

ARTS (the Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square-Dance, Inc.) continues to develop programs to fulfill the ARTS mission which is to generate public awareness and promote growth and acceptance of Traditional Folk Dance by encouraging and assisting a coalition of allied dance groups. There are ten ARTS Governing Board member organizations, which includes CALLERLAB, CONTRALAB, ROUNDALAB, NEC, SSDUSA, USAWest, and USDA and others.

ARTS conducts 3 meetings a year. In the Spring (during March or April), in the Summer (the Sunday after the National Square Dance Convention) and in the fall (during October). The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Visitors are always welcome.

There will be an ARTS display in the Showcase of Ideas at the 55th National Square Dance Convention in San Antonio. Please take time to visit the display and pick up the new brochure and other materials. ARTS will also be participating in a seminar Thursday morning from 11AM to Noon in Room 007A. The Chairman, along with other ARTS Board Members will explain ARTS and "Where ARTS is Now."

There will not be a 2006 ARTS Dancer survey at the National Convention. The surveys conducted so far have been tabulated and entered on the computer and the answers are so similar in their responses, it was decided to forego a survey this year. But one will be conducted next year in Charlotte, NC to see if the results from the East Coast are as similar as the West. There is a completed survey on their website.

The magnetic signs with the ARTS Toll Free Number generated 51 calls (from April 2005 to February 2006) requesting information on dance. It doesn't sound like a lot, but the more this number is advertised the more it will be used. Utilizing information from the various square dance magazines and the "National SD Directory" all calls were answered.

We need to let them know about our website. The more information we can get out the wider our range of opportunities.

The ARTS also has a CD listing the editor / publishers of all known Square & Round Dance publications.

Add-a-Buck Program is a voluntary contribution of an extra dollar or more to a dance or festival which is then forwarded to ARTS-Dance Foundation. It is an optional donation added to the entry fee.

YTB Travel fund raiser plan will turn your Vacations into Donations. Any travel fare, hotel, cruise, etc. that is booked thru this agency, ARTS will get a percentage back. Their prices are compatible with or sometimes lower than other agencies. Check it out!

A National Day of Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 29, 2008. to be held nationwide and raise funds to benefit the ARTS and its various projects. More information will be coming soon.

There is much more information on these subjects and others on the ARTS website: www.ARTS-dance.org

Ailene Picheco
ARTS Representative

USDA REPORT

Delegates: I would like to introduce you to the new Florida USDA Delegates, Tom & Miriam James, for the West Coast, Paul & I will continue to be a Florida Delegate with Jack & Kathy McKinney as alternate delegates.

USDA Annual Meeting: United Square Dancers of America's Annual Meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on June 21 in the Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Texas. At this meeting, USDA will be celebrating 25 years of providing services to the dancers in our activity. Past members of the USDA Executive Committee who are in attendance will be acknowledged and honored.

USDA Credit Card Program: The USDA Credit Card Affinity Group Program with MBNA America Bank will terminate on July 31, 2006.

MBNA America Bank will handle all aspects of Notification of active USDA cardholders. This process will include a printed message on the monthly statement. Credit cards re-issued following the termination date will NOT have the USDA logo on them. The termination of the agreement will not have an affect on the terms of open accounts.

USDA thanks the many dancers who supported Square Dancing with the USDA Credit Card. Funds generated over nearly two decades have provided significant financial support for Youth, Handicapable, and Affiliate programs nationwide.

USDA is looking into other sources for a replacement Credit Card. We look forward to your continued support for a new USDA Credit Card that will identify you as a Square Dancer, and benefit Square Dance Programs.

USDA Pharmacy Card Program: United Square Dancers of America have developed a program with Creative Benefit Design, Inc. and PHARMACARE to provide DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS. This plan is unique since your cost is zero! That's right—NO COST TO THE USER! Enjoy average savings of 30% or more! The plan is available to ANYONE—ANY AGE—NO RESTRICTIONS!

This discount card, which is reproduced below, is replacing the previously distributed discount card because of this NEW CARD'S wide acceptance and substantial discounts. Plus it is more convenient for your pharmacist and for you to use. Please replace your old USDA Discount Card with this version. Just give it to your pharmacist the next time you fill a prescription.

This card is accepted at over 45,000 pharmacies nationwide, by virtually every major pharmacy, including Walgreen, Eckerd, Osco, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Albertsons, Publix, CVS and Target. In addition, if you use an independent drug store, they are probably familiar with PharmaCare, or they can set it up with a simple call to the number listed on the card!

United Square Dancers of America will receive \$.25 for each prescription that is filled. The funds generated for USDA are applied to a variety of educational and other USDA programs that support the dancers.

Respectfully Submitted
Paul & Cheryl Miller

Comments: Cheryl has not attended a USDA meeting since June. All this information she obtained from the USDA website. Their website has a lot of suggestions and information.

Tom James: Find all the prescription cards laying around your house and carry them with you. When you are in a restaurant instead of leaving a card "you were patronized by a square dancer" leave the waitress a prescription card. Everyone should subscribe to USDA NEWS. It is only \$5 a year.

Joe Vaccari asked if there were any questions on the credit card program followed by a short history of the organization. Florida has been a significant member of USDA over the years. Florida was a Charter Member. We have had a lot of people on the executive committee through the years. USDA will recognize these people during the 25th anniversary of USDA. Some of the people are deceased others will not be able to attend. I would like to recognize them now. Walter & Ethel Stotlz, Frank & Nan Habersberger, Frank & Nancy Cherry, Mac & Chieko MacKensey, Norm & Joyce Farrell, Howard & Vivian Wilson, and George & Judy Garland. The following were in attendance: Duke & Doris McCleskey, Jack & Zonie Taylor, and Dave & Shirley Nihart.

Florida has no one on the executive committee now. Joe Vaccari recommended to the board to submit a nomination for the June election. There have been no nominations for Vice President Central Region. Joe & Joy are the only Floridians on the USDA board at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary will be moving the following three couple delegates from permanent delegates to non-voting members: Paul & Marie McClain, Tom & Jean Hancock, and Fred & Shirley Cornett.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Walker formerly of Florida currently living in NC is here with a delegation from the Charlotte National Convention urging everyone to attend. Currently Florida is number two in attendance figures right behind North Carolina.

The next meeting will be Sunday, November 19, 2006 in Jacksonville, FL. The President will email the time & location

Respectively Submitted,

Randy & Carol Poole
Secretary