

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
LaQuinta Inn, Maitland, Florida
Sunday, March 9, 2008**

Presidents Randy and Carol Poole called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Invocation by Judy Frye

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Elsa Huddleston called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.

Introduction of visitors and guests – Mary and Sam Starling from Jacksonville were introduced and welcomed.

Publications - Panhandle Press

The Panhandle Press is still publishing about 130 printed copies and 20 electronic copies quarterly. We have some recent graduates that have increased our circulation a little. We have also gotten a couple of subscriptions from outside our area, which is nice to see.

Our expenses still prove to be a challenge. Although our clubs are providing articles for publication to keep their dancers informed, these are run at no cost to the club. We have started trying to get the clubs to sell ads, but with little success. Most of the ads come either from the callers or flyers for upcoming dances. We are still hopeful, though.

We have identified a source that will drastically cut our toner expense, just in time for postage to go up. Oh, well. The toner is the loose type that we refill ourselves and costs about half of a new cartridge. I've not had much luck with ink refills, but we are hopeful that the toner will be different.

Our dancers are still very happy with the quality of paper that we are putting out and will strive to maintain their happiness. We have found a website that will allow us to create our own wordsearch puzzles, and another that has Sudoku puzzles that can be imported. Of course, these websites also provide the answer key for the following issue. These additions were at the request of our members and have proven to be quite successful.

Sincerely,

Tim & Teri Wilaby

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

WORKING WEEKEND, SATURDAY MARCH 8, 2008

The Finance Committee met Saturday, March 8, 2008, at 10:00 AM in Room 207 in the La Quinta Motel in Maitland, Florida. The meeting was chaired by Val Newsome (NE).

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Members present were:

Dee Dee Stovall (NE) Jack Hoffman (C)
Dewey Hendricks (C) Ray Huddleston (SE)

1. The Proposed Budget was discussed and a copy is attached to these minutes. Budget was read to Delegates with recommendation that the proposed budget for 2008 be adopted.

2. The President of the Federation asked that we discuss the feasibility of auditing the books and turning over records at the end of the November Annual Meeting - instead of at the Working Weekend. A discussion was held and all of the Committee felt it would be advantageous to do so.

Therefore, we recommend that Section 16, Item D, 6 of the Standing Rules be changed to read:

"To ensure the financial records for the complete year are in audit form at the close of the financial year at the Annual Meeting. Records shall be audited at the direction of the President."

3. New signature cards were signed, and the Treasurer's records were turned over to Val Newsome.

4. Treasurer's records were audited by Jack Hoffman, Dee Dee Stovall, and Dewey Hendricks, and found to be in complete reconciliation with the bank statement as of January 31, 2008. (copy of audit memo attached to these minutes)

5. Val thanked Dee Dee, Jack, Dewey & Ray for all their help during the Finance Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie & Val Newsome Treasurer

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Audit Committee has examined the financial records of the Florida Federation of square dancers thru January 31, 2008. All financial records were found to be accurate and in order.

Jack Hoffman, Chairman
DeeDee Stovall
Dewey Hendricks

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2008

INCOME:

Association Dues (7 @ \$50 each)
State Convention Profit
GSI (from Winter Festival)
Interest

Total Proposed Income \$

EXPENSES:

- President \$
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parliamentarian
- USDA
- Corporate Tax
- Honorarians
- Historian
- Storage Rental
- Miscellaneous (includes badges)
 - Central
 - Northeast
 - Northwest
 - Southeast
 - West Coast

Total Proposed Expenses \$

Surplus \$

Bruce Morgan moved to accept the proposed budget as recommended by Val Newsome. Motion passed.

Val Newsome made the motion that the Treasurer's books/records be transferred to the new treasurer at the end of the annual meeting and not at the working weekend, and that this change be included in the revisions to the Standing Rules. Motion passed.

SHOWCASE

Florida Federation – Parliamentarian Report – March 7-9, 2008

of "Showcase of Ideas" for National Square Dance – Wichita, KS – 2008

LaQuinta Inn, Maitland, FL – March 8, 2008

Report from "Showcase of Ideas" Committee, Working Weekend

9 Members present: Bob & Maria Spence, WC

Terri Little, CW

Shirley Knapp, C

Barbara Hoffman, C

Joe & Martha Hardcastle, NE

Elsa Huddleston, SE

Bobie Hutcheson, SE

All present agreed to:

1. Use black foam tri-fold boards from past displays.
2. Title: "Celebrate Dancing for _____"
Fun – NE – Hardcastles for Jan & Erwin Oerman
Health – NW – Cheryl Miller (Wanna Caverly)
Joy – WC – Spences (Walkers & K. Brown)
Exercise – SE – Bobie Hutcheson (Elsa Huddleston)
Friendship – C – Terri Little
3. Center of display: Florida shape outline w/region highlighted.
4. FL shape to fit 8.5x11 size paper. Title on center board of display w/FL shape.
5. Creative ideas on the side boards include clubs, dances, attractions of area, pictures, brochures, etc. Other area pamphlets displayed in front on table.
6. Suggested 'give-a-ways' were: Florida stick pins, stickers, magnets, gift-bags w/note, maps of Florida, etc. If reasonable prices - but all felt give-a-ways are not a necessity. Also use remaining pencils from last year. Spences will continue to check for prices.
7. Federation banner and dolls to be displayed.
8. Set-up for FL State Convention and then transported to the KS National Convention. Transportation method not completed yet.
9. Showcase refills – Recommended not to constantly "man" the tables, but check periodically, neaten, and refill as needed, the same as last year.

Squarely yours, Bob & Maria Spence,
Parliamentarians for FL Sq. Dance Federation - 2008.

HISTORY PRESERVATION

March 8, 2008

Room 326

10:00 - 11:15

Donna Hendricks Shirley Walker
Bruce Morgan Dave & Shirley Nihart
Sandy Brasfield

The goal of this committee is to find a viable way to save the history of the Florida Federation and do so in a more manageable form.

It is a wonderful collection of clothes, publications, convention albums, program books, etc. most put together lovingly by Jack and Zonie Taylor and our desire is to keep all intact.

We need to preserve our paperwork, also our meeting minutes, financial records, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Standing Rules, Constitution, etc.

We would like to purchase Macro Media Flash software to scan all the above items on discs, making two copies each; one master to be held by the Florida Federation Historian and one for use by the Federation delegates. When all the history is scanned, the items will be returned to the associations where they belong, to do with at their discretion. The material is now stored in a 5x5x9 shed in Lakeland at \$51.36 a month and will have to stay in a storage unit until it can be scanned.

Donna Hendricks and Bruce Morgan have volunteered to scan all items and put them on discs. Bruce has volunteered to put the history on our website.

Our future desire would be a "picture frame" that could be used at conventions and other promotional sights.

We, the History Preservation Committee, would like to make a motion to purchase Macro Media Flash and discs for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Brasfield

Discussion followed regarding putting dresses on a dress form and a picture taken of both the front and back of each outfit and saving to a disk. Pictures would also be taken of any other hard items. Bruce Morgan requested moving the stored items from Lakeland to an area nearer his location for convenience as this project proceeds. Sandy Brasfield's motion to purchase the macro media software passed.

Bruce Morgan also said the history could be put on the website. He said pictures could be put on picture frames and displayed at conventions; however, this suggestion was not pursued due to the possibility of theft. It was suggested that some articles could be given to the historical society.

PRESERVATION, EDUCATION & PUBLICITY
Square Dance Preservation, Education, Service, combined with
Public Awareness and Publications

The breakout meeting met at the LaQuinta, Maitland, FL; room 331 at 10:00AM Saturday, March 8, 2008. In attendance were George Knapp, Central; Aileen Picheco, Central; Smitty Smith, NE; Bessie Stovall, NE; Penny Green, WC; Mary Lee Van Valkenberg, WC; Mike Ziegler, WC; Miriam James, WC and Chaired by, Kathy McKinney, NE.

We met and at first thought said "Are we one of the breakout committees that was suggested should be dissolved?" "Do we do the same things over and over?" "Do we have the same suggestions over and over?" "Do we have the same results over and over?" We decided the answer to those questions was "Definitely, YES!" However, is it a fact that little by little people learn about square dancing through our promotional efforts? Again the answer was "YES!" Therefore, we MUST continue our efforts! Why not? Most things we do cost very little and provide goodwill, fellowship, and bring us a sense of pride to ourselves and our organization!

EFFORTS: We asked of all our efforts, what has been determined to be the most effective? Here are the top 3 we came up with:

1. **INTERNET:** Publications, web sites, emails, and other links are all so very important in today's times. Publications such as DANCERgram, The Grapevine, PanhandlePress, etc.; web sites such as Floridasquaredance.com, Pergrossi.com, Dosado.com; and if you "Google" "Square Dancing" you will find many other sites with many links that are all great tools for us to utilize. Lisa Wall made the suggestion that perhaps we could look into "non-square dance" organizational sites that have family entertainment that would put our square dance links on their sites. This would provide information to "non-dancers" and hopefully entice them into our activity. Ouida Taylor, President of the NE, said her daughter was developing just that type of site and would welcome our links on her site. If anyone is

aware of someone in our organization who has computer savvy they could get us "linked up"!

2. **BUSINESS CARDS:** personal and club cards are easily distributed along with "You Have Been Patronized by a Square Dancer" cards. In that vein, the USDA offers "prescription discount cards" that can be used by anyone. You can give them to people like waitresses and service people who do not have benefits. These cards will do more for them than a "patronized card" and they will remember a square dancer helped them in time of need.
3. **START LESSONS MORE OFTEN:** Try your best to get you club and/or caller to start lessons more often. Whether it be 10-10-10 or A-B-C teaching format, the current students appreciate helping others and their extra floor-time is reinforced. Gaining more students is vital because "they" are the ones most likely to bring new dancers to your clubs. We all know the bottom line is word of mouth and one-on-one communication is the best way to preserve square dancing and through the new and excited dancers is where it's at.

In closing, I myself look at these few minutes at a breakout meeting as a bonding with dancers from around the state as an impetus to carry on my EFFORTS! I enjoyed meeting in our group and I hope they did too. I am going home now, surf the Internet...and "Google" for some new sites to get "Linked Up" with! (Jack will be making labels for old Grapevines to be distributed to doctor's offices, etc)

Respectively Submitted,
Kathy McKinney, Chairman

Bruce Morgan said every square dance location could be linked to the website. Look at the website, and send him an email with the street address for him to add to the web. Dance locations have red flags on the map where there are dance locations with dates and times of dancing. He said there are many hits on the site. He also said that if a club has an individual website, he will link it. Penny Green said the Dancergram is updated every Wednesday.

USDA INSURANCE

Chairman: Carol Poole

Attendee: Tom James

Since the two of us are well informed on the USDA Insurance, we discussed gold mining, traveling and children.

Tom audited the books and found they were correct.

Furthering our discussion, I discovered today is Tom's birthday.

STATE CONVENTION PROCEDURES

March 8, 2008

Present were:

Jim & Jan McConnaha, Chairman
Paul Miller

Bud & Anita Taylor
John & Lisa Wall

Don & Ann Slocum
Garland & Carole McKenzie

Jack McKinney

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and the State Convention Procedures and Requirements were discussed line by line.

The easy part of the discussions were the removal of all references to duties of the Coordinating Committee.

One major change was to have one Vice Chairman appointed by each Association to assist the General Chairman who will in-turn appoint one of these Association appointed Vice Chairman to act as Senior Vice Chairman who will assume leadership in the absence or disability of the General Chairman when required.

The Round Dance Representative suggested that some changes should be made in the Round Dance Chairman's section. It was decided that Lisa will make these suggested changes and we will distribute among the committee for discussion then possible action at the May meeting.

Another major reason for change, which is still being worked on, is the funding of each Convention utilizing monies raised by the five (5) Associations and the distribution of the Convention proceeds.

This is an on-going process that we hope to have completed to present to the Federation at the May meeting.

Presented by:

Jim McConnaha, Chairman

Working Weekend Committee: Associations President Meeting March 8,2008

Attending Meeting; Cheryl Miller, Chairman Carol Hutcheson
Ken Brasfield Ouida Taylor
Judy Frye Thomas Tramel

All five Association Presidents were present at this meeting. Discussion on how the upcoming changes to the Convention Procedures would affect the Associations. Overall, there was excitement that the changes are moving along toward a united State Convention.

Thoughts, from past years conventions - The Associations have been divided in five groups. With the upcoming changes, this will actually bring all five associations together to unite and become one group; increasing the friendships between each of the Associations. This may result in better uniting the Federation.

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Concerns - An Association will be given a task too big to accomplish and the fundraising amounts will be set above the possibilities of a smaller Association. Therefore, it would be requested that the monies from fundraising be confidential between the Executive Committee and remove the competition between the Associations.

Another suggestion for the Conventions is to obtain a "Corporate Sponsor".

Grand March is important to the dancers and should be performed at the convention.

Changes are very important. If it doesn't work, try it a different way. Keep trying and eventually, we will get it to work.

Other topics discussed: Decline in getting dancers to travel to dances. There is also a decline in getting dancers to volunteer and help within the Associations. Obtaining younger dancers; Home Schooled kids - interest the kids and parents by offering a reduced family rate for lessons.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Miller
Chairman

Old Business

President Poole announced that he had made one addition to the committee he appointed Saturday, March 8, to review the feasibility of discontinuing the annual working weekend. In addition to Val Newsome, Jack Hoffman, and Mary Lee Van Valkenburg, he also appointed Dewey Hendricks.

Randy Poole said that when GSI took over the Winterfestival, the Federation agreed to try working together with GSI for two years. He asked if we want to continue working with them and get the \$500 a year. He said no one is committed to go. Five packets are given to each association, and there is no pressure to sell ribbons. Jack Hoffman moved to continue the relationship with GSI. Motion carried.

New Business

Ann Slocum said many delegates have spoken with her stating that they do not believe one association should get the profits from the dance held on the working weekend, and that the working weekend should not be connected with the Shamrock Swing. She made a motion that the working weekend should be a weekend the Federation chooses from January 1 to the first weekend in March, and the funds should benefit the true state convention starting next year to benefit the 2010 Convention. A lengthy discussion followed regarding who would be responsible for the dance arrangements, date of weekend, having a one night dance as opposed to an all weekend dance, possible profit to the upcoming convention of about \$400 - \$500, and less work to set up a one-night dance, and the possibility of Randy appointing a committee to review the issue. At this point Erv Oermann called a question to end discussion. After a vote in favor of ending discussion, Ann restated her motion as follows: That we have the working weekend starting next year with the location set by the Federation President for the last weekend in February and arrange for a Saturday night dance to benefit the upcoming state convention. Motion passed. The location will be announced at the May meeting.

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The next Federation meeting will be at 9:00 a.m., May 25, in the Lake Morton Room of the Lakeland Center.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Secretary