

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
The Lakeland Center Lakeland, FL
Sunday May 24, 2015 – 9 a.m.

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by President Anita Taylor at 9:05 a.m. at The Lakeland Center, Lakeland, Florida.

2. Invocation: The Invocation was given by Judy Anderson.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Penny Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call: The roll call was made by Dennis Taylor. There was a quorum.

5. Introduction of Visitors & Guests: The following visitors were present:

USDA: - Ed and Lynda Willis USDA Central Region Vice Presidents

Central Association: Jim & Jan Mc Connaha, Carol & Richard Douget, Bill & Linda Reid, Sheila Reid, Patty Vickers

North East Association: Gaye Feuer, Patrick & Joan Amarino, Don Seay

West Coast Association: Glenn & Wanda Ken, Flo Byrington

South East Association: Cal & Ann Maki, Larry Zukerman

Callers: Rod & Carol Barngrover, Bill & Joann Boyd, Mike Doughty, Steve & Marjorie Ekin, Mark Fetzer, Bob Ormsbee, Bill Chestnut, Bob & Ann Poyner

Cuerers: Susan Snider, Lloyd & Ruth Mckenrick, Earle Collins, Terri Willaby, Fran Keller, Wayne & Barbara Blackford, Ken & Joanne Helton

6. Minutes of February 28, 2015 Meeting:

George Knapp made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Don Slocum seconded the motion.
Motion passed

7. Treasurer's Report:-Ray & Elsa Huddleston

Dennis Taylor presented the reports for Ray & Elsa Huddleston.
The reports are below. The Treasurers Report will be filed for audit.

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS TREASURERS REPORT

February 1, 2015 – May 8, 2015

BEGINNING BALANCE – ALL ACCOUNTS			
Wells Fargo Checking Account (as of 2/1/15)			
Insurance			
Wells Fargo CD 2			
SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF 2/1/15			
WELLS FARGO CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance			
RECEIPTS			
61 ST FSSRDC			
Interest			
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
DISBURSEMENTS			
Check 1568 Florida State Crop Tax			
Check 1569 Cheryl Miller			
Check 1570 Penny Green (cards)			
Check 1571 Whirl & Twirl			
Check 1572 Go Daddy Website VOID			
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			
Checking Account Ending Balance			
WELLS FARGO CD			
Beginning Balance			
Interest			
Ending Balance			
WELLS FARGO SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance			
Interest			
Savings Account Ending Balance			
ENDING BALANCE – ALL ACCOUNTS (As of 5/8/15)			
Wells Fargo Checking Account			
Insurance			
Wells Fargo CD			
Savings Account			
CURRENT TOTAL – ALL ACCOUNTS			

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
 CONVENTION FUND
 TREASURERS REPORT
 February 1, 2015 – May 8, 2015

<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>			
Convention Fund Checking Account			
OTHER ASSETS AS OF 2/1/15			
61 ST State Convention Loan Seed/Lakeland Center Deposit			
62 ND State Convention/Lakeland Center			
TOTOAL OTHER ASSETS			
TOTAL ALL ASSETS AS OF 2/1/15			
LIABILITIES			
Florida Callers Association			
Round Dance Council of Florida			
Florida Federation of Square Dancers			
TOTAL LIABILITIES			
CONVENTION FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance as of 2/1/15			
RECEIPTS			
None			
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
DISBURSEMENTS			
Ck #1010 – Lakeland Center – Void			
Ck #1011 – 63 RD State Convention Loan			
Ck #1012 – 62 ND State Convention Lakeland Center Deposit			
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			
CONVENTION FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (5/8/15)			
OTHER ASSETS AS OF 5/8/15			
61 ST State Convention Loan Seed/Lakeland Deposit			
62 ND State Convention Loan/Lakeland Center Deposit			
63 RD State Convention Loan			
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS			
TOTAL ALL ASSETS AS OF 5/8/15			

<i>LIABILITIES</i>			
<i>Florida Callers Association</i>			
<i>Round Dance Council of Florida</i>			
<i>Florida Federation of Square Dancers</i>			
<i>TOTAL LIABILITIES AS OF 5/8/15</i>			

Respectfully submitted,
 Ray & Elsa Huddleston, Treasurers

8. Parliamentary Report: Cheryl Miller

Carol Poole read the following report for Cheryl.

Florida Federation Showcase will be displayed at the upcoming 64th National Convention to be held in Springfield, MA. Arrangements have been made for the showcase display and our giveaways of maps, travel magazines and the “oranges & alligators” are packed & ready to be transported. The National’s Showcase Chairman have requested that we have volunteers at our display table Thursday – Saturday between the hours of 10-noon, if you are traveling to Nationals please consider spending an hour at our display to greet visitors. I have a sign-up sheet for dancers to sign up to assist with showcase visitors. If you would like to participate marching in the National’s Parade of State with Florida on Saturday please wear you Federation outfit.

Respectfully,
 Paul & Cheryl Miller
 Parliamentarians

9. Sunshine Report: Penny Green

Get well card to
 “Smitty” Smith

Sympathy Cards to:
 Caller Doug Waldren on the loss of his mother who was a square dancer years ago
 The family of Shirley White, president of Seabreeze Singles in Jacksonville

Cards will be going out to:
 John Saunders – recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer
 The family of Paul Miller – recently passed away
 The family of Caller Dan Wilkerson on the unexpected loss of Dan

10. Correspondence: Anita Taylor

Anita read the following that was received from Cheryl.
 Federation Delegates and Square Dancers throughout Florida,
 I thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. I felt each yellow rock sent my way, Paul & I did not have a family of 26, we had a family of many thousands and I can’t thank you enough for the joy & friendship you brought into his life.

Paul loved square & what round dancing he could do. Yes, you can laugh at that. His best time was on a dance floor (even funnier if his square was laughing at their mistakes, he would laugh so hard he would forget to listen to the Caller). But as you know, that is what square dancing is all about, the laughter and most importantly the friendship that made up a square. That said, I know that the 2015 Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention was a tremendous success. Mr. Jack & Ms. Barbara congratulations.

Because the Square & Round Dancing meant so much to both of us I will not be leaving the Federation Board, I will continue to work alongside the Florida Federation of Square Dancer Delegates. When Paul & I first became a Federation Delegate as President of Northwest, back in 2002, Paul was traveling for his work and it seems the first year he was always traveling international for his employer every time there was a Federation meeting. He became labeled as my “figment of imagination” and there was doubt he really existed. Well, as I continue our term on the Federation Executive Board, I hope you will also see my “figment of imagination” right next to me. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming West Coast in November.

Again thank you for all your prayers. For those of you interested we will have a “Celebration of Life” ceremony on Saturday, June 13, in Fort Walton Beach, plans are to include refreshments after the ceremony. I will forward the information to the Federation Secretary Dennis & Nancy Taylor to send out as soon as they have been finalized.

Cheryl Miller
Parliamentarian

11. Florida Caller Liaison: Bob Poyner

The Florida Caller’s Association is now a Tax Exempt Organization due to the efforts of Dave Muller (with able assistance from Susan, Rod Barngrover and the Executive Board) and is now exempt from Federal Income Tax. Even though we are a Tax Exempt Organization, we still have to file with the IRS.

Our next function will be in October for our Annual Meeting and Fall Clinic and Seminar. This year’s Clinic and Seminar is geared for the newer Caller and will start on Oct 15 and run through the 17th. The location of the Clinic is the Comfort Inn & Suites 3520, US 98 North Highway, Lakeland, FL. Our Clinician this year is Al Stevens from Prattville, AL is a CALLERLAB Milestone Award winner, CALLERLAB Accredited Caller-Coach Emeritus and instructor of 100+ caller colleges in many countries. His resume also includes calling in all 50 US states and 33 countries. He is a long time recording artist and is a past CALLERLAB Board of Governors member. Al has 56 years of calling experience to share!

On October the 17th the Florida Caller’s will sponsor a dance for all that would like to come and dance to the calling of Al Stevens and cueing of Susan Snider at Strawberry Squares Hall in Plant City. There will be early rounds at 7:30 P. M. and Squares from 8 – 10 P.M. with rounds between tips.

Bob Poyner
President, FCA

12. Florida Cuer Liaison: Tim Wilaby- No report

13. Association Reports:**Northwest: Alec & Kay Schmidt**

GREAT SADNESS!! We are all saddened by the death of Paul Miller on May 16, 2015 in Niceville, FL. It was so unexpected. Paul's enthusiasm & ever-present smile will be missed tremendously! Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cheryl and the rest of their family during this most difficult time.

EXCITING NEWS...The Sand spurs of Ft. Walton Beach graduated 20+ new dancers on April 30, 2015. Our congratulations to them and a big thank you to Miriam Merriwether, their caller, and the many angels who helped out. Agape Squares, Seaside Squares, Dancing Dolphins and Swinging Squares have also conducted Square Dance Classes recently. TNT Rounds & Grand Square Rounds have been holding Round Dance Classes regularly. Thanks to all who have invested their time and energies to promote Square & Round Dancing in NW Florida and throughout the State of Florida. We all know what a fun activity Square & Round dancing can be and we want to continue to share it with others. We are always thrilled to have new dancers complete their classes and join our ranks. We need to encourage them to dance regularly and also become Angels for our new classes.

The Billy Bowlegs Dance is going to be held on May 30th @ PASARDA Hall in Ft Walton Beach. Nationally known caller Elmer Sheffield of Tallahassee & ESP Records and Stuart Phinney from Hosford, FL will be our featured Caller(s) for the dance. This will be a high energy dance so be sure to bring your thinking cap & track shoes with you. Seaside Squares will be hosting the July Jamboree on July 18th & their 52nd Anniversary Dance on August 15th. Both of these events will be held at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Northwest Association will hold their 41st Roundup at Lewis School in Valparaiso, FL on October 30 & 31.

For those of you who are venturing north to Springfield, MA to attend the 64th National Square & Round Dance Convention, we wish you safe travels, fun dancing and awesome fellowship! We wish we were going but we can't make it this year.

As usual, one or more of the Northwest Clubs dance almost every night of the week and there are fun dances almost every Friday night at Ragon Hall in Pensacola and other sites in our area. No matter where you are this month, get out and dance!!

Alec & Kay Schmidt, President
Northwest Association

West Coast: Penny Green

It's hard to give this report and remain upbeat about what's happening in the West Coast Association. I feel like I'm treading against the current in a river but here goes.

Since the beginning of my term as president, we have been operating without a secretary and a sunshine chairman so I have been taking minutes while conducting meetings and sending out cards (and there have been a lot of those over the past few months!). I have talked to several people personally, announced many times that we need to fill these positions, and have written in my president's messages and the DANCERgram that we need volunteers to fill these positions. Guess what? I'm just being trampled by all the volunteers!

Our 40th Annual Fall Fun Fest was held in November with Jerry Biggerstaff and Keith Stevens calling and Karen Fisher cueing. Big name callers and cuers, very reasonable prices, free parking and free camping, and yet we went in the hole! We have a problem in our area, and maybe you have it in yours too, if they don't know a caller they won't go to the dance. Now all of us here probably know who Jerry Biggerstaff is, but he's not in our area very much and most of the dancers don't know him by name. We have had the same FFF chairman and co-chairman for several years because no one will step up and take the chairmanship.

Caller Art Springer retired last December, Caller George Varney has retired due to cancer, Callers Bob Ellis and Dan Wilkerson passed away, Caller Phil Harris retired last year, Caller Howard Cole retired and moved out of the area, and Cuer Karen Fisher retired at the end of last year. Cuer Charlie Lovelace has retired from teaching but continues to cue.

In the past few years we have lost Spinning Wheels that was about 45 – 50 years old, Ding-A-Ling Squares in Riverview, Sun-N-Fun in Sarasota, Bay Area Twirlers (BATS) in Brandon that would have been celebrating their 52nd anniversary this year, Ft. Meade Squares, and Glen Haven Squares in Zephyrhills. I thought Cloverleaf Leprechauns in Brooksville would be folding at the end of their season but they are going to try it one more year.

Even with all of this we continue to have several new dancer classes with good numbers, but after the classes are finished where do the dancers go? I'm the class coordinator for my home club. I bring in new members as fast as we lose them.

Some of our clubs that have danced year-round for many years are being forced to become seasonal clubs as they can't cover their expenses during the summer. Strawberry Square, even as large as it is, is one of those clubs.

We had a membership dance at Shufflin' Squares in Lake Wales and one at Palace Promenaders in Arcadia. Both were well attended (10 – 12 squares) and we were able to gain a few new members at both dances.

We have an excellent relationship with the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association. Their members volunteer their time at all but one of our membership dances. The caller and cuer for the President's Ball are under contract. They have an annual clinic and this year they held in February the same weekend as our membership dance and at the same location. They held their clinic in the morning, all of their attendees came to our dance in the afternoon and many of them called and cued for us, and then they went back to their clinic. Ross Howell was their clinician and he is booked for our next Fall Fun Fest. He called a tip or two which gave everyone an opportunity to hear his calling and hopefully they will want to come to our next Fall Fun Fest to dance to him again.

We don't hold membership dances during the summer due to low attendance. Our next dance will be the President's Ball on September 20th. We have eliminated our VIP Dance which is where we recognized our volunteers. We will now include that in the President's Ball as well as introduce our new officers (if we have any).

Our 41st Fall Fun Fest will be in Bartow November 13-14 with Ross Howell and Tim Marriner calling and Jimmy and Carol Griffin cueing. The Slocums, Baxters, and I have ribbons this weekend if anyone wants to purchase them.

Even with all these drawbacks, some of us keep our chins up and continue promoting, visiting, attending conventions and festivals and trying to come up with new ways to recruit new dancers and retain the ones we have. I hope we get out of this slump soon so I can keep dancing if I ever get to retire!

Respectfully submitted,
Penny T. Green, President

Central – Ailene Picheco

CFA is down in membership. There are fewer dancers and clubs are finding it difficult to continue dancing. Find places for our 5th Saturday dances has also been a challenge - because it is on a Saturday night, the cost of rental is very high. There are also fewer clubs to sponsor the dances.

Our next dance is this coming Saturday, May 30th, at the First United Methodist Church in Cocoa. We will have a meeting at Kay's BBQ at 4 pm before the dance and everyone is welcome to attend.

I am looking for a venue in or near Orlando for our next dance in August.

And maybe a club in the Ocala area for October.

The **Casselberry Hoedowners**, with Gene McCullough and Dick Nordine, always have a good crowd and some fun dances every Sunday afternoon.

The **Heel & Toe** in St Cloud meet Monday nights with Bill Boyd. They will be closed for 3 weeks in June. It is always best to call to make sure they are dancing.

Orange Blossom Squares sends articles to our Quarterly and they have a good lineup of callers every Sunday. Their Cuers alternate weeks.

Whirl & Twirl is still active. They had a fun New Year's Eve dance, a very successful recycle sale in February and a Mystery Dinner Party.

There is a new Camper's club in south Brevard; the **Florida RoadRunners**, Chapter 193.

You can contact Sonny McCartney for information on their camping schedule.

Granada Squares has a good size class. I have not heard from other clubs. The Canaveral Squares were dark for 6 months, but are starting classes in June at two locations on different days and times. Will see how it goes.

Our Shamrock Swing will be March 18 & 19, 2016 at the Elks Lodge in Titusville. The Callers are Ron Libby and Larry Belcher. And the cuers are Don & Linda Hichman. Stop by the table in the hallway and pick up a flyer.

We'll be looking for you.

I want to thank our Producers, Jack & Barbara Hoffman for a star-studded Production and we look forward to Sweet 16 in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco

Northeast – Pat McMillan

Northeast stays busy year round. Spring is behind us and we are now working on a new association wide plan for recruits and retention.

Northeast has attended 8 club graduations adding 50 plus dancers. We still have several pending. We continue to offer an additional \$100.00 for a second yearly club graduation and we expect there will be more second graduations in our immediate future.

We are working on communications. It is an important work in progress.

Most clubs hold monthly special dances and they are very well attended. Such as: Presidents Dance with Tim Mariner, Chili Cook off, City Rescue Mission, Dreams Come True, just to name a few.

We have 6 clubs that dance on Tuesday nights. We held our very first Dance 5th Tuesday night Dance where all Tuesday clubs come together on that night. It was a great success. It will be held round robin style so that all clubs and their caller can participate. The idea is to keep thinking of fun ways to get together and something wonderful will happen.

Shirley White, our beloved Florida Federation Delegate passed a short while ago. In our term as presidents we could always look to Shirley for much needed help and guidance. I cannot recall a single time when she gossiped about anyone or had a mean thing to say. For Northeast her quiet leadership style will be sorely missed.

As we move through the hot days of summer don't be lazy. Keep that body moving and those feet dancing. Please come to visit us soon.

See you on the dance floor.

Lamar and Pat McMillan Presidents
NEFSARDA

Southeast: Steve Adler

Scotty Sharrer's Basic and Mainstream class will conclude shortly and the graduates who have not left for the summer will begin learning Plus. Sessions will continue through the summer. We hope that a new teaching cycle will begin again in January. Jack Lewis has been running two classes: a beginning workshop in Hollywood and an A1 workshop in Boynton Beach. The beginning workshop has now merged with the Jackpot Squares. Members of both the Jackpot Squares and the Hi Cs serve as angels. The A1 workshop has concluded. However, Jack periodically invites those who completed workshop to attend Hollywood Squares dances on Saturdays. On those nights he calls A1 tips with Plus-level singing calls. He will be offering an A2 workshop next January as well as A1 review sessions. By this time next year we should have a whole new group of advanced dancers.

Mike Doughty has an up and coming enthusiastic group at Baywinds in West Palm Beach. He has a number of people learning Mainstream and Plus. A few of the more experienced dancers are the angels for the

group. Recently, three of his more experienced dancers came along with Mike and Patty to dance with the Happy Squares at the Boynton Beach Civic Center.

Joanne and Ken Helton, as well as Mary and Chuck Ryall, have held very successful round dance classes – and they will be continuing sessions during the summer months. Joanne and Ken will be teaching Social Dancing until July and then will pick up again in October with Phases II through IV.

It's great to see these opportunities for bringing in new dancers as well as teaching "old" dancers new tricks!

The last two Southeast dances of the season were both held in the Briny Breezes auditorium. On March 22nd we had "Swing into Spring" with Mike Doughty as the host caller. Larry Chatos was the host cuer. Chris Phillips was the host caller for our final dance, "Summer Is Comin'", May 3rd. Phyllis Kent was the host cuer. Many of the other callers and cuers in the Southeast participated at both of these dances, as well. We are anticipating that all of the Southeast dances will be at Briny for the foreseeable future. Possibly this will change when the Federation and the Associations can apply for and attain non-profit status. At that time, many of the venues we have used in the past may again be affordable.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of two of our long time dancers. Vivian Ziccardi passed away shortly after her 98th birthday. This wonderful, cheerful woman danced for many years in Boynton Beach at both the Castoffs and the Happy Squares.

Our friend and fellow dancer Art Willing recently passed away at the age of 86. Art was awarded a Purple Heart as a member of the United States Army for service during the Korean War. Art enjoyed being a member of the Masons. He was a dedicated square dance community member. We will miss them both dearly.

Steve Adler, President

14. Publication Reports:

The Grapevine (NE): Bill Morgan No report

Keepin' Posted (C): Ailene Picheco

Because our membership is going down and we do not have enough for bulk postage, our Quarterly Magazine will be sent by email beginning with the October issue.

Anyone who does not have email, or prefers a printed copy, can still have it sent through the US Post Office.

Last printing was 105 copies. And half of those were sent to organizations and other publishers.

I would like to hear from more clubs in the Central Association.

I try to include information pertinent to the central area.

There is a "Blast From The Past" section that highlights articles from past issues.

Information on clubs. (always need updates)

Pictures from dancers and clubs.

The minutes from the CFA meeting.

Special articles from different groups such as: American Callers Association (ACA), Alliance for Round Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS), American Square Dance Magazine, United Square Dance of America (USDA).

And some jokes.

Keepin Posted seems to be in competition with Bow & Swing. Both publications have lots of information for dancers.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco
Editor, Keepin' Posted

Panhandle Press (NW): Terri Wilaby No report.

West Coast Dancer (WC): Ed Henning No report.

Bow & Swing: Bill Boyd

First let me thank all of you for your prayers, support and kind wishes and thoughts during the past year while JoAnn was in her cancer treatments. JoAnn is in remission and will be on maintenance Chemo for the next five years, The prognosis is good.

Bow & Swing is alive and well. We still have just around one thousand subscribers and mail additional books each month. Bow and Swing works to continue to promote the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention as do all the other state publications. My only comment here is that its takes more than just printed media and online media to promote huge events as the state convention. It takes a combined effort of all dancers encouraging their fellow dancers to attend. It takes clubs state wide to take a stance and close down for this period of time.

Is your club listed in the where to dance section? I find that several clubs throughout the state forgo this opportunity to expose themselves to the reading public. The reason, it costs \$15.00 per year. The excuse, our club cannot afford this onerous expense in an attempt to lure in one additional couple per year to cover the cost. When ask why I charge for this listing, my reply is, "This keeps visiting dancers from calling clubs which are no longer dancing.

Many clubs are now sending pictures, most including captions. This of course keeps Randy and me from using creative captioning.

We at Bow and Swing will continue to publish your charity dances and some of your special events free of charge. Please try and get the information to us at least one month in advance or sooner of possible.

Bill Boyd

15. State Convention Reports:

2015 Convention: Jack and Barb Hoffman

Since we didn't have (or take the time) to write a report at the convention, I am writing this after the convention (way after, Aug 25th). I apologize for this.

All I want to say at this time is THANK YOU all for helping to make this a successful convention. This can only happen through the cooperation and hard work of many talented and cooperative people. This includes, obviously, all the committee directors and members, the callers, and the cuers but also all the dancers who attended, the venders, and the convention center employees.

If I have left anybody out of this list, I thank them also.

Respectfully Submitted
Jack & Barbara Hoffman
Producers 2015 Convention

2016 Convention: Kathy McKinney, Linda Tester, & Diane Syphard

The long awaited day has come....our Kick-Off is this evening! We want to thank all the associations for coming together to make it happen! Since we are an "All-State Convention" we need the support of all 5 Associations! And we appreciate their support immensely!

Please attend the Kick-Off! We hope we will convey the FUN we are going to put into our Theme..."Sweet 16". We need everyone to make it SWEET!

Our last fund raiser was the Party Weekend that the Central hosts for their part of state association fund raising. It was a fabulous weekend with lots and lots of FUN and Relaxation! A great combination! From what I hear...it was a very successful fund raiser as well! Thank You, Central Association!

Our tables are open for "business" here at the convention. As you know...NOW is the time to purchase your tickets for a discount! And we need the funds up front to operate. You know you can always cancel if need be....so PLEASE help and buy NOW!

Along with ribbons, we have shirts and buttons and candy and Raffle tickets to be sold. The drawing for the beautiful basket Cheryl Miller put together with "Sweets" representing all 5 associations along with \$116.00 cash will be given away tonight! Buy your tickets today...if you already have...buy more! ☺ Beginning tomorrow, we are starting a new raffle. It is a LARGE CUPCAKE with 16 Candles. Each candle is holding a gift card, a ribbon or cash! The total value of the Cupcake is \$516.00! Your Christmas Shopping could be DONE! This will be given away at the Northeast Fall Festival where this final Federation Meeting will be held this year.

We've saved the BEST for last.....today each association will be given a Traveling Artifact! These Amazing Artifacts were created by the NE Ways and Means Chairmen, Patrick & Joan Amarino! In this Artifact will be registration forms, tickets for the Large Cupcake Raffle, and CandyGram forms. What's a CandyGram? Well, it is a "Sweet" message you can send to someone special in your life you appreciate and want to give a little "Thank You" to! They are only \$2.00 and will be distributed at the convention next year! Wayne and Debbie Miller (who make our Peppermint Station for the NE in the Kick-Off...do NOT miss it) held a CandyGram Dance at one of our 5th Saturday Dances last year as a fund raiser for the state convention. It

was extremely successful! Buy one for someone you want to give something sweet to. You will enjoy the smile you put on their face!

They only thing left to say is...we are getting very nervous folks...we need your support to have a successful convention. Please help in any way you can! Don't forget...you are already going to be saving money...it is only a 2 Day Convention with a Trail End Dance. Three days of dancing altogether. Before you check out of your motel today....make reservations for next year!

Respectively Submitted,
Jack & Kathy McKinney
Walt & Dianne Syphard
Linda Tester

2017 Convention: Ray and Elsa Huddleston

Anita read the following report.

It is with a heavy heart that we write this report. We have just heard of the passing of Paul Miller and are profoundly sad over this loss for the family and all square dancers. Our sincere condolences go to Cheryl and the family.

We held our first convention meeting during the Shamrock Swing. Everything seems to be slowly falling into place. We were finally able to get a bank account opened and the seed money deposited. The logo has been finalized, and we are looking into ordering the T-shirts.

The recipe book is coming along well with a cutoff date of December 15. Snack type recipes can be emailed to Terri Little.

We are pleased that a Southeast dancer, Larry Zukerman, has volunteered as Vendor Chairman. He is the assistant chairman for 2016.

We are planning to have a second 2017 convention committee meeting during the Fall Fun Fest in Bartow November 13-14.

AND REMEMBER, IN 2017 **DANCE TO THE BEAT WITH HAPPY FEET!**

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
2017 Convention Chairmen

2018 Convention

The president announced that Lewis and Linda Wasserman have volunteered to be the 2018 convention chairmen.

16. Facilities: Don Slocum

All went well this year with the Lakeland Center and it was the last year of our three year contract with them.

A new contract has been signed for two day conventions (as voted on in February 2015) for Memorial Day Weekend, 2016 thru 2018. A copy of the contract has been given to the Chairmen for 2016 & 2017.

Respectfully Submitted
Don & Ann Slocum, Facilities Chairman

17. Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame - Bev Landwehr - Nothing new to report.

18. Historian Records: Terri Little

She has not received a whole lot of info. What she has received has been sent to Bruce Morgan and are available on the web site. She encouraged clubs to send her pictures of special dances and events.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Little

19. USDA Report: Dennis Taylor

The annual USDA meeting is held the Wednesday before the National Convention. This year it is on June 24. Florida will have 4 delegates at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis & Nancy Taylor

The president called on the Willis's for any messages from USDA.

Ed Willis reported that the delegates' information packages for this meeting have not been mailed and the delegates will need to pick them up at registration. The Willis's mentioned that many dancers do not know about USDA and we need to more to get the information out to the dancers.

20. USDA Insurance: Carol Poole

This time of the year the insurance program slows down. We should be getting new dancers from the classes that finished in May. It is important to remember once a class ends and the new dancers join the club they have to be paid for to be insured. The free insurance is only while they are in class. This is a nice benefit from the insurance company because of the percentage of class dropouts.

Four of the insured clubs from last year have failed to enroll this year. One club became a caller run club. One is a small club whose members are all members of other insured clubs. The remaining two I have no idea why they did not renew.

Last year we had seven reported accidents. Three submitted claims. So far this year only one reported accident. A claim form has been mailed to the insurance company.

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Insurance Report May 24, 2015**

Beginning Balance	January 31, 2015	\$
Income		
Central		\$
Northeast		\$
Northwest		\$
Southeast		\$

	West Coast	\$	
Total Income		\$	\$
Expenses			
	USDA Insurance	\$	
	Carol Poole - Admin Expense	\$	
	Central Association - Over Payment	\$	
	West Coast Association - Over Payment	\$	
Total Expense		\$	
Ending Balance	April 30, 2015		\$

As April 30, 2015	CLUBS		DANCERS
	Central	15	574
	Northeast	14	370
	Northwest	1&10	240
	Southeast	1	71
	West Coast	8	254
Total for 2014	2 Associations	47 Clubs	1509

Submitted by Randy & Carol Poole
Federation Insurance Chairman

21. ASCAP/BMI: Bob and Maria Spence

The BMI bill of \$155.00 was paid by Bob & Maria Spence and reimbursed by Dennis Taylor, treasurer for the 2016th Convention.

The ASCAP bill of \$123.00 was paid by Bob & Maria Spence and reimbursed by Dennis Taylor.

Squarely yours,
Bob & Maria Spence
ASCAP/BMI Chairs for the
Florida Federation of Square Dancers
flspence@earthlink.net

22. ARTS: Ailene Picheco

A major source of operating funds for non-profit organizations is donations. The ARTS is no different. We have been fortunate over the years to have received donations from many concerned dancers and dance organizations. Several years ago we received a very generous donation from the Playground Area Square & Round Dance Association, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

The vast majority of work by the ARTS is done by volunteers. This reduces overall operating costs, however, there are some expenses which must be covered by donations. These expenses consist primarily of Education Grants and other grants to worthy projects which have been reviewed and determined to be of substantial benefit to the dance activity.

We have recently been approved to receive donations through the Amazon Smile web site. The following are features of this donation program:

You shop and Amazon Donates -

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

To sign up to begin having your Amazon purchases qualify for donations to the ARTS simply take the following steps:

- 1) Go to the AmazonSmile web site: <https://smile.amazon.com/>
- 2) Enter your email address
- 3) If you do not have an AmazonSmile account - create an account
- 4) If you have an AmazonSmile account Enter password
- 5) Sign in to your AmazonSmile account
- 6) Verify the "Supporting" organization is:
"Alliance Of Round Traditional and Square - Dance Inc"
- 7) Purchase products as you normally would.

Submitted by Ailene Picheco

for Jerry Reed, Executive Director, ARTS

23. Old Business:

Working weekend report from Public Awareness, Publicity, SD Preservation, History, and Education

Judy Anderson presented a report from Cheryl concerning the design of a business card for the use of the Federation.

This report is a continuation of the Working Weekend Committee break out meeting. One of the many topics & ideas we discussed was producing a "business card" that square dancers could utilize when meeting & discussing square or round dancing with people. This card was designed to allow you to write your personal contact information on the back and indicate your Association's website to direct the person or couples where they can get more information.

Two designs were prepared for your review. At this time the cost for 5000 business cards would approximately be \$148.13. Please note if we do place our order I will contact Vistaprint and confirm that the information on the back of the card will be readable prior to placing the order.

I would like to make a motion; that the Federation order this promotional card to give out to each of the Associations to assist with promoting Square & Round Dancing in their area.

If this motion passes, I then would like to have a vote on the Federation Delegates preference on the design choices #1 or #2.

Respectfully,

Judy Anderson & Cheryl Miller
Working Weekend Committee Members

Motion seconded by Ann Slocum. Motion passed

Penny Green made a motion we choose card # 2. Seconded Motion defeated.

Don Slocum made a motion that we accept Card #1. Motion seconded by Bruce Morgan. Motion passed

Bid for 2021 National Convention –

Randy Poole brought a report on this item. The NEC requires that there be a sponsoring organization to hold a National Convention. Several sites have been looked at to determine if they have the interest and facilities to hold a convention. Today the Tampa Convention Center and the city of Tampa have sent a representative to tell us how Tampa can help us if we decide to sponsor the convention. Randy introduced Ms. Brittany Callahan of Tampa to provide us with information on Tampa and the Convention Center.

After her presentation there was a time of questions and answers.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul & Cheryl Miller, Committee Chairman

Bruce Morgan made the following motion.

I would like to make a motion that the exploratory committee chaired by Past President Cheryl Miller, continue to research the possibility of Florida making a bid on the 2021 National Convention to be held in Florida. This committee will report back at the upcoming Federation Fall Meeting that will be held during the Fall Festival on November 22, 2016 in Jacksonville Beach.

Motioned seconded by Randy Poole. Motion carried.

24. New Business:

Don Slocum reported on the brochures put in the welcome centers. The Welcome Center distributed varying numbers of brochures, the results are:

I-10 - 100 of 1,000

US 231 - 500 of 2,000

Capital official Welcome Center - No report on 300 given

I-75 - 1,000 of 2,000

I-95 - 350 of 3000

We paid \$652.85 for Oct. thru June in all 5 stations. A full year at all 5 stations is \$811.30, individually it is \$180.29 each. We currently have enough brochures for at least another full year and they will continue to store them for us.

They suggest availability all year as summer is their busiest season, and we don't want to miss out on those people that may be moving down here during the summer months and looking for things to do when they get down here. We could save some money by doing another October to June, because it is our slowest time.

Don Slocum made a motion that we put the brochures in all five stations for October thru June at a cost of \$652.85. Ken Brown seconded the motion. Following a time of discussion Don amended his motion to do it for a full year at a cost of \$811.30. Ken Brown agreed to the change. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Slocum

Nominating Committee -

The president has appointed Val Newsome to be chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2015-2016 officers. Val has selected Randy Poole, Ken and Sandy Brasfield to serve on the committee.

25. Announcements:

The next Federation meeting will be held in Jacksonville Beach at The Hampton Inn on November 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to Adjourn – George Knapp made a motion to adjourn. Ken Brown seconded the motion.
Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy & Dennis Taylor
Secretary