

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Hampton Inn Jacksonville, FL
Sunday November 22, 2015 – 9 a.m.

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by President Anita Taylor at 9:05a.m. at the Hampton Inn in Jacksonville, Florida

2. Invocation: The Invocation was given by Walt Syphard.

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:

Donna & Dave Seay	NEFSARDA
Suzie Moon	NEFSARDA
Paula & Bill Dion	NEFSARDA
Sheila Reid	Central Association
Bill & Linda Reid	Central Association
Sally Galic	SEA
Virginia Bomhold	NEFSARDA
Susan Snider	Round Dance Council

6. Minutes of May 24, 2015 Meeting:

Judy Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Walt Syphard seconded the motion.
 Motion passed

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

Ray & Elsa Huddleston passed out the Financial report.
 The reports are below. The Treasurers Report will be filed for audit.

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS TREASURERS REPORT
May 8, 2015 – November 8, 2015

BEGINNING BALANCE – ALL ACCOUNTS as of 5/8/15			
Wells Fargo Checking Account			
Insurance			
Wells Fargo CD 2			
SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS			
WELLS FARGO CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance			
RECEIPTS			
Polk County Visitor’s Bureau Check			
Five Association Dues Paid			

Interest			
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
DISBURSEMENTS			
Check #1573 – Cheryl Miller			
Check #1574 – Florida Welcome Center			
Check #1575 – Ronald McDonald House			
Check #1576 – 61 st FSSRDC			
Check #1577 – USDA Dues			
Check #1578 – Cheryl Miller			
Check #1579 – Cheryl Miller			
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			
Checking Account Ending Balance			
WELLS FARGO CD			
Beginning Balance			
Interest			
Ending Balance (Expires 9/18/16)			
WELLS FARGO SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance			
Interest			
Savings Account Ending Balance			
ENDING BALANCE – ALL ACCOUNTS (As of 11/8/15)			
Wells Fargo Checking Account			
Insurance			
Wells Fargo CD			
Savings Account			
CURRENT TOTAL – ALL ACCOUNTS			

CONVENTION FUND
TREASURERS REPORT
 May 8, 2015 – November 8, 2015

BEGINNING BALANCE as of 5/8/15			
Convention Fund Checking Account			
OTHER ASSETS AS OF 5/8/15			
61 ST State Convention Loan Seed/Lakeland Center Deposit			
62 ND State Convention/Lakeland Center			

63 rd State Convention/Lakeland Center			
TOTOAL OTHER ASSETS			
TOTAL ALL ASSETS AS OF 5/8/15			
LIABILITIES			
Florida Callers Association			
Round Dance Council of Florida			
Florida Federation of Square Dancers			
TOTAL LIABILITIES			
CONVENTION FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance as of 5/8/15			
RECEIPTS			
None			
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
DISBURSEMENTS			
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			
CONVENTION FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (11/8/15)			
OTHER ASSETS AS OF 11/8/15			
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 11/8/15			
LIABILITIES			
Florida Callers Association			
Round Dance Council of Florida			
Florida Federation of Square Dancers			
TOTAL LIABILITIES AS OF 11/8/15			

Respectfully submitted,
Ray & Elsa Huddleston, Treasurers

The President reported that Randy Poole was in charge of the annual audit. Jack Hoffman assisted him. They found everything to be in order.

8. Parliamentary Report: Cheryl Miller

The Florida Federation Showcase was displayed at the 64th National Convention held in Springfield, MA. Thank you to the volunteers who worked at our display table Thursday – Saturday between the hours of 10-noon. Our giveaways of alligators, oranges and Florida buttons were well received. We only have one box of oranges and a few buttons and alligators left. A special thank you to the Poole's and Hoffman's who assisted with getting our display to the 64th Nationals.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Miller
Parliamentarian

9. Sunshine Report: Penny Green

Get well card to
Don Slocum

10. Correspondence: Anita Taylor

Anita received a thank you from the Miller family for the donation to the Ronald McDonald Foundation.

11. Florida Caller Liaison: Dave Muller

No Report

12. Florida Cuer Liaison: Susan Snider

Susan report that the Round Dance Council is doing well. She is making plans for the cuers for the state convention. She has a good group of cuers lined up for this event.

13. Association Reports:

Northwest: Alec & Kay Schmidt

All is well in NW Florida. 2015 is coming to a close and we are looking forward to an exciting 2016.

Roy Bernier and Miriam Merriweather, our newest NW Callers, are really coming along. It is really exciting to see the progress they are making. Miriam cues at PASARDA Hall in Ft Walton Beach on Tuesday nights, teaches beginning squares on Wednesday night and square dance on Thursday nights for the Sand Spurs. Roy Bernier calls for the Dancing Dolphins at St Simons Episcopal Church on Tuesday evenings in Ft Walton Beach. All of our new callers are active in teaching Basic, MS and Plus level Square Dancing. Agape Squares in Niceville with Berlon Graham as their caller continues to teach Basic, MS & Plus level Square Dancing. Capital Twirlers with Elmer Sheffield as their caller dance on Monday evenings @ the Senior Center in Tallahassee. Seaside Squares & TNT Rounds continue to provide Square & Round Dancing opportunities at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Swinging Squares and Grand Square Rounds with Cuer Sandy Sturgis dance weekly at Grand Square Hall in Panama City.

Since our last meeting there have been some really FUN DANCES in the Panhandle. The Billy Bowlegs Dance was held on May 31st @ PASARDA Hall in Ft Walton Beach. Elmer Sheffield & Stuart Phinney were our callers for the dance. Seaside Squares held their 52nd Anniversary Dance on August 20th @ Ragon Hall in Pensacola. The Northwest Association Annual Roundup was just held October 30 & 31 at Lewis School in Valparaiso, FL. We really appreciate all of you who attended this year's Roundup. NW Association officers for 2016 were installed at the Round Up. We are looking forward to 2016 with great anticipation.

NW Association & NW Callers and Cuers are hosting a benefit Luau/Dance on January 23, 2016. This dance will be to support the 2016 Florida State Convention. Seaside Squares will be hosting the January Shine Dance on January 16, 2016. Dave Mueller will be the caller and Terri Wilaby the Cuer for the dance.

As usual, one or more of the Northwest Clubs dances 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!!!! If you are in the Panhandle, come see us. You can also join us on Facebook @ (Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association) if you like.

Alec & Kay Schmidt, President
Northwest Association

West Coast: Penny Green

Well, the West Coast Association is still in operation for another year!

Right up to the time for elections we had no idea who would be in office or if we would even have any officers. Only the treasurer had agreed to remain in office; this is about their seventh year of being treasurer. I won't go into all the specifics of how the election went, but we did end up with a partial slate of officers – a president, vice president, and treasurer. We elected a president and a vice president. After the elections a secretary was appointed who resigned a few weeks later. The vice president has just resigned. Our new president is Flo Ormsbee and John and Lynne Scott are treasurers.

We have had to cut back on the number of membership dances we hold each year due to lack of interest filling vacant county rep positions and difficulty finding locations that don't cost an arm and a leg. A year or two ago we implemented a procedure where the county reps do the "leg work" to locate a venue and schedule an emcee. We also tried to get them to collect the dance fees and make announcements. Very quickly we found out that wasn't going to work! We also decided not to require that every officer be at every membership dance hoping people would take an interest in being a county rep if there was less work. That didn't work. We also had to dispel the "rumor" that there were a lot of hotel stays if you were an officer!

Our 41st Annual Fall Fun Fest was held last weekend with Tim Marriner and Ross Howell calling and Jimmy and Carol Griffin cueing. I don't know yet what the registration was or how we did financially. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. We also had a street dance in downtown Bartow on Saturday which was requested by the City of Bartow.

Some of you may not like to hear what I am about to report, but...

Back in 2005 when I was president of West Coast, a gay/lesbian square dance club (Suncoast Squares) was formed in St. Pete and they asked to join West Coast; we accepted them with open arms. During that time we received word that another club in Ft. Lauderdale, the Mustangs, was interested in joining West Coast too. They had asked to join the Southeast Association but were turned down. We told them we would be happy to have them join us but nothing transpired.

Banner raids were new to them but they soon got involved in that and visit most or all the clubs in the Tampa Bay area. A very few of them belong to other clubs in the area but many of them have

been hesitant to attend our dances or participate in anything with us because of their fear of how they would be accepted and treated. I have been making a visit or two a year to their dances trying to encourage them to join us more often. Earlier this year Jenny and I visited their dance. I was given the opportunity to make announcements and this turned into a small group discussion about them attending the convention. They expressed concern about how they would be accepted and treated and about attire. I explained that I couldn't guarantee that everyone would accept them and that it would be like it is out in the world, some people will accept them and some won't. I told them I didn't think there would be a problem with their club outfits but that I would have to check with the convention chairman. Their club outfits are black dress slacks, a white shirt, and a black vest.

When Kathy, Jack, and Linda came to the Clinic Dance at Strawberry Square in October, I talked to them about it and it was agreed that square dance attire would be preferred but casual is acceptable. We had a membership dance scheduled that Sunday at the home of Suncoast Squares and when Kathy found out about it, they decided to stay over that night and attend the dance. Sunday at the dance I relayed the answer to the Suncoast Squares' vice president and that afternoon we sold Fall Fun Fest ribbons to a square of their dancers and I believe the same number of ribbons for the convention! SUCCESS! Don't forget that buying ribbons in advance means they are coming for the entire weekend. They told me they were having fun at the Fall Fun Fest and I didn't hear any reports of problems.

I talked to Chris Phillips yesterday morning and relayed all this to him. I asked him to encourage the Mustangs to come to the convention and to let them know that Suncoast Squares members will be there.

I've never danced with the Mustangs but I can tell you the Suncoast Squares members are very good dancers and several of them are very hard workers for square dancing. They will be good additions to the West Coast Association.

We have a dancer who has only been in the area for a short time that has offered to maintain a Facebook page for the West Coast Association. She has been and still is maintaining a Facebook page for Kitsap Squares in Washington state so she has experience doing this.

We will again be dancing at the Florida State Fair in February. We have done this for over 25 years. This was started by the late Joanne Lewis; her husband, Merle, continues to coordinate this event. All square and round dancers and callers and cuers are invited to participate. We are scheduled in the Exhibition Building and dance from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. We do some dancing and we do some tips where we get people from the audience to participate. All clubs are encouraged to bring their class flyers. The Fair gives us approximately 280 free tickets for the dancers. There have also been reports that if you come to the front gate in square dance attire, they will let you in free. Although this is a fun thing to do I have a problem with them scheduling us on Senior Day. We need to be there on Family Day so we can recruit young families!

Did you know that square dancing is considered a sport? Every year for the past five plus years there has been a square dance activity at the Polk Senior Games which is like an Olympics type event for senior citizens. For about two weeks there are different events being held all over Polk

County – swimming, tennis, ballroom dancing, card games, running, etc. At the end there is an awards dinner. It is just like last square standing at our convention. You have to register as a square and be 50 or older to participate. Each team chooses a name and usually has matching outfits. We have Mainstream, Plus, and Advance levels and you can register for all three levels if you like. You do not have to be a resident of Polk County to participate. The square dance activity is held on Monday. There is a practice session from 1:00 – 1:30 .m. The competition is from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Then there is a free dance at 2:00 p.m. which is called by Keith Stevens and a guest caller. Keith is the coordinator for this event. Come check it out sometime. There are several people here who have participated – the Baxters, Akasons, and Slocums. If you have questions about participating in this event, just talk to one of them.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny T. Green, President

Central – Ailene Picheco

Central Florida Association currently has 28 active clubs.
We also have a handicapable club in Daytona Beach.
All of the clubs are back dancing after the summer break.
A few have classes and some are waiting until January to start.
There is always room for more students. The problem is where to find them.

Our Central Website has been re-designed – Thank you Bruce.
Previously it had several layers of information, and lots of duplication.
Now it is one page with links to other pages. Much simpler.
There are still many corrections and updates to make, but it is getting better.

We often have out of state visitors to Florida and they get most of their information to dances on the internet.
If you see incorrect information on any of the websites here in Florida, please let someone know.
It may be Bruce, our Federation webmaster, or an Association President or any of the Club Presidents, depending on the site you are looking at. In fact, on the bottom of each page on the Federation website, there is a link to the Webmaster for any questions and/or corrections.

Our Annual Association dance, the Shamrock Swing, is scheduled for March 18 and 19 in Titusville. There is no host hotel, but there are many located nearby at the corner of I-95 and Hwy 50.
The dance will be held at the Elks Lodge on Columbia Blvd. The callers are Ron Libby and Larry Belcher. The cuer is Don & Linda Hichman.
There will be dancing all day Friday and all day Saturday.

Because of the high cost of Rentals and the decline in dancers, the CFA board has voted to cancel the Shamrock Swing after the 2016 dance.

According to the calendar, the next 5th Saturday is in January. Our normally scheduled dance has been cancelled so we can all enjoy the Florida Winter Festival.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting in February.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco

Northeast – Pat McMillan

I would like to thank all of you for helping Northeast in making our fall festival a wonderful success. It was a wonderful success. It was a great turn out of happy dancers. Northeast continues to smile eat and fellowship. Our banner raid and visitations have reached over 150 for this year 2015. We are always met with warm friendly smiles and hardy welcomes. We continue to feel that this truly contributes and helps to maintain the lifeblood of square dancing, having fun together. We include for our dancing most of our clubs have special dances at least once a month and we have great fifth Saturday dances, thanks to our VP Wayne and Debbie. We have approximately 60 new student recruits for the graduation year 2016. At last count we are retaining 47% of our new dancers. The 2016 Florida State Convention is our net major event for Northeast to focus on. Our three great chairpersons Dianne, Kathy and Linda have already been hard at work, I am sure it will be a great success. It was our great pleasure to serve as Presidents of Northeast for the last 3 years. We would like to thank all of the Florida Federation for your warm welcome and your generous gracious help through out these three years. So from Lamar and I we would like to say Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a have a wonderful 2016. Thank you.

Lamar and Pat McMillan Presidents
NEFSARDA

Southeast: Steve Adler

We came, we danced.... We had lots of fun!

New classes – Expanding on what I reported in May (not as briefly as I had hoped – but that’s a good thing) – Scotty Sharrer will be starting new beginner’s classes in January in both Boynton Beach and Deerfield Beach. Scotty’s beginning class from last January is now working on Plus. In Boynton Beach, Jack Lewis will be reviewing A1 and starting an A2 class, also in January. Once he finishes the class, Jack hopes to start an Advanced club in Boynton Beach. Chris Phillips has just begun a new beginner’s class in Wilton Manors. Jack’s beginning class in Hollywood has now moved on to Plus. And we do have some eager students. Four from Jack’s Plus group also come to Scotty’s workshops and two who have been learning from Chris have been attending Scotty’s workshop as well. I only wish that more new dancers would recognize the benefits of dancing to as many callers as possible. One additional note – Chris Phillips has been running Intro to C2 dances in Hollywood to bring our C1 dancers to a new level. On the round dance side – Joanne and Ken Helton have continued their Tuesday afternoon workshops and dances in Boynton Beach, while Zail Greenbain has just started round dances in Delray Beach. At last report Mary and Chuck Ryall also have round dance classes, workshops, and dances. We are hoping that the influx of new dancers will exceed the outflow.

Our schedule for the current season is now set. All of the dances will be at the Briny Breezes Auditorium, sponsored by the Briny Breezes Square Dance Club. Our Membership Dance was held on September 20th. Scotty was the host caller; Jack was the host cuer. Our “Holiday Dance” will be on December 20th with Jack as the host caller. Zail will be the host cuer. Our schedule wouldn’t permit our usual “Toy and Cookie” dance where we collected toys for the children served by ChildNet, so we will be collecting toys at all our club dances in November and early December. ChildNet is an organization that coordinates services in Broward and Palm Beach Counties for children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. The SEA has been collecting toys, books, games, etc. to be donated to ChildNet for several years. We will

also have dances on January 16th (the "Snowflake Frolic – our annual fundraiser), February 14th, and April 10th. All the dances will be on Sunday afternoons except for the January 16th dance, which will be on a Saturday night.

In looking at the agenda for this meeting, I noted that all the Associations were going to present a report about their newsletter – except for the Southeast. That will change sometime early next year. One of our members, Cheryl Dodes, has volunteered to coordinate the publication of an online newsletter. We are looking forward to its arrival. I have described how we are bringing new dancers into the fold. Unfortunately, I must also mention the passing of three of our dancers: Tom Diehl, Frank Marshall, and Marian Boyd. Tom and Dee were newer dancers who truly enjoyed the challenge of dancing and the friendships they made through their participation in the Happy Squares Club. Everyone thought of Tom as a great guy! He will indeed be missed. Frank Marshall was a valued and long-time member of SEA. Frank and his wife, Gloria, were avid camper dancers. They danced most recently in Hollywood with Jack Lewis' Hollywood Squares. Marian Boyd was our most senior member of SEA. Jack Lewis, who knew Marian best, contributed the following eulogy:

Marian would have been 105 on November 14th. She lived in Wynmoor, Coconut Creek, Florida. She square and round danced for at least 25 years or more up until a few years ago, when she started to feel a little unstable on her legs. She also was a terrific tennis player into her 90's, an avid swimmer and ballroom dancer. She came on several of our square dance cruises and along with her partner, "tripped the light fantastic" ballroom dancing until well past midnight. She was extremely sharp and "with it" until the very end. Unfortunately, she had a fall approximately 6 weeks ago, which started a downward spiral, and ultimately resulted in her death. She was beloved by everyone, well respected and admired as a role model throughout the square dance community. We once asked her "to what do you attribute your longevity?" She said that along with clean living and her activities, she had a martini every night before dinner. It was obvious that she also had a great sense of humor. Jack had planned a dance which was to be in honor of Marian's 105th birthday. Instead we will be having a memorial dance in her honor on Sunday afternoon, November 29th, at the Briny Auditorium. Jack will be calling and cueing.

Steve Adler, President

Elsa Huddleston mentioned that the SE Association has sent \$200.00 to support the convention.

14. Publication Reports:

The Grapevine (NE): Bill Morgan No report

Keepin' Posted (C): Ailene Picheco

Keepin' Posted is now sent to members by email.

Members may request a printed copy by US mail if they wish.

All clubs and complimentary organizations receive a printed copy by mail.

Complimentary issues and printed copy requests mailed were 87

Member's issues sent by email were 23

Pages are kept at 48 because of postage.

I'm still looking for more articles and pictures from the clubs.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco
Editor, Keepin' Posted

Panhandle Press (NW): Terri Wilaby No report.

West Coast Dancer (WC): Ed Henning.

Dennis Taylor read the following report:

Very little changes to the WC Dancer format over short periods of time, however you will note two recent changes. First the home page has a new look and secondly our Ad rates have been reduced significantly. These will be found on page 4 of the October 2015 issue. Of course, special yealy dances sponsored by any WC Associatioin and all Federation Ads for the State Convention are always at no charge. The WC Dancer is still published quaterly and posted on it's Web site www.flwestcoastdancer.com

Thank you:
Ed Henning, Editor

Bow & Swing: Bill Boyd No Report

15. State Convention Reports:

2015 Convention: Jack and Barb Hoffman

This will be the final report for the final 3 day state convention. However, the jury is still out on this.

We wish to thank everyone for a successful convention. We could not have done this without every ones help, including, but not limited to the Dancers, Committee members Directors, Callers, Cuers, and Producers.

We started the final distribution of funds on October 10th, when we attended the Round Dance Council's annual meeting in Plant City and gave the Cuers their check. Then we attended the Florida Callers Associations Annual dance at Strawberry Squares on October 17th and gave the Callers their Check. Everyone else either has received or will receive their check today.

Please deposit your checks ASAP so the bank account can be closed with no complications.

We found that being General Chairman of a state convention was not as hard as we anticipated it would be. We believe this is due to the great help we had from everyone.

WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH

The distribution checks were passed out.

Jack & Barbara Hoffman
Producers, 61st FSDC

The President thanked Jack & Barbara for doing a wonderful job putting on the convention.

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

Since the last Federation meeting, we have been traveling EVERYWHERE! I MEAN EVERYWHERE!
However, good things have come out of our travels. One of the best things was our "Strike Up The Music,

We've Come To Dance" T-Shirts! Have you seen them? Do you have one? We got this idea from the Tennessee State Square and Round Dance Convention. They did it on their Trail End Dance and it was a HUGE SUCCESS! The shirts were bedazzled in every way possible...and some were just worn as they were purchased... I believe many dancers wear them everywhere and just wanted a regular shirt to wear. That is also a good idea...however, we think you should buy at least 2 so you can bedazzle one and keep one as is for everyday wear! Our Ways and Means Chairman, Cheryl Miller gave us the awesome idea of purchasing them in several different colors so that dancers can choose their preference, for example, "club color". The Northeast Ways and Means Asst Chairman, Joan Amarino has ordered and received our shirts. Joan has also helped Cheryl distribute and keep track of our Raffle tickets. Joan has been very busy!!! THANKS JOAN!

We know we've said this at our other meetings, however, when we travel around promoting the convention, we welcome and would LOVE for any of our Committee and/or Dancers to come with us! The more the merrier and it will show support of the convention at the dances we attend. I've always said, if you want people to come to your dance....you need to attend theirs!

At the Northeast Florida Square and Round Dance Fall Festival, the Cupcake Raffle worth \$516 was drawn and Fran Shoots from Winter Haven, Buttons & Bows WON the Raffle!

Speaking of Raffle Tickets.... Our newest Raffle will be presented at this meeting. It is very unique and we think everyone will LOVE IT! We are raffling a "Road Trip....Weekend Getaway.... Anniversary Celebration.... Or a Gift for someone very special! We have a "Suitcase packed and ready to Travel"! It includes a \$100.00 Gift Card to stay at any Motel (it is cash so you can use it for camping as well), along with a \$50.00 Shell Gas Card, Gift Cards for 2 FREE drinks at Starbucks, \$25.00 Gift Card for Bob Evans, \$25.00 Gift Card for Carrabbas, \$25.00 Gift Card for Cracker Barrel, 2 "Strike Up The Music We've Come To Dance" T-Shirts (so you can show just how much FUN Square Dancing is), toiletries, sunglasses, bottled water, snacks, wine glasses and a bottle of Wine to Celebrate your arrival. Oooops, don't let me forget to mention there is also \$100.00 COLD HARD CASH for spending! Total Value over \$416.00!! PLEASE PLEASE Purchase many tickets to help support your state convention...and hopefully WIN BIG!

Last month we met with our Caller Chairman, Charlie Pergrossi and Asst Dave Muller at the Florida Callers' Meeting where the Program for our convention was selected. We want to thank Charlie for leading such a well-organized meeting and we believe a SUPER PROGRAM was selected!

We want all associations to keep in mind Fund Raising! This is a STATE CONVENTION...it takes All 5 associations to put on a convention! There are sooooo many ways to fund raise! The Northwest is having a Benefit Dance on January 23rd. If you can, come and help them support it! The Central Association had their Party Weekend and presented us with a very generous check. If other associations are having benefit dances...please let us know so we can help promote it! Ask clubs in your association to help. Our particular club raises money by just going out to eat! (that's what we do best..LOL) We ask the restaurants to donate 20% of our total bill for our group. Sometimes they will give a gift card which a member can purchase and donate the money. So far we have raised well over \$200 with several months to go! Last year one club sold "CandyGrams" to a 5th Saturday Dance. This was such a GREAT IDEA, we incorporated it into our convention fundraising. On Saturday night we will have a "CandyGram Dance" and recipients will receive some candy at this dance. If you haven't purchased a CandyGram for someone you know is going to the convention...please do. We know you will put a smile on someone's face! Since our last meeting we have dedicated a new Hall for this year's convention. We call it the FUN HALL! Charlie Pergrossi came up with this name...we LOVE IT!. Julie Franciskato and her assistant Sheila Reid are Chairmen of this Hall. We will have our CandyGram Dance and a Dangle Dance, Plus and Mainstream Workshops and we have gotten a Line Dance Instructor, Dave Seay and a Contra Prompter, Susie Rudder,

along with Sarah Beth Pergrossi doing Zumba Fitness, Competition Squares and Hot Hash. We hope we have something for EVERYONE!

All the above sound TERRIFIC AND FANTASTIC....However, the downside is....we have NOT been able to sell ribbons!!! If people don't come, no matter what great things we do, it won't be successful! We have told dancers that if they purchase their tickets now, it will help us pay our bills as they come and if for ANY REASON they cannot attend, and they let us know by the day of the convention, 100% of their money will be refunded! What more can we say? Does everyone in this room have their ribbon?

Respectfully submitted,

Jack & Kathy McKinney
Walt & Dianne Syphard
Linda Tester

2017 Convention: Ray and Elsa Huddleston

Things are beginning to move forward at a steady clip.

Plans for the kickoff are progressing well. I've almost finished making the costumes, and we're working with Jack on finalizing the routine. We need about 20 people to participate. I am happy to report that all the convention committee chairmen have cheerfully volunteered to be the participants. We are hoping to start the kickoff practice Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. That's a whole lot better than 7:00 a.m.!! The practice shouldn't take more than an hour.

There was a slight problem with the logo for the T-shirts. Because the embroidered logo has so many different colors, the cost was very high to the point that we would have had to charge \$35 for each shirt to make a profit. Therefore, we are going with screen printing and will probably sell the shirts for around \$20.

There is a young woman who is going to start selling (ladies only) square dance clothes on ebay similar to the way Lorraine did in the past. Terri Little has once again cheerfully volunteered to be the liaison. Because it will be too late in the year for the 2017 convention to receive any income from these sales, Linda and Lewis Wasserman, convention chairmen for 2018, have cheerfully agreed to contribute income from the first six months' sales to the 2017 convention. Collection of gently used square dance clothes should begin immediately at each association and brought to Terri during the February working weekend.

The cook book is coming along well and Terri has checked into the cost of printing and binding. The cutoff date is January 1, 2016, so snack-stype recipes can still be sent to Terri. The cook books will probably sell for about \$10, and the first ones will be sold at the February Benefit Dance.

Registration forms are in the process of being finalized.

Raffles and other fund raisers are looming on the horizon. There will be a small cash raffle and tickets for a set of four beautifully hand drawn penguin pictures will start in May. Plans for another larger monetary cash raffle are pending. A Chinese auction will be held during the upcoming February Benefit Dance. Tickets will be ten for \$5.00, five for \$3.00 and three for

\$1.00. Dancers are asked to cheerfully donate new or gently used items for this sale. Bruce already has the flyer on the website.

Decorations for both the kickoff and dance halls as well as the table decorations are well into the planning stages – with some very cute ideas!

We will have another 2017 convention committee meeting during the February working weekend.

Some of the events we are discontinuing this year will be the traveling artifacts and the grand march.

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

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
2017 Convention Chairmen

2018 Convention Lewis & Linda Wasserman

As we get underway, I would like to thank everyone at Fall Fest for your support, helpful hints, and generally pointing us in the right direction when needed.

The theme of the 2018 Florida Square Dance Convention will be the magic of dance. Square Dance and the other activities we engage in provide friendship, fun, fellowship, fitness, and many other benefits. We say that a little bit of magic is at work, and we intend to feature fantasy folk, and a few special effects to highlight the magic we all feel in one way or another.

Bill Chesnut has graciously agreed to serve as our Caller Chair, and he will try to recruit an assistant. Several folks volunteered for other offices, and our current roster is as follows:

Secretary	Sheila Reid
Treasurer	Jack & Barbara Hoffman
Caller Chair	Bill & Mary Chesnut
Cuer Chair	Open
Registration	Open
Reg. Asst.	Open
Vendor Chair	Open
Publicity / Promotion	Open
Housing	Randy & Carole Poole
Entertainment	Open
Hospitality / Security	Open

Printed Program	Bruce & Colleen Morgan
Program Ads	Open
Webmaster	Bruce & Colleen Morgan
Decorations (Art / Signs)	Terri Little & Sheila Reid
After Party	Kathy McKinney, Dianne Syphard, Linda Tester
50/50	George & Ida Guthrie
Blast Caller	Bob Ormsbee
Fundraising	Open
Fundraising- eBay	Terri Little
	Margaret Cahan & Stacie Butts
Facilities	Open
Ways & Means	Undetermined
W/M Central	Open
W/M Northeast	Anita Taylor
W/M Northwest	Open
W/M Southeast	Open
W/M West Coast	Jenny Green
Grand March	Open (uncertain if we will have one)
Singles / Youth	Open
Photography	Open
Camping	Marilyn & Paul Scott
Dangle Dances	Open
Logo Design	Open
Construction	Wayne & Debbie Miller

One idea we discussed at Fall Fest is having a blast class, where new dancers could get introduced to Square Dance in an intensive weekend program. Bob Ormsbee has agreed to run the course. This is a tentative proposal, dependent on generating enough interest to have a minimum of 2 squares of learners.

There was some discussion of running a survey to help guide development of the schedule and features of the convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lewis & Linda Wasserman,
64 FSDC Chair

16. Facilities: Don Slocum

We wish to thank everyone for all the many prayers, cards and good wishes at this time of Don's cancer treatments. He is getting along quite well with some minor side effects.

The St. Convention contract with The Lakeland Center is complete thru 2018 and payments have been made for 2016. The room layouts for 2016 are due to us by April 25, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted
Don & Ann Slocum, Facilities Chairman

17. Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame - Bev Landwehr - No report.

18. Historian Records: Terri Little

Terri reported that she has sent some pictures to Bruce Morgan and he has put them on them. Terri will be taking pictures of this weekend activities and get them to Bruce.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Little

19. USDA Report: Dennis Taylor

We attended the annual USDA meeting in Springfield, MA this past June. They are still working on arrangements for the tax-exempt status for the associations. The Federation has received only two applications from organizations and they want six before they submit the request to the IRS. The Robeys were elected to be the new USDA Presidents. We have been taking the USDA Educational display to the dances we have been able to attend. There has been a lot of interest in the material.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis & Nancy Taylor

The President announced that the Taylors have resigned as USDA Reps from Florida and thanked them for their service.

20. USDA Insurance: Carol Poole

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS	
Insurance Report November 22, 2015	
Beginning Balance	April 30, 2015
Income	
	Central
	Northeast
	Northwest
	Southeast
	West Coast

Total Income			
Expenses			
	USDA Insurance		
	Northwest Association - Over Payment		
Total Expense			
Ending Balance	October 31, 2015		
As Nov 4, 2015	CLUBS		DANCERS
	Central	15	586
	Northeast	14	376
	Northwest	1&10	290
	Southeast	1&1	83
	West Coast	8	263
Total for 2015	2 Associations	48 Clubs	1598
We are down two clubs and 72 dancers from this meeting last year.			
Submitted by Randy & Carol Poole			
Federation Insurance Chairman			

The very good news is all of the Association Insurance Chairmen have stayed with the program for another year. The good news is the insurance company gives us the new fee earlier than in years past. The bad news is the fee went up thirty cents this year to \$4.75 per dancer. The fee was the same for six years so I guess that is not so bad. The rate for a minimum club stayed at \$45.00. By mid-September the rate and updates was emailed to the association chairman. They were able to get the information to their clubs much sooner this year.

We received the first renewal on October 31. Central Association won the honor this year. It is often the West Coast.

Thanks to email the time for requesting a certificate has been reduced to two weeks. It used to be six weeks. It is still best to make your request earlier rather than later.

There is a change to the *Club Roster of Dancers Insured Through Another Club Form* and the *Additional Enrollment Form*. Both forms are requesting information about the person submitting the form. I found out this was not a request from the USDA Insurance Director or the insurance company but from the USDA Webmaster who also happens to be a state insurance chairman. He wanted the information and added it to the forms on the website.

With the May statement there was a note that starting in July certain accounts would be charged a \$14.00 fee each month. They listed the criteria to prevent this fee. I visited the bank and had them check to see if the insurance account being part of the Federations account would be charged this fee. I was told this account would not be charged. July statement comes with the \$14.00 fee being charged. I once again visited the bank. It turns out another account is already attached to the main Federation account and they are only authorized to attach one. So, I was offered a deal. I could change from Essential Business Checking to Simple Business Checking. I would have to keep \$500 in the account at all times and receive the statements online. I agreed to the change. The account number stayed the same. But, it now has a user name, password and even a pin number which I will give to the treasurer to keep in a safe place. The \$14.00 was added back to the account.

We only had one reported accident this year; a claim form was mailed, but never submitted. So, continue to keep dancing safely!!

Randy & Carol Pool
Florida Federation Insurance Chairman

The subject of the bank charging the Federation fees for maintaining these account it was suggested that we look into changing to The Regions Bank or TD Bank.

There was a discussion of coverage for students during the time in class. All clubs need to submit the student names to the Insurance Chairman – there is no charge for the students but as soon as they graduate they need to be enrolled in the insurance program and the fee paid.

21. ASCAP/BMI: Bob and Maria Spence

Dennis Taylor read the following report:

No recent activity. All 2016 bills have been paid from the Convention Funds by Dennis Taylor, 2016 Convention Treasurer.

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

22. ARTS: Ailene Picheco

Recently the ARTS Board agreed to identify the Re-Image efforts as the "Square Dance Re-Image Program."

The 64th National Square Dance Convention in Springfield, MA was a great success.

After each of the two ARTS Education sessions, attendees of the sessions went to the CALLERLAB booth and purchased "Live Lively" pins and stickers.

CALLERLAB also sold many Live Lively shirts.

Jim & Judy Taylor, ARTS Re-Image Committee Chairman, took 1,500 Live Lively pins and 500 4" Live Lively car window stickers to Springfield. They gave away or sold all the pins and stickers.

The same thing happened at the 2015 USAWest Convention in Helena, MT: 600 pins and 250 stickers. We have sent pins and/or stickers to many states and other countries, including Germany and Canada (1500 stickers).

Since the conventions Judy and her helpers have made more pins and we have received another 2000 window stickers. They are available if you want some— a bag of 50 pins for \$6.00 and 20 stickers for \$5.00, plus postage. They have also received requests for shirts, earrings, caps, window clings, 8x10 slogos, and rubber stamps.

All of this activity confirms the acceptance and popularity of the Live Lively logo and slogan.

Additional indications of the positive reception of the new logo and slogan is the fact that there is a great number of clubs, associations, and other dance promoters are using both the logo and slogan. Both are being used to promote dances, festivals, classes, and other Square Dance activities.

An additional indicator is the resolution approved by the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) that all clubs are encouraged to utilize the logo and slogan on their marketing materials.

The Taylors are preparing to send a letter with a couple of attachments to the over 1,000 clubs in the ARTS Re-Image database. This will introduce the Re-Imaging Program to the clubs and ask them to use the logo and slogan in their marketing efforts. They will include some marketing material and will ask clubs to correct and update our database, if required.

The Re-Image Committee has the following requests for help:

- We need a responsible person to update the LiveLivelySquareDance Facebook page. We need help posting to the page.
- Who among you would be willing to be on a committee to determine how to create a national advertising campaign?
- Do you have any ideas as to how to go about raising funds for national advertising?
- Do you know someone who can advise us about promoting the idea of people putting “Re-Imaging” in their wills? Looking at some vital statistics, we can expect 650 of the 40,000 dancers in the USDA Affiliates to die next year.

All dancers are requested to submit comments, ideas, and/or questions to:

Jim & Judy Taylor

Chairmen, Re-Imaging Program

Web masters

1411 W. Lake Ct.

Littleton, CO 80120

<http://LiveLivelySquareDance.com>

jimta1@msn.com

Submitted by Ailene Picheco

for Jerry Reed, Executive Director, ARTS

The President reminded us that there is an Extra Mile award given at the Convention for any caller or cuer that goes the extra mile. The deadline for nomination for this award is February 1 and should be given to a Federation Board member.

23. Old Business:

Contact Cards – Cheryl Miller

As voted at the Federation May 24th meeting the selected “We would like to invite you to our circle of Friends” business card was ordered. The cost for 5000 cards was \$109.47.

These cards were designed to assist dancers with promoting square dancing in their local area as well as providing the Federation & each Association’s websites. Dancers can provide their personal information for individuals to contact them. Each box contains 250 cards and I would like each Association President’s to please pick up the number of boxes they will need to distribute to their dancers.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Miller
2015 Federation Working Weekend
Committee Chairman

The question of obtaining additional cards for the associations or clubs was discussed. It was determined that when more cards are needed they will be ordered thru the Federation President.

Bid for 2021 National Convention –

Our exploratory committee has been working on gathering information for Florida to host an upcoming 2021 National Convention for the past 2 years. We visited the Convention Facilities in Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, and Tampa.

At the Federation May 24, 2015 meeting this exploratory committee asked that we be allowed to continue researching this possibility. At the 64th National Convention in Springfield, Massachusetts, Randy Poole announced that Florida was exploring the possibility of hosting the 70th National in 2021. This did not commit us. It just let the NEC know that we are interested in possibly submitting a bid and if we can get the support of the Florida Federation we intend to put in a formal bid.

On November 1st our exploratory committee; Bruce & Colleen Morgan, Bob & Ann Poyner and I met with John & Dimple Williford, the NEC Advisors, Brittney Callahan, National Sales Manager of Visit Tampa Bay, Marissa Hoffman from the Tampa Convention Center, Melinda Bailey, Senior Sales Executive of the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Jean-Audrey Robles, Sales Manager of the Hilton Tampa Downtown . This was an all day tour of the Convention Center, adjacent hotels and the City of Tampa. During the Convention Center portion of the tour the other committee members Randy & Carol Poole, Jack & Barbara Hoffman and Terri Little joined us. Later that night after the tour, we were informed by John & Dimple Williford that the Tampa Convention Center would be well suited to hold a National Convention. The City of Tampa and the Tampa Convention Center are very excited to be able to possibly assist Florida with a bid for National.

This will be the last report from the National's Exploratory Committee as we have fulfilled our obligation. Paul & I have found many dancers who are willing to work and are very excited to have the possibility of attending a National Convention in Florida. Due to the National Executive Committee requirements, I will be unable to fulfill the role as Bid Chairman & Proposed National Convention Chairman, the ground work has been laid and I am very pleased that Bruce & Colleen Morgan have agreed to take on the positions of Florida's Bid Chairman and Proposed General Chairman.

I would like to make the following motion: That the Florida Federation of Square Dancers commit to support a bid and to provide the necessary support to host the 70th National Square Dance Convention® at the Tampa Convention Center in 2021. This bid will be submitted to the NEC at the 2017 National Square Dance Convention® to be held in Cincinnati, OH. Seconded by Jack Hoffman.

Respectfully submitted.

Cheryl Miller, Committee Chairman

A time of discussion was held. The following items were discussed:

The need for workers to support a convention in Florida was discussed.

Tampa will do most of the work needed to put the Bid Package together.

Financing the convention – If this convention has a financial deficit - The Federation, The Callers Association and the Cuers Association will have to make up the loss. Recently there has been only one convention that experienced a deficit.

The NEC will negotiate the contracts with the Tampa Convention Bureau, hotels and the City.

There will not be a State Convention in the year of the National.
 The convention will be a corporation separate from any of the existing corporations.

The vote on the motion is:

GROUP	YES	NO
Full Vote	26	2
Half Vote	11	0

Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Val Newsome reported that the committee included Randy Poole and Ken Brasfield. They brought the following report. All of the current board (except the President) was contacted and agreed to move up to the next position. The committee has found a very energetic dancer to serve as parliamentarian for the coming year in the person of Linda Tester from the Northeast. Val then read her bio information. The slate of officers is : Penny Green – President, Dennis & Nancy Taylor – Vice President, Ray & Elsa Huddleston – Secretary, Cheryl Miller Treasurer, and Linda Tester – Parliamentarian.

The President then requested nomination from the floor. Hearing no nomination a motion was made by Jack Hoffman and seconded by Bruce Morgan to close nominations. Motion carried.

The gavel was turned over to Penny.

The outgoing presidents expressed their enjoyment for the past five years and thanked everyone.

24. New Business:

Installation of Officers

The installation of the new officers was conducted by Kathy & Jack McKinney.

New USDA Reps

Penny Green announced that Bill & Linda Reid have been appointed as the new USDA Reps from Florida.

The sound system was not working today. There was a discussion on the need to replace it. Cheryl Miller made a motion to replace the system with a budget of up to \$250. Motion seconded by Bruce Morgan. Bruce volunteered to take the present system and see if it can be fixed. The feeling was that it is time to replace it.

Motion carried.

Lewis Wasserman was asked to look around for a suitable replacement. Colleen Morgan asked permission to dispose of the old system once a new one is obtained.

Tax Status

Since we have changed our By-Laws to qualify for Non-Profit status (501(c)3 or 4) it was suggested that we move on this matter since the USDA is not getting enough response to move on this matter. It was noted that we have not filed the necessary paper work with the state to qualify for this status. Cheryl had talked to the state about this and was told that we do not have to file with the state until we change our status. Cheryl will contact the state again. Anita Taylor made a motion that we proceed with obtaining Non-Profit

status on our own and not wait for the USDA. Motion seconded by Ray Huddleston. Bruce Morgan requested that the Federation get its tax status changed before 2017 in support of the National Convention. Motion Carried.

25. Announcements:

Next Meeting will be held at Comfort Inn & Suites on Lee Road on February 27, 2016. This is the Working Weekend. There will be a benefit dance held Whirl & Twirl to benefit the 2017 convention.

The new President presented an appreciation gift to the out going President.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy & Dennis Taylor
Secretary