

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
MINUTES, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2006
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

Presidents, Jack and Kathy McKinney, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Erv Oermann 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.

The President had the guests stand. He introduced Charlie & Sarah Pergrossi and John & Lisa Wall. It is not often we have two callers and a cuer present at our meeting. Lisa thanked the Federation for honoring them with the Extra Mile Award.

The May 28, 2006 minutes were approved as published.

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers
Treasurer's Report
APRIL 30, 2006 - OCTOBER 31, 2006**

Beginning Balance - All Accounts @ 4/30/2006		
Wachovia Checking Balance	\$	
Contingency	\$	
Insurance	\$	
Total All Accounts	\$	<hr/>
Checking Account Balance 5/1/2006		\$
Receipts		
CFSRDA -Dues 2006-2007	\$	
FASSRD -Dues 2006-2007	\$	
NWFSRDA -Dues 2006-2007	\$	
NESRDA -Dues 2006-2007	\$	
WCSRDA -Dues 2006-2007	\$	
SESRDA -Dues 2006-2007	\$	
Wachovia Interest (5/1/2006 - 10/31/2006)	\$	<hr/>
Total Receipts	\$	
Checking Account Balance		\$
Disbursements		
Jack McKinney - President Expenses	\$	
Carole Poole - Secretary Expense	\$	
USDA - 2007 Dues	\$	

US Postmaster - Treasurers Expense	\$
Bruce Morgan-Web Site 11/05-04/06	\$
Total Disbursements	\$
Checking Account Balance 10/31/2006	\$
Ending Balance - All Accounts	
Wachovia Checking Balance	\$
Contingency	\$
Insurance	\$
Total All Accounts	\$

Respectfully Submitted
Paul & Cheryl Miller, Treasurer

The Treasurers Report will be filed for audit.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN
NOVEMBER 19, 2006**

Florida's Showcase at the 55th National Convention in San Antonio, Texas was well received. The cutout photographs brought a lot of discussion and inquiries as to how they were done. Fortunately we had no expenses because we used the pencils that the Millers ordered for last year. We also gave away the rest of the refrigerator magnets that were left over from previous conventions.

We would like to recommend that consideration be given to discontinuing the giveaways and staffing at future showcases since Florida is one of the few states still doing this. Unfortunately the days of collecting and exchanging pins are long gone, and it is very difficult to get a full staff of volunteers. We recommend setting out a specific number of pencils each day and when they are gone discontinue the giveaways.

We would also like to suggest that a committee of three past parliamentarians review the inventory and discard or give away most of the material not needed or used any more. For example: The banner for the 2000 state and national conventions.

We thank everyone who helped to make this showcase such a success!

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Parliamentarians

SUNSHINE REPORT

Jack Taylor, the Bionic Man, is doing well. Sandi Brasfield will be able to return to work after Thanksgiving. She must be doing well. Larry Hefner has been ill. DeeDee Stoval got a nail in his eye. Had surgery and is doing well. Rita Taylor will have back surgery Tuesday and Dave Nihart will have knee surgery that same day.

The President read a Prayer for folks turning 80.

Vice President, Sue Brown – They have printed up schedules of the major dances in Florida to help promote these dances statewide. They are on the back table. During the break she would like everyone to check out the sign up sheets for the working weekend. And, of course, choose the meeting you want to attend. There will be a change in the format for this working weekend. The meeting will start at 8:00 am Saturday, March 10. She requests the reports be condensed in hopes of adjourning the meeting by ten o'clock. At 10:30 the break-out meetings will start. This should free up the afternoon so everyone can attend the afternoon dance session.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim McConnaha reported the President of the committee was not present and they have not had a meeting since May. The Treasurer has disbursed money to the up coming convention.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSOCIATION

Since the Federation's last meeting the Central Area has had a changing of the helm. September 30th elections were held and you are looking at the new President. For those who do not know me, I'm Judy Frye. The balance of our Executive Board you already know. We have George and Shirley Knapp returning as the Executive Vice-presidents; Ailene Picheco, your ARTS Representative, remains as Secretary. And our former Presidents, Jack and Barbara Hoffman, have re-assumed the position of Treasurers. So you see even being the new-bee I have some super support personnel.

The Organizational meeting was held in early October, but I would like to call it an Orientational meeting. The Vice-President Board members explained to our Area Reps what their particular positions were and how they directed it. Bruce Morgan, Vice-President of Area Directors, told of how important it is to keep accurate and up-dated records of the clubs in each area, especially since Bruce is also the "Keeper of the Website". He then told how to access the website and explained what great things are obtainable there.

Terri Little, our membership lady, explained how to recruit new members and reinstate unrenewed members. Jim McConnaha told of our blood bank how to not only give blood but how to apply to receive blood should the need ever arise. Carol Poole explained our insurance program, how and when to apply for "special dance" coverage as well as what our coverage is through the USDA program.

Randy Poole mentioned he needs more help for the 2009 State Convention and encouraged everyone to participate in this fun event. Several positions and helpers are still needed.

Bruce and Colleen Morgan are working hard on the Shamrock Swing Dance being held this coming March 9 and 10. (He has ribbons here now- hint, hint). At that time our Couple and/or Dancer of the Year will be announced. There will also be a Federation meeting on the Sunday after this dance, so get your reservations in now. (Another hint, hint)

We are trying to locate new halls for our 5th Saturday dances and scattering them out more to hopefully attract some different and maybe new members for the CFA. There are so many fun callers and good cuers in all areas that I don't feel this will be a problem. Our next 5th Saturday dance is being finalized for the Ocala area, that's Marion County. Not everything is firmed up but hopefully next week.

Many of our clubs have started new classes and the attendance is looking good so far. Some clubs are planning to start their classes after the first of the year. We just hope square dancing will catch on again big time.

It's fun to be a part of the square dancing world. The many friends I have made are priceless to me. See you around or in a square.

Judy Frye, President

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION REPORT

The fourth annual Charlie Polk Memorial Dance was held on May 7 at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Charlie was a faithful supporter of square dancing in the Pensacola/Milton area before he passed away from cancer. Several callers donated their time and talents for this dance: Paul Bischoff (who emceed the program), Bob Poyner, Chuck Myers, Berlon Graham, Patty Ping, and Ted Kennedy. Patty also cued the rounds. All of the proceeds from this dance went to the travel fund of the Pensacola Special Steppers, which Charlie always supported. In addition, Patty Ping had been selling square dance clothes donated by people who no longer danced. She gave the proceeds from those sales to this fund. All in all, it was a great dance, and we are very grateful for all that was done to help out the Special Steppers.

The 47th annual Billy Bowlegs Festival Dance was held on June 3 at PASARDA Hall in Ft. Walton Beach. Callers were Bob Poyner and Ted Kennedy, and the cuer was June Leverette. In addition, June had an all rounds dance June 2 as a fund raiser for the 53rd State Convention.

On June 10, the Pensacola Twirlers hosted the Fiesta of Five Flags Dance at the Bayview Senior Citizens' Center in Pensacola. The Fiesta of Five Flags commemorates the first settlement in Florida by Don Tristan de Luna in 1559, several years before that in St. Augustine. Each year a prominent Pensacola citizen is dubbed as de Luna, and he and his court make an appearance at this dance, dressed in period costumes of the countries represented by the five flags which have flown over Pensacola. It is always a fine spectacle.

Thanks again to Southeast for a great 52nd State Convention. Those of you who attended the convention have now met Ralph and Pinky, our flamingo mascots for the 53rd State Convention next May. We had many favorable comments about our clever kick-off program. Now we can start encouraging people to come to our next convention, where there will be further adventures of Ralph and Pinky. So, spread the word! Follow the bird to the 53rd!

On July 8, there was a Patriotic Dance at Azalea Hall in Mobile, AL. The caller was Chuck Myers, and the cuer was Dot & Paul Hutchison.

Our annual July Jamboree, with Tony DiGeorge calling and Barbara & Ted Mays cuing, was held at Ragon Hall in Pensacola, FL July 14 & 15. This, as always, was a great dance.

I regret to report that one of our callers, Ernest "Hoss" Waldorf, passed away Thursday, June 29. Hoss had been calling for many years in this area for several clubs, including Seaside Squares and Seaside Fun Bunch, but had retired a few years ago. His wife, Kit, had been a very active round dance cuer and instructor, and she is also retired. He will be missed by many dancers in the Northwest Association.

On a more positive note, we had a Hoedown for Humanity, sponsored by Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, at Ragon Hall on June 23. Chuck Myers called and introduced a lot of people to square dancing. There were about 100 people in attendance, both experienced square dancers and people who were completely new to it. There was plenty of food, of course, and door prizes. The dance raised about \$1,000 for Habitat.

Seaside Squares celebrated its 43rd Anniversary with a dance on August 19 at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. The caller was Darryl McMillan, and the cuer was Paul Hutchison.

Also at this dance there was a recycled square dance clothing sale. The proceeds benefited the 53rd State convention in 2007.

And to top off the busy weekend, Northwest held its quarterly meeting and election of officers on the same day. The following people were elected to NWFSRDA offices: President, Paul and Cheryl Miller; Vice-President, Joe and Patricia McLendon; Treasurer, Dave Henn; and Secretary, Tim and Terri Wilaby.

On August 25, we had a rare treat. Ben Williams came out of retirement and called a Hat Dance at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Dancers wore their favorite hats.

On September 22, there was a Seaside Squares Special, also at Ragon Hall. Ted Kennedy called, and Sandy Sturgis cued. Sandy, who lives in Panama City, is a new cuer in our Association.

The following week the First Annual Fall Ball, sponsored by the Spanish Twirlers and Jubilee Squares, in Loxley, AL, was held. Ted Kennedy also called this dance. This was a good dance, and we hope that it will become a tradition in our area.

On October 6 & 7, we had a special Square and Round Dance, the Panhandle Promenade, at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Darryl McMillan called, and Sandy Sturgis cued.

Our 32nd annual Roundup was held on October 27 & 28 at the DeFuniak Springs, FL, Community Center. This, as always, was a great dance. Callers were Tony DiGeorge, Bob Poyner, Willis Simmons, and Chuck Myers. June Leverette was originally scheduled to cue the rounds, but had to cancel because of work obligations. Sandy Sturgis stepped in at almost the last minute, and did a very good job of cuing for us. We are fortunate to have another good cuer in our Association. Our club Dancers of the Year were: Dave and Thelma Crouthers, Pensacola Twirlers; Chuck and Lillian Laue, Canoe Squares (Milton); Jerry and Debby Eubanks, Seaside Squares (Pensacola); and Dave and Sherry Richards, Swinging Squares and Dance-a-Rounds (Panama City). Dave and Sherry were also elected as the Northwest Association Dancers of the Year.

Our newly elected officers were installed at the quarterly meeting on October 28.

The Pensacola Twirlers held their 20th Anniversary dance on November 11 at the Bayview Senior Citizens Center. Ted Kennedy was the caller and June Leverette cued.

The next day, November 12, Ted called at an Autumn Afternoon dance at Grand Square Hall in Panama City. Sandy Sturgis cued. We are still making good progress toward our 53rd State Convention next May. Again, we deeply appreciate all of the help we have been getting, both from Northwest and from all of the other Associations.

This will be my last Association report. As I mentioned previously, Paul and Cheryl Miller were installed as the new Presidents at our annual Roundup on October 28. Their devotion to, and hard work for, Northwest, and square dancing in general, is truly amazing, and is greatly appreciated.

I won't disappear, however. I will continue to serve Northwest as Treasurer and as a Florida Federation delegate. So I will see most of you at various dances.

Dave Henn, Past President

SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION REPORT

We are pleased to report that the Southeast Association has a full board this year. Our faithful members from previous years still continue to support us, and we now have a vice president and secretary.

Our September membership renewal dance was well attended. It was our Sundae on Sunday dance.

Our next dance will be on December 10 at Holiday Park in Fort Lauderdale. It will be our Holiday Cookie Dance at which time we also collect unwrapped gifts for needy children.

As you already know, we are not having our annual fund raiser, the Snowflake Frolic, this year. However, in its place, we are having a very special dance to honor one of our devoted callers, Frank Bedell, who has been calling for 50 years. This very special celebration dance is on Saturday night, February 17, 2007, at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. Rounds will start at 7:30 p.m. and square dancing at 8:00 p.m. We have arranged for two other popular callers in our area to assist Frank. In addition to Frank Bedell, Jack Lewis and Scotty Scharrer are outstanding and popular callers in the southeast area. We hope to have an overflow of dancers to honor this very special gentleman in this milestone. We have flyers for each association president to take back to your dancers.

Ray & Elsa Huddleston

NORTHEAST REPORT

It was an unusually slow summer. We had exciting plans for our 5th Saturday on July 29th but at the last minute we were dealt a surprise blow when the school we were going to dance in decided to wax the floors. They decided not to let anyone on the floors until school started. We looked around for another place to dance but with less than a week before the dance it was decided to contact all the dancers, callers, and curer and let them know we had to cancel.

We did have an extremely successful 5th Saturday dance in September. The theme was Oktoberfest. We had all the trimmings of an Oktoberfest. We had weinerschnitzel (hot dogs), German Beer Roothier) pretzels, nuts, and candy corn. Beer Steins decorated the tables. We even had one of the dancers show up in liederhosen. The host clubs were The Moose Promenaders and the Rollaways. The callers were Bill Chestnut and Gary Murphy with Lisa Wall on the Rounds. It was really one of the best Themes we have ever had.

Several of our clubs are in the midst of having beginner lessons. We are hoping to retain a lot of students this year. Our Beginner's Hoedown sponsored by the Gateway and Rural Callers and Cuers Association and for the first time co-sponsored by NEFSARDA is being held December 2nd. We are expecting a lot of our students and angels at that dance.

In October we did elect new officers for the year 2007. Elected President is Ouida Taylor and Thomas Trammel, Vice-president Erv and Jan Oerrman, Recording Secretary Sam and Mary Starling, Treasurer Tom and Pat Herscha, and Corresponding Secretary Frank and Barbara Meyers. Bud and I will be taking the position of Past Presidents.

Bud and I have mixed emotions on leaving the office of President. On one hand we have been Presidents for three years and have enjoyed most every minute of being able to serve NEFSARDA. We have enjoyed the dancers of NEFSARDA and the state. On the other hand we have been Presidents for three years and we will be happy to step down and let the new Presidents continue the long tradition of serving NEFSARDA. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the help we have received over the past years and to especially thank all our wonderful members of our Boards and all the people who served as committee Chairman and Advisors.

Of course we are not the only Presidents stepping down this year. Kathy and Jack McKinney will also be stepping down from the Florida Federation after serving for 5 years. We cannot thank them enough for serving NEFSARDA and the Florida Federation. They have given unselfishly of their time and we truly appreciate all they have done. I know they will stay involved and NEFSARDA wishes them well.

Bud & Anita Taylor

P.S. Remember last time I said that Anita was going to have to write the last report, well I lied, and I had to write the report again.

Bud

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION REPORT

Finally; my last report as president of West Coast!

We had a successful VIP Dance in August at Strawberry Square, with Keith Stevens calling and Dick Chase cueing. We hold this dance annually to kick off the Fall Fun Fest and to recognize all our volunteers. Keith and Dick were part of the Fall Fun Fest staff along with Tim Marriner. During the VIP Dance, in addition to recognizing the volunteers and the callers and cuers in attendance I took the opportunity to explain what West Coast and the Federation is and why we have the VIP Dance.

In September we had our President's Ball at the Stardust Center in Plant City. Our new officers were installed - president - Shirley Pfeffer; vice presidents - Ken & Sandy Brasfield; secretaries - Zurhn and Shirley Walker; treasurers - Dick & Betty Stevens. We were unable to fill these positions with new blood, so all these past presidents stepped up to take on the challenge. Of course, next year we have four positions to fill!

We have started working in earnest on the 2008 Florida State Convention and Don & Ann will report more on that later.

We had our first Association Dance for Shirley Pfeffer's year as president in Seminole, with good attendance and several callers and cuers in attendance. Promenade Squares provided a refreshment spread like you've never seen.

Our 32nd Annual Fall Fun Fest was November 10th & 11th at our new location in Bartow. The new location and the new host hotel were well received by the dancers. The final numbers aren't in yet, but we had 20-22 squares and we did realize a profit. We had at least 50 advance ribbons sold for next year and many hotel reservations made. In 2007, Tim Crawford and Red Bates will be calling and the Griffins will be cueing. Flyers are available.

At our last Folding/Business meeting Wednesday night, we heard the unfortunate news that Spares & Pairs in Pinellas Park has folded. This was a singles club that has been struggling for quite some time.

This weekend we have approximately 11 dancers from West Coast here in Jacksonville.

Our next Association Dance will be the Holiday Ball in Bonita Springs, near Ft. Myers. Arrangements for this hall were made by Howard Cole who is a caller in that area.

Penny Green (report given by Ann Slocum)

FASSARD REPORT

And finally, my last report as president of FASSRD!

We held our 28th Single Rama on October 20th & 21st with Sam Dunn calling and Phyllis Williams cueing. We had 73 registrations. Unfortunately, we had a loss of \$50, due in part to the fact that for the first time the Kenilworth charged rent on the "chapel" next to the dance hall. We weren't notified of this charge until that weekend so it was too late to charge the vendor. Mike Callahan from Rochester, NY and the Griffins are booked for next year.

We had our annual meeting and held elections. Our new officers are president - Ailene Picheco from Central; vice president - Harrison Gilbert from Southeast; secretary - Shirley White from Northeast; and treasurer - Mary Lou Pelz from Northeast.

Due to the passing of Bill Shellman between our meetings, I have assumed the role of West Coast rep for the organization. We also accepted the resignation of the Central Association rep, Lorrie Bernal, and Virginia Barnes has accepted that position.

We decided to re-introduce our FASSRD outfit/colors, which are green and white. Over the years, the membership had "strayed" from having an association outfit. Since we are now participating in the mini-grand march and the kick-offs, we felt we should bring the colors back. Two of our members are researching a vendor to make logo patches to go on the outfits.

Penny Green (report given by Ailene Picheco)

KEEPIN' POSTED

Another year in the annals of Keepin' Posted has been posted. We saw the highs of happy dancers at the convention and those receiving any number of awards from their clubs and organizations. We saw the lows of losing a number of our cherished dancing community who have given much time and energy to further our pastime. We see the unbridled spirit of the up and coming new generation of dancer, though small in number, with great ambition seeking to climb that mountain top of success for their club. We also see the demise of clubs due to a myriad of reasons - age and member apathy. That is our square dance community today. The future is ours and it will be what we make of it.

Management must become leadership - after all the turtle cannot cross the road unless he/she sticks his/her head out of the shell to see where to go. So too must our club "leaders". Our club Presidents are in the middle and, I believe they do one helluva job - they have to take care of their club first then they can worry about taking care of the Association and Federation.

They have done fair to middling getting stories to us during the year. But, so long as they are getting their publicity out to others first we don't mind waiting. People like to hear about people - tell us about someone in your club - send us their resume and we'll put it in print. That is our current effort to help clubs pat their members on the back. We'll see how it works next year at this time

We saved the numbers till last - 400 copies quarterly of 40 pages. Bill and Randy Boyd do a great job printing Keepin' Posted for Central.

**Thank you,
TOM & EIVOR BROWN (report given by Judy Frye)**

PANHANDLE PRESS

No Report

THE GRAPEVINE

As we come to the conclusion of not only the end of an other great year in Square Dancing, 2006, but also the end of our first year as editors of the Northeast Florida Square and Round Dance Association, "The Grapevine". Jane and I are reminded of the hard work and dedication that Val and Charlie Newsome put into this fine Square Dance publication.

We like the rest of our beloved square dance community continue to lose dancers and this means a loss of subscriptions. The numbers continue to decline, mostly because of the age of our most dedicated dancers but also because we as square dancers still have not found a way to attract new and younger dancers.

The good news is that "The Grapevine" still has managed to stay above the magic number, 200, that allows us to continue to use Bulk Mail. This number presently is composed of mostly loyal subscribers, exchange copies with other publications, and comp copies to National and State Convention Staff, as well as other Florida State Association's. As of this report we have a TOTAL of 225 subscriptions.

The cost is still \$9.00 per year, we publish quarterly. Subscriptions plus advertising continue to allow Jane and I to operate in the black. However just as Val and Charlie we cover a lot of small expenses, ink cartridges, paper etc.

In conclusion we request all Florida Associations to keep us updated on the contacts in their area. You can send all information to us at 5900 Townsend Rd. # 412, Jacksonville, Fl 32244 or e-mail <neflgrapevine@comcast.net>

Bob Raymond

WEST COAST DANCER

The West Coast Dancer magazine is experiencing increasing printing costs as I'm sure all publications are. To ease this problem we have made a few changes. We used to print dance schedules even if the dance was suspended for a few months. It was felt that it kept the information associated with that dance available to the dancers. Now we are removing any dance listing that is not active during the publication month. This reduces the need to print about 3 pages.

Also, Clubs and Callers/Cuers have been contacted to review their copy requirements and as a result our circulation has been reduced by about one third from 2 or 3 years ago. Some Clubs have disbanded and the active ones are experiencing fewer dancers. Of course this contributes to the need for fewer copies. Sad as this is, it is a fact we must deal with.

I want to thank the Editors of those publications who printed the Fall Fun Fest Ad that I mailed to them in September.

Ed Henning

BOW & SWING

Ladies and gentlemen, I am both humbled and proud to stand before you, having the opportunity to present this report on the world famous, OK the Florida State famous, (can I say that in Gator country), well, a few people know about it, Hey, there is at least one copy in back, Bow & Swing. We continue to have fun publishing this magazine and hope that our readership enjoys it and find it useful. If there are any English teachers present, I didn't end that sentence with a proposition. We are concerned that more of the pictures we receive already contain captions. Fortunately, the majority follow in the some mode as those we would have created. As with the other square dance publishers throughout Florida we all believe that "If it ain't fun, it ain't square dancing." I know that this is like preaching to the choir but we all revel in spreading the word, square dancing is fun.

Bow & Swing still has about 1200 paid subscribers and we are trying to improve that number. The Central Florida Callers Association is planning to sponsor a subscription dance early next year, tentative plans are to use the Whirl & Twirl hall in Orlando, and will feature most all the callers from the Central Florida area. As always, if your club or organization is planning a charity event, we will advertise that for free. When you are planning a graduation keep us in mind and we will send copies of both Bow & Swing and American Square Dance for your graduates.

Bill Boyd

52nd FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION

Well folks, we can now say it is over! And guess what. We made some money thanks to an error on the part of the Convention Center when our convention books were closed out. They forgot to charge us for the additional labor rate. We have no idea how much that might have been and did not request that information.

If anyone needs more detailed information, it is in our Final Convention Report.

Garland & Carole McKenzie, General Chairman

They presented a check to Jack & Kathy for the Federation share of the profit. The check was for \$1,639.61. There were 824 paid dancers at the convention and the total profit was \$6,739.63.

They thanked everyone involved especially the workers and the dancers. They gave a special thanks to Jack & Kathy McKinney and Bruce & Colleen Morgan for their work on the program book. Jack & Kathy gathered ads and Bruce & Colleen put the program book together. They also thanked Ken & Sue Brown for their ideas for the Ways & Means.

Kathy said everyone wants to congratulate you for a job well done.

53rd FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION

I want to say thank you to everybody that has been so helpful in allowing our flamingo family to grow. I'm really surprised this has really caught on. It has taken on a life of its own.

We have received our contract for the room rental. The rooms alone will cost us about \$9500. We have raised enough for that. We are now trying to raise the money for the other things – tables, chairs, stages, and, of course, labor.

The Cuers are right on line. They have their schedules and commitments from the cuers. June has not been able to put a lot of time into the convention due to work obligations. Lisa Wall has stepped forward and is taking a much bigger role than she had anticipated.

The program for the callers is going well. They have 32 different callers and three different rooms. They are changing the scheduling a little bit but not much. Have the members check it out and let us know what they think.

Entertainment is loads of fun. Irene & Irving are now formally engaged. Our entertainment for the weekend will be based around that. We also have an interesting line up of entertainment for Saturday evening. There will be a special appearance by the Special Steppers who will be attending this year.

Registration – We feel we are doing pretty well. We have 414 paid registrations right now. I understand that most everyone else will wait and buy at the door or at least wait until after the holidays.

After Party – The Quality Inn formerly the Royal Palm has agreed to let us have a room for four hours for \$100.

Decorating is on track. Thanks to everybody getting into the swing of things we have plenty of flamingos. We will need people on Friday to help decorate. We will have people to tell you where to put the stuff. We need bodies to get them there.

The Camping Coordinator says everything is on line. They have the campgrounds straightened out. They were surprised the campgrounds were quite easy to work with.

Program Book – Our Program Book has been designed. Bruce has sent us the rough shell of it. All there is now is to fill in the blanks.

Web-Site – If you go and visit you will see all kinds of new things, especially the travels of Pinky & Ralph that are changing constantly. We will be adding pictures of Irene & Irving and their family.

The wedding will be Friday night. There will be a bridal shower and bachelor party at the trail end dance. So if you want to come to see what type presents Flamingos receive, we invite you to attend our Trail-End Dance at Strawberry Squares in Plant City. The children will not be there. The party may be more “R” rated than “G”.

A beach party is planned for the reception on Friday night.

Publicity – Charlie & Val are doing a wonderful job getting the articles out. We will be stepping it up as there is so much more information to get out.

Eight vendors have responded and paid their fees. One or two are dragging their feet but the vendor chairman is working on them.

The Traveling Icons for this year will be given to the Association Presidents today. Inside this fashionable little shoulder bag is a Flamingo pin and a notebook to record the dances. Also inside you will find two different types of picks. We have flamingo picks and palm trees. The idea is as you go around to various club dances you need to populate your area. The one thing I need to mention about these picks is they are a little on the flimsy side so have the club president put the pick in the grass holding the pick near the bottom. You have to get through the artificial turf. Your flamingo can be dressed if you like. The Northwest Flamingo will be wearing a bolo tie and his name is John. You can name your Flamingo. We will assist you if you have a problem choosing a name.

Also, in the bag there is a script for you to follow.

Tim & Tweet Tweet Wilaby, General Chairman

President Jack – We need ads. This year the Northeast had about \$3600 in ads. That’s \$30 a page. It takes a lot of ads to do that. Last year we tried to make this an all state convention. One where all the associations help. We had 19 ads from the NE, 10 from SE, 6 from WC, 7 from C, & 7 from NW. In the NE, we have a form to sell ads. The top part we cut off and leave with the customer as a receipt. The bottom half we keep. We also have a letter made up thanking them for their support. Jack takes the top half, the letter, and a copy of the last years ad and asks them to renew it. He has everything filled out and it is very easy for them. Most get renewed that way. If he goes in for a new ad, he doesn’t give them a list of the prices. He tells them they can have a full page for only \$30. They may choose that. If they don’t buy the full page, you can move down to a half page for \$20 and finally the business card for \$10. State convention prices are a little different because we charge more. Jack has a sheet with the prices.

He also has a packet of all we need to solicit ads. He gave one to each association president. He advised the president find someone who is good at getting ads and please don't forget to ask callers, cuers, and one owner establishments. We do need to renew ads and get new ones.

54th FSSRDC Report

At Strawberry Square on September 30, we had a meeting with our Caller and Cuer chairmen for the 2008 State Convention to discuss the Kickoff, followed by a full committee meeting. It was very productive with many ideas and a lot of discussion. We started taking names of volunteers for the kick-off.

The Convention outfit is finalized.

The style and colors for the polo shirts to sell was agreed upon. Taking into consideration price, quality and quantity we haven't decided on a vendor yet.

The Sew and Save will be replaced with a surprise offering.

The Ways and Means Committee's results: We have raised \$6840.00 to date. The Silent auction at this years FFF received \$848.00. The Enjoyment Books for 2007 have earned \$928.00 so far and they are still selling.

I have contacted the Lakeland Center to discuss some possible hall changes to see the cost effect and am awaiting the answer. We are thinking of not using the Hollingsworth Rooms. After the 53rd we will assess the hall usage and finalize the hall plan. We will time share some halls or eliminate them that have little participation.

Don & Ann Slocum

55th STATE CONVENTION

We have most of our major players appointed. The Starlight Promenaders as a club will chair the Sew and Save room. We hope to get other clubs involved in chairmanship.

The party weekend fund raiser to be held at Deerhaven Retreat and Conference Center in Paisley is becoming a reality. We will start off with a potluck dinner on Friday followed by bingo with some great prizes. We will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Saturday night we will have a dance with Whit Brown, Paul Place and Bev Landwehr cueing. The campground has 39 full hookups and many dry camping spaces. For those without campers it has 12 motel rooms and 12 more under construction. All halls and cabins are air conditioned. We have a few flyers with us today.

After the 53rd convention we hope to have a better sense of what the convention center will cost and then we can set our ribbon prices.

Randy and Carol Poole

Randy reminded the delegates to make their hotel reservations for the Federation Working Weekend in March. Also, make them for the Party Weekend. We will give you a full refund if you are unable to attend.

President Jack announced Bud & Anita Taylor would be the Convention Chairman for 2010. He also announced a chairman for 2011. Bruce Morgan pointed out he could not do that at this time. The convention changes have not been voted on and approved by either the caller or cuer association.

George Knapp explained what the Federation voted on in May. Lisa Wall said she would take the information to the cuers meeting in March. George Knapp will send Lisa Wall the information on the changes.

The 2011 Convention Chair announcement was put on hold.

HALL OF FAME REPORT

This is the time of year that the Hall Of Fame Committee wants to remind you the dancers, callers and cuers to recommend someone for induction into the Florida Hall of Fame located at Strawberry Square in Plant City. All resumes for review must be received by January 15, 2007 to be considered for induction at the State Convention in May. You may get a brochure with information on how to nominate someone from me or anyone else on the committee which consists of Dewey & Donna Hendricks, Don & Ann Slocum, Dave & Shirley Nihart, Dick & Darleen Nordine and Ernie & Frances Rollen, or you may visit the website at: www.floridasquaredance.com/halloffame

Dewey & Donna Hendricks

HISTORIAN REPORT

We have taken a lot of pictures and have received many from only one association. That association is Central.

Association Presidents, if you have appointed a historian for your association, then inform that committee to please provide pictures and articles to us. If you have not, then please appoint an individual that will be able to take care of this task for your association.

State Convention Chairman, we also recommend that you appoint someone to maintain your history records, take pictures, clip articles and collect items for preservation from start of the planning phase to the end of your state convention.

The months and years are passing by and it would be a shame to have a blank space where the history of your association should show recorded history.

It's your history. We merely just want to preserve it for you. We need your help. We need your photos articles, items of that are of historical value to your organization.

Manny and Sherry Gonzales, Historian Chairman

USDA INSURANCE

As of October 31st we had a total of 2,854 dancers from 69 clubs insured for 2006. Last year at this time we had 3,228 dancers from 76 clubs. So you can see the participation in the insurance program is declining just like square dancing in general. The insurance paperwork for 2007 has been received from the USDA and it has been forwarded to all of the Association Insurance Chairmen. I am happy to report that the cost of insurance for 2007 remained at \$4.10 per person.

The period since the last Federation Meeting there has been little activity. The calendar year is winding down and very few clubs are gaining any new members at this time of year so there is very little activity. The only activity we have had lately is clubs enrolling their new class members and this has been very limited. Remember, your classes have started and if you want your class members to be insured you must submit a class roster with a starting and ending date for the classes. Unless there is a roster submitted these dancers will not be insured. The class is insured for free until they graduate but only if a roster is submitted. So there is no reason not to submit the roster. We have had one Association submit paperwork for their Association Membership insurance for 2007. That Association is the Southeast. Thank you Helen & Jerry for getting your paperwork in early so that you can get your certificate for your monthly dances, the first of which is held in January.

There has been no more communication with the Clogger organization. I don't know what they are doing for insurance for 2007. There is one club that is thinking of taking the initiative and paying the Clogging Council's dues to the Federation just so they can take advantage of the insurance. If they can get a couple more clogging clubs to join them they just might take care of themselves and bypass the Council. We'll just have to wait and see.

Bruce & Colleen Morgan
FFSD Insurance Chairpersons

Bruce added the Clogging Council was not going to insure this year. One club in the Southeast area would still like to subscribe to the USDA Insurance. They will pay the Clogging dues to the Federation to qualify for the insurance.

They would like any other clogging club that wants insurance to go through them to help share the dues.

ASCAP-BMI

No report

USDA

HANDICAPABLE DANCERS: There are 35 Handicapable clubs located in the United States. USDA supported them with \$9,475.03. There is a total of 43 clubs in the Handicapable Club database: 35 clubs in the US, 2 clubs in Australia, 3 clubs in Canada, 1 in Denmark, and 2 in the Republic of China.

YOUTH: Teen dancers now have competition. The Youth Clubs received \$7,675.

CREDIT CARD PROGRAM: The USDA Credit Card Affinity Group Program with MBNA America Bank did terminate on July 31, 2006. At the peak of the program USDA received \$3,000 a month to support their activities. The demise of our relationship with MBNA Bank is directly related to our ever decreasing number of accounts. Since 2002, there has been a total drop of 948 accounts. As of September, 2005 we had 1348 open accounts with only 385 considered active.

PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT DRUG PROGRAM: We remind all members of the value of the prescription discount for anyone, any age, whether or not they dance. The discount card is a saving opportunity for everyone.

WEB MASTER REPORT: 102,443 visits to USDA on Line between April 24, 2005 & May, 2006.

THE DANCERS ONLINE SHOPPING MALL: USDA had been contacted by Erv Faubion of Fundlink LLC asking if USDA would be interested in having an online shopping mall. He purposed that Fundlink would build the online shopping mall at no cost to USDA and that 50% of the royalties paid by the shopping mall merchants would be paid to USDA.

At the annual Board of Directors meeting June 21, 2006 in San Antonio, TX, the Board of Directors voted to proceed with the project.

The Dancers Online Shopping Mall is now up and running. You can access it from the USDA Web page at www.usda.org or directly at <http://usda.fundlinkllc.com>

All USDA affiliates need to help support and advertise the new Dancers Online Shopping Mall. It would be great if you would add a link from your association web page to the Dancers Online Shopping Mall.

Tell your non-dancing friends to check it out and use it, too! No matter who is shopping at the Dancers Online Shopping Mall it helps support our dance activities.

Tom & Miriam James

Tom also stated USDA operates in 46 of the 50 states. Dues to the USDA does not cover the expenditures. He would like us to advertise the Online Shopping Mall. This should generate funds for the USDA.

ARTS

ARTS-Dance Governing Board consists of 10 major dance organizations. CALLERLAB, CONTRALAB, ROUNDALAB, United Square Dancers of America (USDA), Universal Round Dance Council (URDC), International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC), National Executive Committee of the National Square Dance Convention (NEC), National Square Dance Campers Association (NSDCA), Single Square Dancers USA (SSDUSA), and USA West Square Dance Convention Policy Board (USA West).

**The ARTS Auxiliary Board members are the:
Kentucky Dance Foundation,
Lloyd Shaw Foundation,
National Association of Square and Round Dance Suppliers,
Square Dance Foundation of New England
and the US Handicapped Square Dance Association.**

There are also more than one hundred Individuals and Member Organizations (such as clubs, associations, etc.) that have joined the ARTS effort.

ARTS is an IRS 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, nonprofit foundation, and is able to accept tax-deductible contributions.

**The new Governing Board to serve the 2006-2007 term are:
Mike Jacobs – Chairman; Scott Philips – Vice Chairman; Jerry Reed – Secretary;
Edythe Weber – Treasurer.**

ARTS has adopted a recruiting plan to attract new dancers to join dance programs. It can be used as a guideline and be modified to any given situation. This plan is intended for implementation by local leaders and organizations and is available on the website. I have a copy with me.

Efforts are underway to develop an image enhancement video to depict the fun of our Dance activities as modern and exciting.

A proposal for a grant application on behalf of ARTS is being considered that would deal with offsetting childhood obesity through the implementation of dance instructions in schools (supplemented with the California Square Dance Councils Youth Advisory Committee). It is envisioned that this grant would fund the operation of a database of dance instructors to teach in schools across the country.

(What slows down most of these plans is finding the skilled people we need to accomplish these projects professionally and at minimum cost. And it has taken a lot of time.)

A toll-free telephone number has been initiated to afford the general public easy access to information regarding our dance activities. The magnetic signs with the ARTS Toll Free Number are available for a contribution of \$2.50 each.

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!

Friday, February 29, 2008 has been designated "National Day of Dance" Dancers across the country will come together in friendship and dance on this one special day in a joint effort to support ARTS. Dance leaders are encouraged to donate their talents for this one dance. The goal is to collect a minimum of \$1 million dollars on this one day.

Plans are underway to conduct another comprehensive dancer demographic survey during the 56th National Square Dance Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina – June 2007. It is important that each new survey be completed by all dancers. (Even if you have completed one before.) This demographic information is essential to identify market segments that dancers represent and is of significant interest to firms that market their products to the public who could become sponsors of our dance activities.

ARTS State Representatives continue to expand an electronic network through email among member and non-member groups. This continues to grow.

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

Ailene Picheco

President Jack reminded us to check out the websites for USDA & ARTS. There is lots of information on them.

CORRECTIONS

Minutes of the November 6, 2005 Federation meeting were approved as published at the March 11, 2006 meeting. The website report at the November meeting reads as follows: Bruce Morgan made a motion: The Florida Federation to obtain its own website. The website to add Florida Square Dancing.com to the domain name. Jack Taylor gave a second to the motion.

The motion was voted on and passed but failed to be printed in the minutes.

Some discussion followed (for complete discussion see November 6 minutes under old business – website) Two statements are in error. First, Bruce Morgan will offer free hosting of the site should read Bruce Morgan will offer free updates for the Federation and the clubs. Second, 100 callers will be in agreement this should be deleted.

Charlie Newsome moved the secretary take the necessary steps to correct the minutes. Randy seconded it. The motion carried.

The motion should read as follows: The Florida Federation to obtain its own website with floridasquaredance.com as the domain name associated with this web site.

Secretary corrected the website address. Secretary requests the delegates make the corrections to their own copy of the November 6, 2005 minutes.

WEBSITE

Last board meeting we talked about opening the web site to the callers, cuers, and prompters, anybody in the organization that has an interest in square dancing.

The Federation approved with one caveat. That caveat was that we take it to the callers and cuers to see if they would approve to share the cost. In order to share the cost the Federation decided we would put the cost as a state convention expense just like the Hall of Fame. The callers, cuers, and dancers would each pay 1/3 of the website cost.

Bruce Morgan was tasked with taking it back to the callers and cuers. He contacted Don Hanhurst (caller) & Lisa Wall (cuer). He spoke with them and sent them the details prior to their fall meeting. Bruce sent John & Lisa Wall an email on October 22 asking if the Florida Round Dance Council approved the website expense to be added to the cost of the convention. They replied the Florida Round Dance Council approved the website expense and appointed John Wall to set up a website for the Round Dance Council on the site. They are in the process of doing that now. On that same date an email was sent to Don Hanhurst requesting the same information. Hanhurst replied, "This was not brought up at their meeting".

With two of the three organizations approving the website cost to be added to the convention expense. It passes.

Copies of Morgan's, Wall's, & Hanhurst's emails are filed in the secretary's correspondence file.

Bruce will try and get a copy of the Florida Round Dance Council's minutes approving this for the official record.

The Convention guidelines will need to be changed. Bruce will present the change to the coordinating committee in May. He stressed the importance of having every club on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

President Jack reminded the delegates the Extra Mile Award nominees should be in by February 1.

President Kathy asked the delegates to please support the Florida Winter Festival as the Federation is a part of it now. The motels and campgrounds are filling up fast; therefore, you better make your reservations soon. Each association will receive \$200 for education and promotion of square dancing. Each association president needs to report back as to what they do with the money. The Federation is required to submit a report to GSI on how the money was spent. The associations will receive their checks this weekend.

Sue Brown reported she has received a written report from one association and has spoken with two others.

CONVENTION VENUE

Jim McConnaha asked for everyone to look for a possible convention hall. He has checked out a few. Most have carpet on the floors. The cost has been about the same as Lakeland. He said we may have to learn to dance on carpet!

NOMINATING REPORT

The President of the Florida Federation Board has appointed Sherry and I to Chair the Nominating Committee and to provide a slate of the officers to serve on the Board for the year 2007. Committee members include George and Shirley Knapp and Ken and Sandy Brasfield.

The Board did meet and all of the present board members have been asked and agreed to move up to the next position on the board. In this process, a vacancy occurs in the Parliamentarian position. The Northeast Association is next in line to fill that position.

The Nominating Committee did receive a candidate eligible and qualified to fill that position.

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following slate of officers to this Federation for consideration.

**President: Ken and Sue Brown
Vice President: Randy and Carol Poole
Secretary: Paul and Cheryl Miller
Treasury: Ray and Elsa Huddleston
Parliamentarian: Charlie and Val Newsome**

Mr. and Madame President this-slate is the recommendation of your Nominating Committee as the Board of Officers to serve for the year 2007.

**Manny and Sherry Gonzales
Nominating Committee Chairmen**

Jim McConnaha moved to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee. Judy Frye seconded. The motion carried.

The new officers were installed by Manny and Sherry Gonzales and assistants.

The next meeting will be Saturday, March 10, 8:00 AM at the LaQuinta in Maitland.

Meeting adjourned.

**Randy & Carol Poole
Secretary**

CORRECTION TO NOVEMBER 6, 2005 MINUTES

Please attach this correction to your copy of the November 6, 2005 minutes.

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Charlie Newsome moved the secretary take the necessary steps to correct the minutes. Randy seconded it. The motion carried.

The motion should read as follows: The Florida Federation to obtain its own website with floridasquaredance.com as the domain name associated with this web site.

Secretary corrected the website address.

This correction was voted on at the November 19, 2006 meeting.