

**MINUTES OF
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Lake Morton Room, Lakeland Center, Lakeland, Florida
Sunday, May 25, 2008**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation by Ken Brasfield

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

Introduction of Visitors and Guests – Jack & Ilene Lewis, Bob & Jennie Courter, Don & Anna Faust, Rod Reiner, Mary Corson, Bill & Mary Chestnut and Conrad Protzman

Minutes of the March 8, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Minutes of the March 9, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report

**TREASURER'S REPORT
March 1, 2006 - April 30, 2008**

Beginning Balance - All Accounts - March 1, 2008

Wachovia Checking	\$15,767.50
Contingency	4,000.00
Insurance	<u>1,995.71</u>
TOTAL All Accounts	\$21,763.21

Checking Account Balance

\$15,767.50

Receipts

Wachovia Interest (Feb,Mar,Apr, 2008)	\$ <u>3.47</u>
TOTAL Receipts	3.47

\$ 3.47

Checking Account Balance

\$15,770.97

Disbursements

Paul Miller (Secretary Expense)	\$ 26.56
Florida Dept. of State (Corp Tax)	61.25
Ray Huddleston (Treasurer Expense)	9.68
Harden Storage (History)	51.36
Charlie Newsome (Treasurer Expense)	22.31
Bob Spence (Parliamentarian Expense)	11.93
Bruce Morgan (Software for History)	250.00
Bruce Morgan (Adv. new Storage History)	<u>403.11</u>
TOTAL Disbursements	836.20

836.20

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Checking Account Balance		\$
Ending Balance - All Accounts - April 30, 2008		
Wachovia Checking	\$	
Contingency		
Insurance		
All Accounts	\$	
Checking Account Balance April 30, 2008		\$

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie & Val Newsome
Treasurer

Parliamentarian Report

Meeting held at the 54th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention, Lakeland Center, Lakeland, FL – May 23-24-25, 2008. Hosted by West Coast Square & Round Dance Association.

Report for Sunday morning, May 25, 2008—Lake Morton Room, Lakeland Ctr.

Our first business as parliamentarians was to purchase a "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised" book for the Federation. We have marked it as Federation property, and it will be passed on. The treasurer has already reimbursed us for the cost.

The Showcase here at the 54th Convention is on display. The Associations all did their jobs well. Thank you.

We have 4 tables reserved at the National in Wichita, KS. There will be no 'staffing' at the National Showcase. We'll monitor for neatness, etc. daily, and use up the give-away pencils from last year. We are currently still attempting to find transportation for the tri-folds, banner, etc. for the National in Kansas. With the price of gasoline going up each day, many folks are not driving. We'll be flying.

'Set-up' will be on Wednesday, June 25th, for the *Showcase of Ideas*, between 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. We have a twenty minute parking pass and a map for the vehicle transporting our items. We'll need to stay in touch so that we can be there to accept delivery. 'Tear-down' for the display will be on Saturday by 3 p.m.

The Parade of States will begin at 6:45 p.m. at the National. We'll be there to march, wearing the Florida Federation outfits. We can include two squares. Please see us today, if you wish to march.

Squarely yours, Bob & Maria Spence,
Parliamentarians for FL Square Dancers Federation - 2008

Sunshine Report – Carol Poole reported on the death of Carol Rod and also Shirley Doughty who is the ex-wife of caller Mike Doughty, and that Pee Wee Stewart is in rehab.

Correspondence – Carol and Randy are in receipt of a letter from John Saunders thanking the Federation for their support of the 2nd Annual Winter Festival and transmitting a check in the amount of \$500 representing 10% of the net profits to be used for the promotion of square dancing.

Florida Callers Liaison - Bill Chestnut and wife Mary attended the meeting on behalf of Don Hanhurst. Bill stated that with the disbanding of the Coordinating Committee an extra effort should be made regarding communication between the Florida Federation of Square Dancers, the Florida Callers Association and the Florida Round Dance Council.

Florida Cuers Liaison – Conrad Protzman reported that everything was going well, and that the cuers were doing everything to make the convention successful. Lisa Wall reported that the Phase 2/3 hall was bigger this year and recommended using the same hall next year.

Association Reports

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

The Southeast Board has been so wonderful and enthusiastic. They willingly step up whenever it is needed without even being asked. The past board members have been great answering questions and willing to help. We're trying not to bug them too much. We feel so blessed that the Board and Dancers have shown such support all year.

It's hard to think about several of the Board Members leaving for health and various reasons. But we certainly understand and have been actively seeking replacements. Fortunately, we have had good response to our begging (only kidding) and feel we will have a full board again next year. One position is still in question but we do have someone considering the position.

The dances we've held this year have been a success with 6 or 7 squares dancing and many visiting dancers who can no longer dance but want to connect to friends and just enjoy being part of the excitement of the Dances.

I have been e-mailing all the SEA dancers prior to the up coming dances and inviting them and asking them to share a ride by picking up a dancer or two.

Our callers have been most cooperative in distributing our flyers at other dances. We of course are doing the same. Everyone seems to want SEA to continue and are willing to put forth the effort.

We are excited that Scotty Sharrer has completed a beginners class in Stuart and has a beginner class in Boynton Beach. Bud Miller has started a beginner class in Miami and it seems to be going well. Hopefully, we will get some new dancers from these classes and more SEA members.

We feel little things like welcoming people at the door, thanking them for coming, coming up with new ideas, incorporating advance and fun dances has made the dances more fun and

increased attendance. Whenever we attend a club dance we ask the caller to let us mention our dances and set our flyer's out.

We had a great time at our crazy hat dance and gave gift certificates to the winners. We had some very creative hats. Lots of laughs and food.

We are still compiling a list of people interested in learning to dance and spreading the word every chance we get. We are planning on advertisement in free papers to get more people interested as soon as we know that new classes will begin. Several demonstrations are being held, in fact Bobie and I just attended one on Tuesday, May 20th. Several more are planned. They are fun and people talk which hopefully will increase our dancers.

Our next dance is September 7th. Come and join us for the BIG ICE CREAM SUNDAE PARTY and Renewal Dance.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobie & Carol Hutcheson
SEA Presidents

Carol also reported the good news that Jack & Ilene Lewis had started a new club in the Southeast area, the Jackpot Squares, with about 40 charter members.

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

The Executive Board has been very busy since our last meeting in March. It was an honor and privilege to attend the many graduations in the Northeast. We had a total of 83 graduates with most of them joining the local clubs. Many of the graduates are here at their first Florida State Square Dance Convention.

Erv and Jan Oermann have our 5th Saturday Dance scheduled for May 31st and will be held at Jacksonville Heights Elementary School. The theme for the dance is "Summer Kickoff." Gary Murphy and Ernie Rollen will call for the dance with Lisa Wall cueing the Rounds. The Moose Promenaders and Yellow Rockers will host the dance. We are looking forward to a very large picnic.

Plans and committees are in place for our "Aloha Dance" The Fall Festival with Joe and Martha Hardcastle as the General Chairmen. However, Martha is recuperating after a fall that resulted in a broken leg. She and Joe need all the extra help the dancers can give them to make this a fun and successful dance. Martha is one among many of our dancers with medical problems that we need to keep in our thoughts and prayers.

We have one club "The Yellow Rockers" not having club dancing during the summer. They are starting a class for new dancers instead. We wish them well. It is not too early to start recruiting dancers for classes in the fall.

All the clubs in the Northeast have been placed on a web site called "yackahoo.com". General information about where the club dances and a contact person is listed. Other information may be added when we choose to do so. This is a non-square dance site with the hopes of creating interest among the people who frequent the site. We also hope, maybe, to link

this site our Florida Square Dance Link. The site is free to all and hopefully the other associations will also join. We need to promote square dancing any place possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Ouida Taylor/Thomas Tramel

WEST COAST ASSOCIATION

The West coast 2007-2008 dance season is winding down. Our April dance was in Arcadia with a decent crowd in attendance. We have our V.I.P. dance, the kick-off to the Fall Fun Fest, on August 17th at Strawberry Squares and wrap up the season with the Presidents Ball on September 21st also in Plant City. We sincerely hope we have officers to install. With that being said, knowing that this will be the last report Sandy and I will be giving for the W.C, we would like to take time to thank some folks. For the past two years Dick and Betty Stevens and Zurhn and Shirley Walker have been there for us and the W.C. Last year Mary Lee Van Valkenburg and Michael Zeigler stepped forward to fill a position. They all have been there several times before. I know all of the Associations have dependable people like these to count on, thank GOD, or we all would be in trouble. Sandy and I would like again to say thank you to these friends, THANK YOU!

Meanwhile back at the podium, we have some folks in the Association who need some prayers from all. Paul Place, a caller I know most or all of you know has been fighting cancer for some time and has kept a smile on his face all through it, Mary Dow our rep from DeSoto/Hardee/Charlotte County has had surgery and been in the hospital, Carol Rod, wife of caller Carl Rod has been in the hospital with high fever and pneumonia. She also has pulmonary fibrosis and had a pace maker put in on the 16th of May. Penny Green had back surgery and is progressing well with her therapy, and Don Slocum, like he didn't have enough on his mind to worry about has Achilles tendonitis and will be moving about, but slowly and gingerly. Don also lost his mother a couple of weeks ago. So, keep these folks in your prayers.

At the present time the West Coast is alive and somewhat well. We hope you have enjoyed the weekend so far and what is yet to come and a big thank you to Don and Ann and their crew for making it happen.

Respectfully Submitted
Ken and Sandy Brafield
Presidents West coast Association

CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSICOATION

At our last meeting we were in the midst of our Shamrock Swing weekend dance in Maitland. It is great to report that this dance was a huge success. There were 23 squares on Friday night and 31+ squares on Saturday. Now that's what I call terrific! The 2009 Shamrock Swing is changing locations to the La Hacineda Center in The Villages, another great area to dance. Note date change to March 20th and 21st. Callers will be Tony Oxendine and Bob Stern, Cuer Joanne Helton. Stop by the table set up in the hallway to purchase your advance ribbons and, please, take back flyers to your clubs.

In preparations for our 55th State Convention, (2009) chaired by Randy and Carol Poole, we are trying to fill our coffers by selling raffle tickets for a 42" LCD TV to be given away tonight. Don't forget to get your tickets. Other money makers have been a weekend of camping at Deerhaven Retreat, out in the boonies. There were no phones, (cell phones didn't work there either), no TV (yes we had running water and indoor plumbing), and what a great time!. Pot luck dinner on Friday followed by bingo, with Colleen Morgan calling the numbers and giving away great prizes.

Right after breakfast on Saturday Wayne Norwood and Bobby Becker got busy on their smoker making a most delicious dinner of Bar-B-Q'd pork and chicken. In the kitchen the men were doing the "knuckle" busting job of grating cabbage for cole slaw, (no injuries were reported). The evening time found us dancing to Whit Brown and Beverly Landwehr. Sunday, after breakfast, we spruced up the place, packed our cars, yellow rocked everyone and, sadly, headed home. Sound like fun? Well, plans are being made now to do it again next year. Watch for flyers and join us.

There have been so many special happenings in the Central area. A lot of clubs have had Easter Bonnet dances, club/class picnics, St. Patrick's Day celebrations complete with the "Kissing of the Blarney Stone". There has been a Cinderella Ball with two ugly (really ugly) step-sisters, Fairy God Mother, Prince Charming, glass slipper and all. There has been a Teddy Bear dance benefiting the Volusia County Sheriffs Department, always a good cause. And Banner Raiders have run rampant all over the Central area.

A few clubs were lucky enough to have classes this year, this is always good news. Most have already held their graduation ceremonies so the new dancers are looking forward to the summer sessions of Rusty Hinge or DBD.

Two clubs in Brevard County have celebrated big Anniversaries since my last report. The Allemanders of Satellite Beach, 51 years and the Canaveral Squares of Rockledge, 48.

It is nice to report that two of our clubs, rather than close their doors completely because of dwindling attendance, have joined together and now dance at the same hall, same night but each keeping their own club's name: the Prestige 55 Squares and the Celebrity Squares have joined together and dance in Anthony at the United Methodist Church. This was innovative thinking; other clubs in similar situations might consider this approach to keeping square dancing alive.

Our next 5th Saturday Dance is being held on May 31st in the "hive" of The Honeybees in DeLand. Caller will be Don Hanhurst and Cuer Dick Nordine. Come join us if you are in the area.

Judy Frye, President

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

Northwest congratulates Don & Ann Slocum and the West Coast on a successful Convention.

The "Country Western" night with chili & fixin's at Liza Jackson Park was great. We had 5 squares of kids & adults up and dancing. As a direct result of this dance, Caller Berlon Graham started a class on May 15.

The Agape Squares in Niceville graduated 20 people from their class on April 28. This is the largest graduating class in several years. From this large class a new club has formed. The "Dancing Dolphins" have surfaced again. The club will sponsor the class that was a direct result of the "Country Western" night demo at Liza Jackson Park. We are very excited to have a new club in Fort Walton Beach.

On May 3rd, twelve square dancers and Patty Ping, Caller, attended the "Country Fest" in the Kids Country Area, at the Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola hosted by WXBM & Soft Rock Radio Stations. It started out promising; however, bad weather blew in. We waited out the weather under our 10x10 canopy tent until the flood waters came rushing in! We were not concerned with our safety since our neighboring tent was the "America Red Cross" Disaster Relief Team and they were advertising "Swim Classes"! But we did have to leave early since our power was cut off due to the flood waters and our dancers were standing in ankle deep water. We will continue to look for ways to work on advertising our "Youth Program".

Northwest Association will hold our 2nd quarter meeting on June 14* prior to the Pensacola Twirlers Fiesta of Five Flags Dance at the Bayview Senior Center in Pensacola.

Club sponsored dances will keep our dancers on their toes this summer. Northwest Callers Berlon Graham, Dave Muller & Bill Van Hoesen will host a "Summer Dance by the Water" on June 28th, at Liza Jackson Park. Dance levels are Mainstream, Plus and Star Tip-Hot Hash. July 18-19 Ragon Hall will host a July Jamboree. The month of August Northwest goes wild with the "August Blast" in Panama City on the 9th, Seaside Squares & Northwest Florida 3rd quarter Association meeting on August 16 will be held at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. On August 23rd Northwest Association will host a "Membership Dance" with games, barbeque lunch, ice cream and dancing at PASARDA Hall in Fort Walton Beach. We slow down in September with a "Panhandle Press Benefit Dance" hosted by Ragon Hall & Seaside Squares on the 20th. October 4th will find us in Panama City for the "Panhandle Promenade". We will end our month of October on the 24 & 25 with NWF Association "Annual Round Up"; presale ribbons are available for if you are interest in attending this dance.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul & Cheryl Miller

FASSRD Report

Our Fuzzy Navel dance, at Jekyll Island, GA., was a lot of fun with our caller, Sam Dunn, from Sebring, and our cuer, Lisa Wall from Jacksonville. There were many single dancers from Florida attending, and also some married dancers, who said they had a great time. Overall attendance was down and future dances are in question. Although next years is already planned on March 27 & 28, 2009.

We did our "Son of a Beach" dangle dance Saturday afternoon by the ocean and the dangles have been sent out.

On Friday night there was a Single's Hall here at the State Convention for all the singles to start their weekend.

"Dancers Without Partners" areas are marked in the three main halls: Plus, Mainstream and Advanced. This is a new concept so please let us know what you think.

The National Singles Dance-A-Rama will be in Nashville, TN this year, from August 28 to the 31st. Friday night there will be a tour of the Grand Ole' Opry. All dancers going to the Opry will wear Square Dance clothes so everyone will know who we are.

There is also a tour of Jack Daniel's Distillery, The Hermitage Mansion Tour, and the General Jackson Showboat Luncheon Cruise.

There are some great callers scheduled, including the three "Tims": **Tim Crawford, Tim Marriner and Tim Tyl.**

The Florida Association of Single Square & Round Dancers Single-Rama will be in Sebring on October 24 and 25. The caller will be Mike Doughty from West Palm Beach, and the cuers are Charlie and Leona Lovelace from Dade City. It will be a fun time.

As always, we welcome Singles, Couples, Married and Solos to all our dances. And the after-parties are a hit with DJs, more dancing and food.

Ailene Picheco

Publications

KEEPIN' POSTED Central Florida Association

On a well remembered note – at the '04 Convention, I was coming across the rink floor in the arena and spotted Mary Stewart, who loved great bear hugs. She spotted me and kinda gave me the sign. We enjoyed a tremendous "YELLOW ROCK" and I whispered in her ear, "Would you mind if I picked you up?" Her reply was go ahead.

I did and every bone in her body snapped or creaked, and the thought went through my head, "Oh my God, I've killed the poor woman!"

I gingerly set her down and she said to me "My boobs hurt!" And we both had a good laugh and another hug. We miss her.

Keepin' Posted is alive and well. We are getting about forty pages out to our subscribers, CFA members, quarterly. Club input varies with the season which is the norm – more people and dancers normally generate more stories. The summer season brings the shutdown - our summer shutdown clubs are dark and many are suffering the pain of decreased attendance from the gas price crunch.

Changes are happening, I'm sure; some good and some not so good. And we will all fight to continue our pasttime in its new form whatever that may be. The publications will continue their pursuit of getting the word out in either printed format or ones and zeros.

Personally, I think the publications here in Florida are among the best and the cooperation between the editors is phenomenal.

Submitted by Tom Brown

PANHANDLE PRESS

We continue to print between 115 and 125 copies quarterly, with an additional 25 copies going out electronically. Each time we do an issue, we find some new feature to one of the programs we are using to incorporate into our routine. It's a case of as we want to do something, we research how and find a feature that will allow us to do our neat trick.

We have added a couple new features to our publication, a Sudoku puzzle and a caller/cuer schedule. Both have been received with enthusiasm.

We continue to have difficulty selling ads. Since our paper is sponsored by our association this is not quite as much of a problem for us as other associations. However, it does mean that our association has to work harder to meet its financial obligations. To this end, one of our clubs is hosting a benefit dance to raise funds for our publication.

We continue to print in color, which is the main item that stands out with our publication. Since the toner cartridges are quite expensive, we have checked into obtaining some of the refills for toner that are half the price. Unfortunately the first one we tried, although only half the price, went half the distance. As a result, we are reluctant to try again. But we are known to be stubborn at times, so I guess we will continue to try and find an equitable solution.

Our club "doghouse" has worked wonderfully and we only have one or two clubs out of the 11 in our association that have yet to contribute. But "we are known to be stubborn at times", so I imagine we will get them to see the light.

The other major problem we are trying to overcome is the cost of the postage to mail our publication. Issue before last had 64 pages and three flyer inserts. This put us over the two-ounce limit and we had to pay over \$1.00 to mail our publication. Unfortunately, we do not publish enough copies often enough to make bulk mailing an option. So we hand deliver as many copies to individual clubs as possible, and use the flat rate envelopes stuffed to the limit for the remaining clubs. Of course we try and recruit more electronic copies each quarter.

We will be putting out our Christmas Card edition again this year. This was a nice idea that we revived from previous years. If you would be interested in submitting your holiday wish, it's never too early. Just let us know and we will be happy to work with you while we are here.

All in all, this has been a fun undertaking for us. Hopefully we will not tire of it too soon.

Respectfully,
Tim & Terri Wilaby

GRAPEVINE

The Grapevine continues to print approximately 300 copies four times a year. Our subscriber list has continued to grow this past quarter with more dancers from the camping groups and southern areas of the state interested in reading the magazine.

During the past three months we have attended every Class Graduation in the Northeast and have presented the graduates with free current copies of **The Grapevine**, the **Bow & Swing**, and **NCDCA Times**. We'd like to thank Bill & Randy Boyd for the free copies of their

publication, as well as Jack & Betty Davis for providing copies of the international camping & dancing magazine, so that we could make this presentation to the graduates. The last graduation we attended was last week, just before we left for this Convention. By attending these events we have an opportunity to meet the "new dancers" and welcome them into our activity. We are impressed with our graduates this year – many of them are younger than in recent years and they are all extremely enthusiastic. Our next issue will include pictures of each graduating class and the names of all the graduates. It has become the "Graduation Issue."

With the rising costs of printing and the steady increase in postal rates, we need to investigate ways to produce and distribute the publication without raising the subscription costs and advertising fees. We have been looking into producing the magazine online, as does the Northwest and distributing through the clubs, as does West Coast and Central. We will continue with our current method of production while delving deeper into alternate methods and their effect on our readers.

We continue to print any news about the State and National Conventions, and ads for each Association's annual festival. Our Calendar of Events continues to include dances within the other Associations – when we know about them. We send out a monthly email newsletter called *Grapevine Notices*. This provides an opportunity for updates regarding new dance events, changes in dance events, and important notices for the dance community. If you would like to be included in the *Grapevine Notices*, please share your email address with us.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah & Charlie
Sarah & Charlie Pergrossi

WEST COAST DANCER

I just want to report that judging from the circulation of the West Coast Dancer the number of dancers in our 16 County area is remaining relatively constant. For the past couple of years we have been distributing to the square dance community, free of charge, 1000 copies in the off season summer months to 2500 in the winter season. This includes copies sent to some of the Chambers of Commerce and local Tourist Centers.

In addition, any copies that I have left over are put in public bulletin board racks such as those in grocery stores or public libraries. Hopefully someone is reading them as they are gone in a few days.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Henning, Editor

BOW & SWING

Bow & Swing is alive, well and still having fun in the square dance world. Did I mention we just returned from Alaska? Bow & swing still has about 1200 paid subscribers and we are looking for more. If you know anyone who wants to advertise or subscribe please let us know. Did I mention it is cold in Alaska?

Speaking of Advertising, if your club or organization is having a special charity fund raising event, let us know in advance, all of these are listed and advertised at no charge to the club or organization. Did I mention that it rains a lot in Alaska?

It seems that we keep getting pictures from the same clubs over and over, encourage your club to send in photos as well as news letters. There is no charge for placing your club's newsletters or pictures. If you include a caption with your photo, we will probably use your caption. If you do not include a caption, well, you know. Did I mention, Alaska is beautiful and all of the pictures I have ever seen do not do it justice? I don't know what that has to do with my Bow & Swing report, I just thought I would mention it.

The question keeps coming up, so I will try and answer again. Why do we charge \$15.00 for club listing in the Bow & Swing where to dance section? First, this I feel is a very reasonable fee, especially since it has not gone up in over seventeen years. Second, though it fails, clubs that are no longer dancing, do not send in their money, thus do not get renewed. Even this is not without failure as many people send in their money thinking it is for renewal of the magazine. We at Bow & Swing would like very much to see every club listed so visitors to Florida could always find somewhere to dance.

Bill Boyd

State Convention Reports

2008 WEST COAST (54th)

First we want to thank everyone who sent cards & e-mails expressing sympathy for the recent loss of our mother Winnie Slocum.

After 4 plus years of planning and with a fantastic committee that has worked hard for this Convention we feel it has been a success.

We want to thank all of those who contributed their time & talents to this Convention especially Mary Lee Van Valkenburg our registrar, Jack & Kathy McKinney for their work with the vendors and organizing the ads for the program book, Bruce & Colleen Morgan for the editing of the program book and Fred & Jan Smith for their successful Ways & Means, the committee members & all other workers from across the state.

We want to thank all of the publications for publishing the articles on the Convention. The ribbon sales were 793. The bank balance after this weekend will be \$18,000 plus depending on Sunday income. Expected expenses to pay \$2500 and also expect the \$2400.00 grant from the Polk County Visitors Bureau.

All 184 shirts have been sold.

Many changes were made this year and we feel at least most were successful. The extended dance time was well received. However we would suggest not starting until 10:00 and stop the afternoon at 5:00 on Saturday as most halls were quite empty early. I only had one person ask about Contra and no one asked for lines or country. This year the Plus DBD and advanced halls were not as well used as last year. The Youth hall has not been well attended and we would welcome suggestions from the Callers or anyone as to how to improve this. The expanded Easy Round hall was well used.

There were two vendors that had to back out at the last minute for health and death in the family reasons. We do believe that as the attendance has dropped we should only consider two full service vendors so as to make it more worth their time and expense to come and look for vendors of other specialties.

The Crafty Dancer went over great. Many came by to check out their crafts and the demonstrations were well attended. We contribute the success to the good job of all the committee headed up by Zurhn & Shirley Walker and Betsy Curts. The change was welcomed due to fact that only a few dancers are still sewing and the change in the location saved money in floor space and gave good exposure.

Problems we see in the future:

1-As we spread out across the state for the Committees we see communications as a problem. We tried to get committee reports by e-mail so as not to have meetings that required several hours of travel for a 1 or 2 hour meeting. We were only partly successful as many reports weren't forthcoming.

2-The overall cost of this weekend is becoming a problem for many dancers. With cost of hotels, restaurants, and especially gas going so high we estimate those coming any distance can expect the weekend to cost a minimum of \$500.00.

3-Obtaining ads will be a problem due to the time and travel required. It can require many trips to an establishment before making the right contact and obtaining an ad. For those not living in the Lakeland area it will be a serious problem. I have been getting ads for several years and I am burned out with this job and am retiring. But Ann said if anyone wants to come and spend the three weeks or so in the area to do this job that you are welcome to use our spare bedroom.

4-The promotion should be done by areas due the travel expense. We estimate we spent about \$4000.00 in the last year, including spending one weekend with friends and one weekend with a free hotel by listening to a resort presentation. We all know what is happening to travel expenses. We will be glad to help promote in any of the dances in our area. We want to thank all the people that gave us a free entrance to their dance when we came to promote, it really shows that you care.

We also question the value of the after party as attendance keeps falling as we age and can't stay up so late and be ready for practice or meetings early in the morning.

Ann and Don Slocum

2009 CENTRAL (55th)

We are on schedule. (I think.)

We have our contract with the Lakeland Civic Center and are pleased that the rent will be the same as this year's.

We will have our kick-off tonight and hope all will attend. It will be simple and hope that the music will encourage all of you to buy your tickets tonight. The tickets will be \$25.00 this weekend and will go up Monday. Our advanced and door prices will be the same as this year.

Our fund raisers have been good so far and we have a couple more planned this year. The 42" TV will be given away tonight just after the 50/50. (You cannot win it without a ticket) Someone will take it home with them tonight. We will have another Party Weekend the 17th – 19th of April, 2009. It will be a combined fund raiser with the 55th and 56th conventions. The Square Wheels Camping Club has already agreed to schedule this as their weekend to camp.

Ribbons went on sale yesterday at 2:00 and will close at the end of the dance tonight. We also have golf shirts for sale and there is still time to purchase TV raffle tickets. The Traveling Artifacts will be given to each association president after this meeting. They are small 45 rpm record players and in the drawer will be records for the clubs to sign and place on the turn table.

Jim has applied for our grant from the Polk County Visitors bureau.

With the sad news of Paul Places health and departure from the area, Don and Loretta Hanhurst have agreed to be the Assistant Caller Chairman.

Randy & Carol Poole, General Chairman

2010 NORTHEAST (56th)

Out of the OLD WEST came a masked man, who fashioned a mask out of his dead brother's clothing and along with his faithful sidekick Tonto fought evil and was heard to say to his horse HI HO SILVER. Tonto always said "He heap bad medicine, what we do KEMOSABI?"

What next KEMOSABI, for the 2010 State Convention? At the last Federation meeting, it was voted to have a Fund Raiser in February at the next working weekend. The Fund Raiser will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 in Plant City. We hope that everyone will encourage your members to attend. We will have Bill Chesnut and Charlie Pergrossi calling, and Lisa Wall cueing.

We are also planning to join forces with the 2009 State Convention next year in April to be a part of their fun weekend. We are going to share the work and fun with them. The weekend will include a pot luck dinner and BINGO on Friday. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday with a dance Saturday Night. And Breakfast on Sunday morning. We have 24 cabins available and a lot of camp sites. Please see Bruce and Colleen to make reservations. We will split the profits.

The Northeast will be having a Sundaes on Sunday dance with the particulars to be announced later. We will send flyers to each association.

Cheryl Miller has volunteered to be in charge of Ways and Means. She has already come up with some ideas and we are going to rely heavily on her for her expertise. We will have items for sale, but we are going to follow the lead of Don and Ann and not have to transport a lot of things for sale.

We hope that each association will start to think of a way to help with fund raising in their own area. I also hope that the Federation will come up with some other ways to help each of the future State Conventions deal with the rise in expenses.

We do appreciate all of those who have volunteered to help and hope you will consider doing so if you have not already.

Remember this is not my Convention, but your Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud and Anita Taylor

2011 - FLORIDA STATE (57th)

The planning stage of the 57th FSDC, which will occur in 2011, is well under way. We are looking forward to the next couple of years with our hearts in our throats. This is a new experience for both Ailene and I, but we have a wealth of experience behind us in the people who have so generously "volunteered" to help.

We have our theme chosen, several outfit options selected, some key positions filled and many ideas floating around in our heads. Our lists have lists... ideas for hall names, slogans, kick-off ceremonies, decorations, outfits... you name it, we've got it on a list.

We're really excited about this experience and hopefully this will be the best convention yet!

Respectfully submitted...

Terri Little
Ailene Picheco

Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame did not receive any nominations this year.

We will be having a meeting following this meeting. We will be going off and Penny Green will be replacing us. Dave & Shirley Nihart will be moving up to Chairman.

The Bank balance is \$1309.93. The Convention last year shows payment for the difference to \$1500.00 but payment was not received so we are checking on that. If we find something happened to that payment we will bill this year's Convention for the difference.

Respectfully Submitted
Don & Ann Slocum

Historian – Bruce Morgan reported that the software was free, but there was a \$250 charge for add on. He has at least one book of every association with links to various pages. The larger publications must be downloaded before they can be displayed, and for those people having a small amount of ram on their computers it will take excessive time to download. They will be put in a pdf file for all to access and print through Adobe. In accordance with a survey through the board of all the publications, Bruce will wait one year from each publication date before putting that issue on the Web. He has requested to be on the mailing list to receive future complimentary copies of each publication. As he gets more information on the website, he will send out notes when more is on line and available. The website is www.floridasquaredance.com.

Bruce also said the storage facility will cost approximately \$33.60 per month for the first year, and slightly higher after the first year. If any association wants their material returned they need to let Bruce know.

It was noted that the Federation still needs a historian.

USDA Report

United Square Dancers of America will again participate in the Showcase of Ideas at the 57th National Square Dance Convention in Wichita, Kansas, JUNE 25-28, 2008. USDA will have 8 tables displaying educational information, programs available for the dancers from USDA, history of USDA, web site information and other items of interest for the dancers at the Convention.

Our USDA report today will be brief excerpts from 6 of the booklets available to dancers and leaders.

SQUARE DANCE ATTIRE

Proper Square Dance Attire is required at all Square Dance Conventions.

What is "Proper Square Dance Attire"? Many dancers and leaders use terms such as "traditional", "western", "proper", "casual", "club", and "country" attire, but have not clearly defined each of the terms. The organizers or sponsors of events should establish the dress code desired for their event.

TAKE A YOUTHFUL STEP TO THE FUTURE

This book was developed by the Youth Advisory Committee of the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC., and is designed to provide some easy to follow basic information on how to establish and maintain a youth square dance group.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP

To help the students become aware of the new world they have entered, the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA have divided this booklet into 17 topics, and designed to be presented to the students during their class sessions.

GAMES, GIMMICKS AND SKITS

Games, gimmicks and skits such as these are used to entertain before, during and after a dance; at special club functions where light humor and jokes are the focus of the evening; or just to break into the routine of a good night of dancing. This booklet has typical guidelines for stealing or retrieving a banner.

CLUB SPECIALS

The purpose of a Club Special is to provide local dancers with a delightful dance in a festival type atmosphere, and great calling, fun and fellowship, and with the club hope of breaking even or even possibly obtaining surplus funds for the club treasury.

RECRUITING AND KEEPING NEW DANCERS

This USDA Booklet was developed to acquaint leaders of the square dance community with a source of information concerning the methods, procedures, and problems associated with recruiting and keeping new dancers.

Tom and Miriam James
USDA Florida Delegates

Cheryl Miller reminded dancers to see the USDA information and publication display that Tom and Miriam James have set up at the convention. This collapsible, traveling display has traveled for the past year to Association dances as well as other Florida dances throughout the state. The traveling display was purchased by Tom James at a cost of \$409.81. Since the display has benefited the State of Florida, she made the following motion: That the Florida Federation of Square Dancers reimburse Tom & Miriam James \$50 for the cost of the display and solicit the USDA to reimburse \$150. Following discussion, Cheryl amended the motion that the Florida Federation of Square Dancers reimburse Tom and Miriam James \$200 for the cost of the traveling display. A question was called, a vote on the question passed, and a vote taken on Cheryl's amended motion which carried.

Miriam James thanked the members, and also requested that Penny Green who writes the Dance-A-Gram be recognized which members acknowledged. Miriam also thanked the Federation for their nomination to the USDA region vice presidency which was done at the last Federation meeting.

USDA INSURANCE

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
INSURANCE REPORT 25 MAY 2008**

Beginning Balance	March 1, 2008	\$1,995.71
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Income

Central	\$ 319.95
Northeast	\$ 76.95
Northwest	\$ 12.15
Southeast	\$ 32.40
West Coast	\$ 64.80
FASSARD	\$ 141.75

Total Income \$ 648.00

Expenses

USDA Insurance	\$ 644.00
Admin Exp	\$ 47.78

Total Expense \$ 691.78

Ending Balance April 30, 2008 **\$1,951.93**

	CLUBS	DANCERS
Central	21	1055
Northeast	17	536
Northwest	1 + 7	260
Southeast	1 + 1	106
West Coast	10	421
FASSARDA	1	36
	2 + 54	2414

4 accidents have been reported this year. 1 claim submitted.

Submitted by Randy & Carol Poole, Florida Insurance Chairman

Randy – presented a plaque to Bruce and Colleen Morgan in appreciation for a job well done as Insurance Chairman for 2003 – 2007.

ASCAP/SMI - No report

ARTS - The ARTS meeting was February 2, 2008 in Long Beach, CA

Information from Dance America, sponsored by ARTS during the month of February, is accumulating and be available at the next meeting which is scheduled in June during the National Convention in Wichita, KS.

Other ways ARTS-dance is trying to raise money is from their travel website, their Add-A-Buck program, the sale of Lapel Pins, and Membership Dues (either as an individual or as a group). The greatest amount has come from individual or group donations.

For more information on these programs, go to www.ARTS-Dance.org

The goal for ARTS programs is to raise money to promote public awareness, and create a positive image of square dancing thereby increasing the number of dancers around the nation.

Their next meeting will be at the National Convention in Wichita, KS on Sunday, June 29th at 9:00 AM in the Hyatt Hotel, Trail Room.

Ailene Picheco

OLD BUSINESS

Federation Document Review – Randy said Dee Dee Stovall had reviewed all the official documents for the last five years to confirm that all matters voted on during this five year period have all been incorporated into the appropriate official corresponding documents. At Dee Dee's request, this issue has been tabled until the next meeting.

Coordinating Committee - Jim McConnaha reported that Tim Wilaby made a motion that in accordance with the instructions from the three sponsoring organizations, Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Florida Callers Association and the Round Dance Council, the Coordinating Committee be hereby disbanded and the bank account be closed out and the monies transferred to the Florida Federation to be kept as a separate line item in the Federation bank account. Motion passed.

Convention Procedures - Jim McConnaha said the committee attempted to keep proposed procedures as close to the current ones as possible. Recommended changes are as follows: (1) any reference to the Coordinating Committee will be eliminated, (2) with board approval, the Federation president will appoint the general chairman of the state convention, (3) the general chairman will in turn appoint an assistant general chairman, (4) each Association will appoint a vice chairman who will assist in all matters as requested with emphasis on fundraising for the convention. There will be no major changes regarding the round dance procedures. The convention location and date remain the same. Money distribution will also remain the same. Distribution of net proceeds will be distributed between "existing" participating associations to take affect in 2010. Appointments will be for every three years and not every five years.

Randy will e-mail a draft of the proposed procedures to all members to review prior to the November meeting at which time a vote will be taken.

WORKING WEEKEND (Cheryl Miller)

Per the vote taken at the Sunday, March 9, 2008 meeting, the date of the Working Weekend was changed to be held on the last weekend in February with a Benefit Dance. A benefit Dance for the 2010 Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention (which would not be the current year's convention but the "upcoming convention") would be held in conjunction with the next "Working Weekend."

Our current duties as Vice President, is to locate a facility to hold the "Working Weekend" meetings for the following year. I will not list the many hotels that were contacted to accommodate our large group for the meetings. The pricing for use of the

meeting rooms ranged from \$375.00 to \$495.00 per day and this was only for morning uses.

I moved on to my next position duties as the 2010 FSSRDC, Ways and Means Chairman. I was successful in obtaining a dance facility to hold the "Benefit Dance" on Saturday, February 28, 2009, at the Stardust in Plant City. I was also able to negotiate the Federation Working Weekend meeting to be held at the Stardust on Saturday & Sunday morning. The rental cost for the use of the building is \$300.00 for Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Flyers have been prepared to advertise the "2010 Convention Benefit Dance & the 2009 Florida Federation Working Weekend." Association Presidents please pick up your packets to take back to your Association and encourage your dancers to attend the dance.

I would like to make the following motion;

The Florida Federation pay \$100.00 of the rental cost for the Stardust Facility to offset the expenses for the 2010 FSSRDC Benefit Dance.

Respectfully,
Paul & Cheryl Miller, Vice President
Florida Federation of Square Dancers

The above motion passed.

2010 FUNDRAISING JUMP START!

Funds are needed for the 2010 Convention! I have started a "Florida Statewide Fundraiser." I need the Association Presidents or a delegate that will act as the Association Ways and Means Chairperson to meet (oh no, another meeting!). Please in the back of the room after the Federation Meeting to receive your Association's Fundraiser. It is important that we work together to get our "Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention" on a successful track for the future.

Respectfully,

Cheryl & Paul Miller
2010 Ways and Means

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Committee - Randy Poole appointed Ray Huddleston and Bob Spence to the Audit Committee with Jack Hoffman as Chairman.

Nominating Committee - Randy Poole appointed Jack Taylor and Ken Brasfield to the Nominating Committee with Dewey Hendricks as Chairman.

Proclamation - Elsa Huddleston reminded members that September is National Square Dance Month, and in conjunction with this she has requested and received the Proclamation from Governor Crist declaring September to be square dance month in the State of Florida. Copies

of the declaration will be distributed to each association president or delegate at the end of the meeting.

The next Federation meeting will be Sunday, November 23, 2008, at the Piccadilly Restaurant, 200 Monument Road in Jacksonville at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is in conjunction with the Northeast Association's Fall Festival on November 21 and 22. The hotel is the Hampton Inn East, 1021 Hospitality Lane in Jacksonville. Phone 904-722-8881.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Federation Secretary