

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Stay Inn & Suites, Bartow, FL
Sunday, November 13, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order by Penny Green at 9:00 a.m.
2. The Invocation was given by Judy Anderson.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dennis Taylor.
4. The roll was called by Elsa Huddleston. There was a quorum.
5. The following visitors and guests were present:
 - Callers: Mike Gormley, Ted Hughes, Bob & Carol Stern, and Keith & Margo Stevens
 - Cuer: Susan Snider
 - Guests: Marsha Vshiero, Janet Bowen, Sally Galik, Brian & Barbara McDonald

6. **President's Comments** - Penny said current delegates are still active until the first of the year when new delegates will take office at which time they will be eligible to vote. A conflict in the language of the official Federation documents regarding this issue needs to be resolved during the working weekend.

For the benefit of the visitors, Penny introduced the current Board members.

Penny thanked the West Coast Association for rental of the hall for the meeting. She requested the mike be used for reports and that those reports be kept short since there was a long agenda.

7. Don Slocum moved that the minutes of May 29, 2016 meeting be approved. Motion passed.

8. **Financial Report** – Cheryl Miller

Florida Federation of Square Dancers
TREASURERS REPORT
May 20, 2016 - November 10, 2016

Beginning Balances - All Accounts (05/20/2016)

Wells Fargo Checking Account
Wells Fargo Business Savings Account
Wells Fargo CD 2 (Renewal Date 9/18/2016)
Insurance

Total all accounts as of 05/20/16/2016

Wells Fargo Checking Account

Beginning Balance - (As of 05/20/2016)

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Receipts

Polk County Visitor's Grant
Association Dues: NW, WC, SEA, CFA, NE
Interest (May-October)

Total Receipts

Disbursements

Debit Wells Fargo - Reorder Checks/Deposit Stamp/Deposit Slips
Debit Internal Revenue Service-501c3 Application Fee
1592 Linda Tester-Parliamentarian Expense
1593 Elsa Huddleston-Secretary Expense
1594 Visit Florida-Brochures Rack-Welcome Centers
1595 63rd FSSRDC-Convention Chairman's Gift
1596 Bomar Trophy-62nd FSSRDC Chairmen Gifts
1597 Bruce Morgan-Reimb. 10TB Storage Drive (Website)
1598 VISTE-Donation Remembrance President Ken Brown
1599 62nd FSSRDC-Polk County Grant
1600 USDA - 2017 Dues
1001 Florida Department of State-Record Amendment to Articles
1002 Cheryl Miller-Reimb. Pstge FL State Amendment to Articles
(2/28/15)
1003 Cheryl Miller-Reimb. Pstge FL State Dept. Corp/Certification (IRS
Requirement)
1004 U.S. Postmaster-Priority IRS package & Stamps
1005 VOID

Total Disbursements

Wells Fargo Checking Account Balance

Wells Fargo Savings Account

Beginning Balance - (As of 4/30/16)

Receipts

CD#7428575786
Interest (May-September)

Total Receipts

Wells Fargo Savings Account (As of 10/31/2016)

Wells Fargo CD 2 (Renewal Date 9/18/2016)

Beginning Balance - (As of 05/20/16/2016)

Interest

Total Receipts

CD#7428575786-Transferred to Savings #7246xxxxxx

Wells Fargo CD 2 (As of 9/21/2016)

Ending Balance - Checking, Savings & Insurance Accounts

Wells Fargo Checking Account (As of 10/31/2016)
Wells Fargo Savings Account (As of 10/31/2016)
Wells Fargo Convention Fund
Insurance (As of 10/31/2016)

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS:

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Miller, Federation Treasurer, 2016

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers Convention Fund
TREASURERS REPORT
May 20, 2016 - November 10, 2016**

Beginning Balance May 20, 2016

Convention Fund Checking Account

Receipts

Total Receipts

Disbursements

#1013-Lakeland Center Deposit - 63rd FSSRDC

#1014-64th FSSRDC-Seed Money

Total Disbursements

Convention Fund Checking Account Balance

Other assets as of 10/31/2016

63rd State Convention Loan (includes \$3000 Lakeland Center Deposit)

64th State Convention Loan

Total other assets

Total all assets as of 10/31/2016

Liabilities

Florida Callers Association

Round Dance Council of Florida

Florida Federation of Square Dancers

Total Liabilities

Total all Liabilities as of 10/31/16

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Miller, Federation Treasurer, 2016

These reports will be filed for audit.

Audit Report – Jack Hoffman/Jenny Green

Jack Hoffman reported that it was an easy audit and everything balanced.

9. Parliamentarian – Linda Tester

The Showcase of Ideas made it to the 65th National Convention in Des Moines. This was mainly accomplished by the good will of our fellow square dancers, Jack & Barbara Hoffman, Jack & Kathy McKinney and Randy & Carol Poole. I think it was a collaboration of efforts but a great big thank you for the main setup goes to Randy and Carol Poole. We had Florida maps, plastic gators and plastic oranges for giveaways. It does appear that we had enough. Randy Poole was gracious enough to check periodically on our display to make sure the giveaways were available. I can't thank my friends enough for their help. A great big thank you and yellow rocks go out to them. Not only did the Showcase of Ideas and all the accoutrements make it to Des Moines but also made it back to Jacksonville Beach. Thank you, Jack and Kathy McKinney.

10. Sunshine Report – Dennis Taylor

Get Well Card

John Saunders

Sympathy Cards

Gloria Scalion –death of Chuck

Sue Brown – death of Ken

Donna Mariner – death of Tim

Dennis requested that delegates should try to keep the vice president apprised of who should receive cards. Cards were circulated for sending to Rita Baxter, Charlie Newsome, Betty Stevens and Michael Ziegler.

Dennis also requested delegates to select their committee and sign the committee sheet for the upcoming working weekend.

11. Correspondence – A thank you letter was received from Viste for the donation that the Federation made on behalf of Ken Brown.

12. Florida Callers Association Liaison – Bob Stern

The FCA met on Oct.16 and did the final scheduling of callers for the 2017 convention. We have 30 callers signed to call. Nothing else for this year.

13. Round Dance Council of Florida Liaison – Susan Snider

Susan reported that their previously scheduled meeting had to be rescheduled for the weekend of the Northeast Association Festival. Joanne Helton is working on the convention schedule. Curt and Tammy Worlock will be doing a workshop on Saturday of the convention.

14. Florida Square Dance Campers – Don MacGregor

The Square Dance Campers had the Annual Camp-O-Ree October 19th – 23rd at Blueberry Hill Campground in Bushnell, Fl. There were approximately 78 campers there and a Royal Feast was served to 164 people. Most were dressed in Medieval Costumes and a great weekend was had by all that attended. There were Medieval Games that included Game of Kings (Giant

Checker Game), Catapult, Jousting, Royal Sword Duel, and a playoff Ring Toss. There was a Golf Tournament, Craft making, Laser Tag and a lot of socializing.

The next Statewide Event is planned for April 21st – 23rd, 2017 at Southern Palm Campground in Eustis, Florida. This is a first as we try to get the statewide campers together for a second time during the year. Each club also has their own Monthly Camping Schedule.

The second item concerns the camping during the March State Convention. Arrangements were made at Lakeland RV Resort for 20 campsites and as of this report 15 have been reserved. They offered us a reasonable rate of \$20 which is the usual rally rate. We spoke with SanLan RV Resort and they would not guarantee or even hold any sites for us. They have started a new reservation system this year and the earliest we can try to make reservations is after January 1st, 2017. We usually were able to get a rally rate of \$25 - \$30 during the May Convention but March is the height of their season and the rate is \$50 - \$60 per night. This is a rate that may discourage campers from coming. We will continue to promote the convention to the campers.

15. Association Reports

A. Central – Randy & Carol Poole

Here we are again presidents of CFA for the fourth time. Our new board consists mostly of past presidents but we do have one new couple that are very enthusiastic dancers, Tom & Suzy Griffin. We hope someday they too will be past presidents. We are having a planning day meeting in January and hope to come up with some ideas of how we can help the clubs with recruitment of new members and classes.

We took office October 1st and our first dance was scheduled for October 29. In early October as you know we had a hurricane. The hall grounds had damage and the hall was without power for weeks. We were told we could have another hall about ¾ miles away but only if the power was not restored. About a week prior to the dance we were given the ok to move the dance to the new hall. With the help of Facebook, phone calls, and emails we were able to notify all members, callers and the cuer, and we had a very successful Halloween dance. We had guests from two other area associations in costume and they each won a prize. You may try and guess who they were; one couple was penguins and the other was Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

CFA will have another party weekend to support the 2018 State Convention. It will be April 21 – 23 at Deerhaven Retreat Center in Paisley in the Ocala National Forest. We still have a few cabins or camping spots available for anyone wanting or needing a fun and restful getaway. The caller will be Rod Barngrover and the cuer is Susan Snider who will both be donating their time and talents.

We have received word the Top of The World Circle Squares will be closing after their April dance next year. We are very sad to hear this. But, most of the dancers are already members of the Ocala Twirlers a nearby club.

The Central Association donated \$1,000 toward the 2017 convention.

B. Northeast – Jack & Kathy McKinney

Fall festival is “A Bountiful Barn Dance” next weekend. First year for 2 halls, advance and plus. Ribbons available.

Fall is definitely in the air! What is the biggest thing in Fall for Square Dancing? New Classes!!! We have done a tentative research project and found that the majority of new dancers were INVITED by a current square dancer! Folks...that really ought to tell us something! Just think.....if each square dancer brought just one new dancers to class...our number of dancers would double immediately! Sounds easy, well, it really is!

In only one month all our new dancers will be invited and hopefully attend the Freshman Hoedown. This is a very exciting dance. Do you remember your first dance? If so, you know how exciting this can be. The support of current dancers at this dance will make a difference on just how “exciting” this dance can be for new dancers. Please Come!

This being November, (The NW Round Up was held in Tallahassee this year in July), The Camporee and the “Ghost of O’Leno”, and this weekend the Fall Fun Fest, have been held. We sure hope many dancers enjoyed all the FUN FUN FUN!

By supporting all association dances, we keep square dancing alive along with renewing friendships throughout the state!

You still have time to get ready for our Fall Festival. “A Bountiful Barn Dance”! How FUN does that sound!!! For the first time the Fall Festival will have a separate room for Advanced Dancing. Spread the word.... It may not be on the earlier flyers! Don & Sherry MacGregor are chairmen. They have covered EVERYTHING possible to make this one of the most FUN FESTIVALS EVER! The featured Caller is Ted Kennedy, Cuer, Sandy & Dave Sturgis. Bring canned goods to be donated to the food bank. (just in time for Thanksgiving) Buy your Ribbons NOW!

Does EVERYONE close their November articles by saying how “Thankful” they are? Well, if not...they should! We in the Northeast are THANKFUL, for our Dancers, Callers and Cuers. We are THANKFUL for our “Square Dance Family”. After all, Thanksgiving is for Families!

C. Northwest – Brian & Barbara McDonald

We had our 42nd Annual Roundup Dance July 29, 2016 in Tallahassee. We had about 130 dancers including 66 from the NWSRDA, 25 from NEFSRDA, 6 from WCSRDA, 2 from SEFSRDA, 4 from Alabama and 2 from Georgia. The theme was Celebrate America, and we had a live band Saturday night! The Capital Twirlers were our hosts. The Tallahassee Senior Center had a beautiful wood floor and extra rooms for Advanced, DBD and workshops. Elmer Sheffield and Dave Muller were our callers. Susan Snider and Fetzer our cuers. Our new officers are

President, Brian and Barbara McDonald; Vice President, Jim Walters and Deecee Haslet; Treasurer, Alec & Kay Schmidt; and Karen Gordon, Secretary for 2017.

A Billy Bowlegs Pirate Dance was held at Pasard June 4th and we had lots of fun with Miriam Merriwether as caller and cuer. She is also giving round dancing classes on Wednesdays which is going very good. July 16th a Jamboree was held at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. August 20 was Seaside Squares' 53rd anniversary dance. Congratulations to them! Dancing Dolphin started a beginners class. We had a 4th anniversary dance in May, and Roy has been teaching the plus calls. Agape Squares has basic square dancing through Mainstream classes (16 students in July)!

October 1 we had a members' renewal dance for NWF members. New officers were installed for 2016-2017. October 15 was a "Raise the Roof" dance in Pensacola. Miriam Merriwether had a community dance October 29th offering a little bit of everything such as Contra, Line Dancing, Squares and Rounds!

November 12 is an Old Time Gospel sing/dance at Ragon Hall. November 29th brings Gary Shoemake to Pasarada in Ft. Walton Beach with Miriam caller and cuer so come join the fun. December is quieter because of the holidays, but January 21 is "January Shine" at Ragon Hall dance.

As you can see, our 10 clubs and NWFSRDA are busy.

D. Southeast – Steve Adler

We had a great time dancing this past summer. Scotty and Marlene Sharrer had many "Summer Fun" activities at the Monday evening Happy Squares dances at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. Each night had a special theme – tee shirts, pizza, ice cream, baseball, pajama party, etc. Everyone enjoyed the great food and the silliness. Jack and Ilene Lewis' A-Jacks advanced club danced all summer at the Civic Center, working on solidifying the calls they had learned during the year and doing round dances between squares. Jack & Ilene's other clubs also danced throughout the summer. The Castoffs alternated Jack and Scotty calling on Fridays nights. Chris Phillips and Mike Doughty continued their clubs over the summer, giving everyone a great chance to dance to different callers in different venues. Zail Greenbain, Joanne & Ken Helton, Larry Chatos, and Mary & Chuck Ryall provided many opportunities for round dancing.

The Southeast Association kicked off the season with its Membership Dance and Ice Cream Social on September 18 at Briny Breezes. We thank all those dancers who attended and made it a special day for renewing friendships and celebrating the activity of square dancing. We also thank the Briny Breezes Club for hosting the Southeast dances. Our next dance will be the Toy & Cookie Dance on November 27th. We ask each participant to bring a new toy or gift to be donated to ChildNet. The toys and gifts will be distributed to children in need during the holiday season. Our dancers have been very generous in the past and our efforts have been greatly appreciated by the staff at ChildNet.

Our October highlight was a surprise celebration in honor of Scotty Sharrer, who has been a square dance caller for 50 years first calling when he was only 10 years old! Joanne and Ken Helton chaired the committee that organized the fete, enlisting the help of many dancers and fellow callers. Scotty's wife Marlene and daughter Sara added much to the celebration, as we heard Scotty's life story as recited by them and several callers. There were over one hundred dancers present, with at least twelve squares enjoying the wonderful dancing provided by all the people who took turns calling with Scotty. Scotty and his family were very surprised and very grateful for all the love that was evident at this celebration. Photos from the event will be posted in the Southeast's gallery on the Federation website.

Looking ahead – and a bit behind – Chris Phillips started a new beginners class in October; Scotty Sharrer will be starting one on January 8th. For round dancers – Zail, Joanne & Ken, and Mary & Chuck are all offering round dance classes. We have some special dances coming up, which I have mentioned before – but it's worth talking about them again. Come December, we will have two New Year's Eve dances. One will be held at the River Walk Center in Fort Pierce featuring callers Scotty Sharrer, Gib Mattson, and Mike Doughty. Mary and Chuck Ryall will be on rounds. The other will be at Briny Breezes with caller Jack Lewis and Joanne & Ken Helton on rounds. The last dance that I would like to bring attention to is the Southeast's "Snowflake Frolic". In the past it has been a benefit dance for the Southeast Association. This time it will be a benefit dance for the 2017 Convention. It will be held Saturday evening, January 28th, in the Briny Breezes Auditorium. Jack and Scotty will be the host callers; Joanne and Ken the host cuers.

Finally, a plug for my local club. Briny, which is the oldest continuously operating club in Florida, will open its 69th season the first week in January. We meet Wednesday evenings in the Briny Auditorium with Jack calling and cueing. There will be both plus and advanced tips as well as higher level early rounds.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate caller Mike Doughty and Patti on the occasion of their marriage. On a note of sadness, we mourn, in particular, the passing of Al Brundage – a vital member of the Southeast family. When Jack calls the now out-of-favor Half Breed Through (which Al had a hand in writing), we all shout: "Thank you Al!". He is sorely missed by all.

Snowflake frolic will be a benefit for 2017 convention on January 28 at Briny Breezes.

Steve Adler, President
Southeast Association

E. **West Coast** – Flo Ormsbee

I have been in contact via email with all county reps in the WC as well as many of the club Presidents. They have all indicated that they either have or will have classes going on as soon as the snowbirds return. Some classes have graduated students already.

Of course the next big upcoming event will be our State Convention to be held on March 24th and 25th, 2017 at the Lakeland Civic Center. I do have ribbons for sale for that event. I am sure it is going to be a great convention and I can't wait to see more of the "lost penguins" walking around in the convention center.

At this point, Flo Ormsbee said she had submitted her resignation as President of the West Coast Association.

16. Publication Reports

- A. **Bow & Swing** – Bill Boyd – No report
- B. **Grapevine (NE)** – Bill Morgan – No report
- C. **Keepin' Posted (C)** – Ailene Picheco

Eighteen copies were mailed to Association Presidents, the Federation Board, various publications and other organizations. Copies are mailed to 26 Central Florida Clubs so they can display it for their members. Twenty-four copies are mailed to Members who don't have email, or prefer a hard copy. Thirty-four received the copy by E-mail

I would like to receive more club articles, pictures and other information from the clubs in Central.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco, Editor/Publisher

- D. **Panhandle Press (NW)** – Tim & Terri Wilaby – No report
- E. **West Coast Dancer** – Ed Henning – No report

17. Convention Reports

A. **2016** – Kathy McKinney, Diane Syphard, and Linda Tester distributed the Final Report for the 2016 state convention. Total proceeds were \$24,010.09. Disbursements in the amount of \$4,738.47 each were made to the FCA, the RDC and the Florida Federation. Each of the five associations received slightly less than \$1,000 each. Twenty percent, or \$4,802.02 was disbursed to the upcoming 63rd state convention.

Jack Hoffman requested the checks be deposited as soon as possible so they will be cleared by the end of the week thereby avoiding service charges.

B. **2017** – Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Things are moving along very smoothly and looking brighter every day! Our best seller is the cookbook! We were very fortunate to find a printer who dropped his price considerably when

we explained the fund raiser. We had not planned to order more, but if the snowbirds flock to the books, we'll see if he will print them in increments of 50 for the same price. Once again, we want to thank Terri Little for doing such a tremendous job on it. She said it gave her lots of headaches, but you certainly wouldn't know that to see the book. The whole layout is awesome! At our SEA dances, some of the dancers have made snacks from the book and brought them to the dance with notes as to the title of their snack and the page number it was on. This has helped push sales along very well.

T-shirt sales have been good also. We still have a few available. Having the May date on them has not affected sales.

We went to the caller lab/clinic with Jack Lewis, our caller chairman, and all the callers have been scheduled with Jack and Bill Chesnut doing some fine tuning.

We were very disappointed to learn that the Hitch N Go Campers have scheduled a meeting during our convention. We had hoped all square dance clubs would go dark during this weekend as they once had.

As you know, the drawing for the Kindle was last night, and was won by Maxine Thomas of the Northeast Association. Now we are moving on to sell tickets for the \$500 cash which will be drawn at the convention.

We are encouraging everyone at the dances we've been attending to not wait to make their hotel reservations since there may be tournaments and other events going on in Lakeland during the convention weekend.

The scheduling of the callers has been completed. Thirty callers are signed including some very good callers who have never called before at the convention. The musical highlights have been planned with some excellent callers. Don't miss this! The dance program is due to Bruce January 15th.

We encourage you to try and attend the SEA Snowflake Frolic on January 28 in Briny Breezes which is near Boynton Beach. Jack Lewis and Scotty Sharer are the callers and JoAnne Helton is the cuer. Proceeds from this dance will go toward the 63rd convention expense.

Lastly, we will have our final committee meeting in February during the working weekend.

Carol Poole said she needs help in the registration office. Ailene Picheco has forms for ad. Terri Little said she will distribute invitations for the After Party to the Association Presidents at the meeting tomorrow.

Bruce said the program book will be printed in March so he needs all information for it by January 15.

We are very grateful and sincerely appreciate the donations from the 2016 convention and the Central Association!

F. Facilities – Don & Ann Slocum

The Lakeland Center Contract is set for March 24 & 25, 2017. We will need the floor layout for them by February 28, 2017. Future Conventions will depend on the results of the Venue Search Committee which will be given today. We still have a potential contract at the Lakeland Center for March 23 & 24, 2018, although the status of the renovation at the Lakeland Center is unknown at this time.

Convention Ad hoc Committee – Don Slocum

Committee Members: Dancers- Don & Ann Slocum, Chairmen, and Lewis & Linda Wasserman
Cuer- Susan Snider, Callers- Bill Boyd and Bill Chesnut

The Committee was tasked with looking at venues for future Conventions after 2018. This was prompted by the decision of The Lakeland Center to renovate starting in May of 2017. The things known of the renovations is the floors will be carpeted, the rooms we have been using in the Sikes Hall will be smaller, and the rent will likely go up. The renovations are in the design stage so details are not available at this time. The completion time is unknown so we included the year 2018 in our search for an acceptable venue.

We reviewed 19 possible venues online and/or in person. Most are carpeted, too small or too big and in some cases very expensive or located in a much out-of-the-way area.

Linda Wasserman, Susan Snider, Bill Chesnut and the Slocum's visited The Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Susan Snider, the Helton's and the Slocum's visited The Fenn Center in Ft Pierce. The Wasserman's visited the Heritage Center in Kissimmee. The Fenn Center and the Heritage Center were considered too small. The Ocean Center was determined to best fit our needs. The last week end in February was the best time available starting in 2018. This will not conflict with the Daytona 500 as it is moving to President's Day week end in 2018.

We have requested a two year contract (2018 &2019). We received the agreement awaiting a signature which we will give upon approval of the Association.

Floors are carpeted with a very tight weaved but it would be best/recommended for Dancers to wear smooth sole (like leather) shoes for better turning. We tried it with our shoes and it was very acceptable.

As a minimum, renting dance floor overlay for two halls for Round dancing will be required. Round dancing requires spins and twirls, unlike square dancing, which can be done on the tight weave commercial carpet. In the square dance halls a carpet sample or equivalent can be used with silicon spray to wipe shoes on, to increase turning ability.

Sincerely Submitted,
Don & Ann Slocum, Chairmen

Don moved to accept the report of the ad hoc committee moving the Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention from the Lakeland Convention Center in Lakeland to the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach for 2018 and 2019. A lengthy discussion followed regarding unknown issues that may arise. The upcoming two years will provide time to evaluate and address any unexpected and unknown potential problems. A two year contract will determine whether to stay in Daytona or move back to the Lakeland Center. The date of the 2018 convention is February 23 and 24, 2018. Hotel accommodations will need to be negotiated, but the rates should be comparable to the Lakeland Center for that weekend. This date is currently in conflict with the working weekend and will need to be resolved at the next Federation meeting in February, 2017.

Don Seay suggested the contract be reviewed thoroughly regarding ticket sales, vendor sales, etc. so there will be no unexpected additional fees to the Ocean Center, and a good relationship should be maintained with them. It was noted that the Lakeland Center will not commit to room sizes since the areas are in the design stage, and the box office area would no longer be available. There is an information center that could be used for ticket sales, but it is not secure.

Further discussion followed regarding flooring at the Daytona Ocean Center. round dancers overlay will be 75/sq ft.; may have to pay ½ day rent for set up and take down. Flooring and ½ days rent for \$6,000. Wood flooring. Center cheaper, but floor cost adds additional \$6,000.

Daytona would have concession areas available although dancers usually do not support them, but their open hours will be posted. Don Slocum will arrange to have water available.

It was noted that there are many campgrounds in the area, but it is a very busy area. This issue will also be reviewed during the upcoming two years. The Lakeland Center will still be available.

It was also noted that our insurance covers their requirements.

Don Slocum's motion was seconded by Ray Huddleston. Motion carried, and the ad hoc committee report was accepted.

Bob Stern stated that at the caller's meeting it was decided to postpone taking any action. They have currently requested wood floors in all rooms. Gen Chairman from 18 convention send email saying no free tickets for callers/cuers, etc. forwarded to executive board disagreeing with report. They will not come and call for free. If this is changed, they will support the convention.

discussion followed regarding callers and cuers paying. callers give up club dances to attend and call at convention. Convention procedures committee to review.

C. 2018 – Lewis & Linda Wasserman

Louis and Linda are in California and attended via phone.

2018 will be the year of change for the Florida Square and Round Dance Convention. We are on hold as I write this, because we do not have a firm commitment on our venue for 2018. We have a contract, skillfully negotiated by the Slocums, for the Ocean Center, however we still await approval by the Callers, Cuers, and Federation. There is little we can do until this final approval is received, because the creation of flyers, promotional items, and any form of marketing depends on having a set date and venue. I have requested that these folks try to expedite the process, perhaps by electronic means, however they are unwilling to deviate from their established procedures. This will afford us a narrow window to get everything ready.

Venue Search

An ad hoc committee consisting of ourselves, Bill Chesnut, Bill Boyd, Susan Snyder, and the Slocums was convened at the May meeting, and charged with selecting a venue and dates for the 2018 convention. Between us, we have contacted over 20 venues, and visited a great many of them to find an appropriate location. Among our criteria, the venue must have at least 5 separate spaces for dance, must follow the guidelines set forth by the Federation, and must be available at a reasonable cost. We made an effort to find a venue which does not have carpeting on in the rooms, and we were completely frustrated in this. Here is a partial list of the venues we contacted:

Lakeland Center Sikes Hall	Lakeland
Doubletree	Orlando
Holiday Inn Ocala	Ocala
Holiday Inn International	Orlando
Holiday Inn Intercontinental	Tampa
Osceola Heritage Park	Kissimmee
Gaylord Palms	Kissimmee
Kissimmee Civic Center	Kissimmee
Hilton	Orlando
Disney Coronado Springs	Lk. Buena Vista
Daytona Ocean Center	Daytona Beach
Ocala / Marion Cty VCB	Ocala
Mirror Lake Lyceum	St. Pete
Circle Square Cultural Ctr	Ocala

Shingle Creek	Orlando
FSU Conference Center	Tallahassee
Tallahassee Auto Museum	Tallahassee
Tucker Civic Ctr # FSU	Tallahassee
FSU Center Club @ Doak Campbell Stadium	Tallahassee
Chain O' Lakes Complex	

We also considered high school and college campuses, various civic centers, and other venues. Many of the local high schools are willing to rent classrooms, gyms, cafeterias, etc. at reasonable rates for Non-Profit groups. They are not willing, however, to make a reservation more than a year in advance.

Although they will rent to anybody, the rates for non-profits are much more favorable. This would also require shifting to a Saturday-Sunday schedule. It may be worthwhile revisiting this option once we achieve non-profit status.

Ultimately, the venues on our “short list” included the Ocean Center in Daytona, and the Osceola Heritage Park (home of the Silver Spurs Arena). Generally, the hotels and Disney were far too expensive, and many of the venues were eliminated because they did not have suitable spaces. The Ocean Center was selected by the ad hoc committee, and a contract was negotiated for Feb. 23-24, 2018 (Friday & Saturday). As noted above, we are waiting on approval from the Federation, the Callers, and the Cuers. At this late date, if such approval is not forthcoming, then we will be the 2019 chair, because there will be no 2018 Convention.

Since we could not find a suitable venue with hard floors, we must rent flooring for the event. Depending upon how we configure the rooms, we will need approximately 10,000 square feet of dance floor. We have interviewed multiple vendors, and the best price available for wood floors is \$0.70 per square foot, plus \$1000 for installation and 3 nights’ hotel stay for the vendor. We did find a vendor who can provide vinyl flooring slightly cheaper, but Susan Snyder informs us that this is not acceptable for round dancers. We have danced on this type of floor at the Maryland Square Dance Convention recently, and we found that the corners of the vinyl tiles tend to peel up a bit, creating a tripping hazard. The wood floor is assembled with screws, and is very sturdy. Here is a breakdown of an estimate of the flooring to be installed in each room, based upon the estimated registration:

Room Arrangement - Average flooring (Est. registration 500)								
Room	Room size	Floor		Function	Room sq ft	Floor sq ft	# Squares	
Ballroom A	65 x 71.5	35	x	35	Advanced	4647	1225	9
Ballroom B/C	100.5 x 71.5	60	x	60	Plus / Rounds / Events	7185	3600	25
101 A/B/C	83 x 46.5	35	x	35	Rounds	3859	1225	
102 A/B	55 x 46.5	35	x	35	Mainstream	2557	1225	9
102 C	27.5 x 46.5	--			Caller Ready Room	1278	--	--
103 A	27.5 x 46.5	--			Administration	1278	--	--
103 B/C	55 x 46.5	35	x	35	Fun Hall	2557	1225	9
104 A/B	60.5 x 46.5	25	x	25	Blast Class	2813	625	4
					---- Total ----	26174	9125	56
					Est. Floor Cost		\$7,837.50	
Room Arrangement - Larger flooring (Est. registration 600)								

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Room	Room size	Floor	Function	Room sq ft	Floor sq ft	# Squares
Ballroom A	65 x 71.5	35 x 50	Advanced	4647	1750	12
Ballroom B/C	100.5 x 71.5	60 x 60	Plus / Rounds / Events	7185	3600	25
101 A/B/C	83 x 46.5	35 x 50	Rounds	3859	1750	
102 A/B	55 x 46.5	35 x 50	Mainstream	2557	1750	12
102 C	27.5 x 46.5	--	Caller Ready Room	1278	--	--
103 A	27.5 x 46.5	--	Administration	1278	--	--
103 B/C	55 x 46.5	35 x 50	Fun Hall	2557	1750	12
104 A/B	60.5 x 46.5	35 x 35	Blast Class	2813	1225	9
			---- Total ----	26174	11825	70
			Est. Floor Cost		\$9,727.50	
Room Arrangement - Minimum flooring (Est. registration 350)						
Room	Room size	Floor	Function	Room sq ft	Floor sq ft	# Squares
Ballroom A	65 x 71.5	25 x 35	Advanced	4647	875	6
Ballroom B	35.5 x 71.5	25 x 25	Mainstream	2538	625	4
Ballroom C	65 x 71.5	35 x 50	Plus / Rounds / Events	4647	1750	12
101 A/B/C	83 x 46.5	35 x 35	Rounds	3859	1225	
102 A/B	55 x 46.5	25 x 35	Fun Hall or Blast Class	2557	875	6
102 C	27.5 x 46.5	--	Green Room / Admin	1278	--	--
			---- Total ----	19526	5350	28
			Est. Floor Cost		\$5,195.00	

Note: In the minimum arrangement, if there is a blast class, then the functions of Mainstream and Fun Hall will be combined, with all activities therein at the mainstream level.

We have entertained the possibility of only putting flooring in the rooms where round dancing will occur, but this will not save much money because the plus hall and round hall will need the largest floors anyway. Also, if dancers use silicone on their shoes to dance on carpet, they would be dangerously slippery on the wood floor. We have had several dancers try out shoe covers specifically designed for dancing on carpet, and although they helped a little, people were not impressed overall. Also, they cost about \$10 a pair, and a dancer could easily go through 2-3 pairs during the convention. Taking everything into consideration, and in light of the survey results (see below), the only viable option is to rent flooring for all the dance rooms.

Committee

Unfilled committee positions include:

Dangle Dances
Entertainment
Grand March
Hospitality / Security
Program Ads
Publicity / Promotion
Vendor Chair
Ways & Means
W/M Central
W/M Northwest
W/M Southeast

Anybody willing to step up and fill these positions will be most welcome. It has not escaped our notice that there is as yet no chair for the 65th FSDC. We would like to strongly encourage somebody to step up to this position, because that person(s) will also become our assistant chair. Since we will be in California for 7 of the upcoming 9 months, we could sure use an assistant.

Marketing

George Knapp has created a marvelous logo for us, and it is available on my Google Drive. If you need access to it, just email me at lewiswasserman@gmail.com and lindawasserman0@gmail.com.



Kickoff

We are working on a draft of the script for the kickoff. It highlights the theme (“The Magic of Dance will Enchant You”) and the changes in the upcoming Convention. Keith and Angie Olds

are applying their expertise to constructing props for the event. Anybody wishing to review and help embellish upon the draft script is more than welcome.

Survey Responses:

I am attaching the preliminary results of our survey, encompassing 258 responses from the Trail End and the 62nd FSDC, and 18 collected online. A few notable responses include:

- There is significant interest in Hot Hash, Line Dance, and Contra.
- Grand March and Vendors are the most popular non-dance activities.
- 2% of respondents do not square dance; 42% do not round dance.
- 60% of respondents stated that they would not come to a convention if there was carpet on the floors. 12% stated they would not attend because they work on Friday.
- Over ¼ of respondents are willing to travel 250 miles or more to attend. Over ½ will travel 150 miles or more.
- The last 8 pages of the survey report have been omitted because they contained the names and emails of respondents.

The survey should be offered to the general population of dancers in order to generate a more representative sample.

Summary

We are using a data-driven approach to plan and execute the 64th FSDC. Despite the necessity for extensive changes, we have the opportunity to have a successful convention. Although we are doing everything in our power to ensure success, we depend on the Associations and the Federation to do their part. Nobody likes change, but we are all going to have to pull together to make this work. We recognize the many hours of effort and discussion that have gone into planning the convention so far, and we appreciate the many more hours that are yet to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Lewis & Linda Wasserman,
Chair, 64FSDC

Callers agreed to move but want flooring in all halls. Budget details how they plan to pay for it by increasing cost. Con will be Feb 24 & 25, 2018. If callers are charged they will not be there. Most fed delegats agree to that. Complimentary tickets was for over 100. Each organization should handle their own. \$ for callers and cuers comes out of their portion. Only participating callers to receive comp ribbons.

Price of ribbons discussed. Survey supports increase in price. Ticket income will bearly cover cost of convention. Need fundraisers. Cost in other states are \$50. Other statews pay for national callers. Last minute buyers will not buy at \$50. Currently pay \$35, \$40 and \$50 at the door. 176 survey responses.

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Discussion followed regarding use of full flooring vs. flooring for rounds and carpet for square dancing.

Several Chairmen positions still need to be filled.

D. 2019 – TBD Penny announced this convention still needs a chairman.

E. 2021 National Convention Bid Committee – Bruce Morgan

The Florida National Convention Bid Committee is coming to a close.....The last of June, Colleen, I and quite a few of our fellow Florida Dancers attended the 65th National Square Dance Convention in Des Moines, IA. Although we had already informed the NEC that we were giving up our quest to host the National Convention in Florida, Colleen & I officially informed our NEC Advisors of that fact.

Either before attending the National in Des Moines or during the National, we reimbursed the Bid Committee members for a small portion of their expenses of attempting to locate a possible convention site. The Callers and Cuers that so graciously donated their time to help with the Bid were paid for their services. The Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Club was paid for the donation of the hall. All monies, except for \$1,053.36, have been distributed. One-half of this amount, \$526.68, will be donated to the 63rd Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention today. So if I could ask Ray & Elsa to come up I'll present them with this check for \$526.68. After presenting this check to the 63rd FSDC we should have the same amount left in the checking account. But we are going to wait until this check clears and then see what we have after that. Since we might have a few pennies of interest we want to make sure that the account is totally cleared when we write the last check to the 64th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention. This will be done sometime in the near future. But probably won't happen until the 64th establishes a checking account. When the checking account is established Dennis Taylor will issue the check and give it to Jack Hoffman, treasurer of the 64th FSDC. Since they dance at the same club it makes it really easy. Dennis will notify Colleen & I when the last check has been issued and the bank account closed. We will report this fact at the Working Weekend and that report will be the final act of the National Convention Bid Committee.

Thanked dancers for their support.

Respectfully submitted

Bruce & Colleen Morgan
Bid Chairmen

Florida National Convention Bid Committee
Treasurer's Report
May 28, 2016 - November 12, 2016

<u>BEGINNING BALANCE - ALL ACCOUNTS</u>	
<i>Wells Fargo Bank Checking Account (as of 5/28/2016)</i>	
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF 5/28/2016	\$0.00

<u>Wells Fargo Bank Checking Account</u>	
<u>Beginning Balance (as of 5/28/2016)</u>	\$0.00
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Interest	_____
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$0.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Susan Snider & Mark Fetzer (Cueing & Calling 2 dances)	
Rod Barngrover (Calling 1 dance)	
Tony Oxendine (Calling 1 dance)	
Whirl & Twirl (Hall Donation)	
Cheryl Miller (Return of Donation)	
Charlie & Val Newsome (Return of Donation)	
Bob & Ann Poyner (Travel Expenses)	
Jack & Barbara Hoffman (Travel Expenses)	
Randy & Carol Poole (Travel Expenses)	
Bruce & Colleen Morgan (Travel Expenses)	
TOTAL EXPENSES	_____ \$0.00
<u>DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	
63rd (2017) Florida State Convention	
64th (2018) Florida State Convention	
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	_____ \$0.00
Checking Account Ending Balance	\$0.00
<u>ENDING BALANCE - ALL ACCOUNTS 11/12/2016</u>	
<i>Wells Fargo Bank Checking Account (as of 11/12/2016)</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
CURRENT TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS 11/12/2016	\$0.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce & Colleen Morgan
Bid Chairman

19. Florida Federation Website – Bruce Morgan

Bruce said he does not get enough flyers from dancers, callers and cuers and club information is not current. Since the Federation pays for this web site, there is no charge for updating it and posting pictures. It was suggested that each Association select someone to review the web site and send updates to Bruce.

20. Florida Hall of Fame – Bev Landwehr

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Research was done regarding the boars at Strawberry Square. Some pictures are missing for some of the older members. Would like these pics to fill the missing gaps.

21. History – Terri Little

Nothing new to report. Pictures are being sent to Bruce Morgan to put on the website as I get them. I haven't received many since our last meeting. Today's installation pictures will be sent when the meeting is over.

I received some video tapes from Flo Ormsby this weekend that she got from John Occhipinti from the West Coast. They have pictures of square dancing (maybe videos?) but I can't do anything with them. Maybe Bruce can?

Pictures can be sent to me at islandmom74@att.net or directly to Bruce at brucemorgan@embarqmail.com

Bruce has many USDA discs, but not putting on web site since they are USDA related. Terri suggested Bruce dispose them as he sees fit. Bill Reid will check with USDA do see if they want them.

22. USDA Report – Bill & Linda Reid

The USDA material was displayed at the WCSRDA 42nd Annual Fall Fun Fest held this weekend (November 11 & 12, 2016).

Respectfully submitted,
Bill and Linda Reid
USDA Florida Representatives

23. USDA Insurance – Carol Poole

The renewal rate remains the same as it was last year, \$4.75. The Southeast Association was the first to enroll for 2017. Kudos to the new Southeast Association Insurance Chairman, Bob Dodes. The pay is so good all the others are keeping their job. We had five reported accidents this year with three claims submitted.

There are no new forms this year but a couple of reminders. Forms that do NOT require money may be emailed to your insurance chairman. The check should be included with the enrollment and additional enrollment forms. Checks mailed directly to me are made out to the Florida Federation all others are made out to your area association. If your New Year's Eve dance goes past midnight, you should already have your 2017 enrollment submitted. Allow at least two-week lead in time when requesting a certificate.

I do want to thank you for helping to keep this program running smoothly especially the area insurance chairmen. All of us need to talk about the insurance program to their clubs.

New class members are not covered once they graduate.

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Randy & Carol Poole,
Federation Insurance Chairman

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Insurance Report November 13, 2016

Beginning Balance April 30, 2016

Income

Central
Northeast
Northwest
Southeast
West Coast

Total Income

Expenses

USDA Insurance
Postage, copies
Northwest Assoc - Over payment
West Coast - Over payment

Total Expense

Ending Balance October 31, 2016

As of October 31, 2016	CLUBS	DANCERS
Central	13	499
Northeast	13	349
Northwest	1&9	269
Southeast	1	87
West Coast	8	260
Total	2 Associations 43 Clubs	1464

Submitted by Randy & Carol Poole
Federation Insurance Chairman

24. ASCAP/BMI – Bob & Maria Spence

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

25. ARTS (Alliance of Round, Traditional and Squares – Ailene Picheco

There was an article I found on the ARTS website from a club in Ohio that I found interesting. It was titled “Operation Frontier - 2015”

Do you think that it is inevitable that square dancing is destined to decline?

Not really.

A club in Milford, on the outskirts of Cincinnati, tried something new. Working together as a team their club achieved the following:

- Their marketing and advertising strategy resulted in 102 new visitors the first three weeks of lessons.

- On the 15th week, 51 new dancers were still active.

They did it by using a variety of methods.

- They called former students and members, gave out business cards, and sent PR releases to local papers, etc.

- But the most effective technique was the use of YARD SIGNS + word-of-mouth by those who saw the signs.

Working in groups of two, signs were placed at strategic locations on Friday afternoon/evening and retrieved 48 hours later. They were placed in strategic locations where there was heavy traffic and always at intersections where there was either a stoplight or stop sign. Several hours were spent putting out the signs and picking them up. Club members were given specific locations to place the signs. They were not given out to club members to place them wherever they wanted to.

Other key ingredients attributable to their success was:

Their club is EXTREMELY friendly

Their teaching caller is a great instructor and makes it fun for everyone

Club members were willing to work as a team

There was great participation and support from Angels

Leadership and organization played a critical role

The members of their board were open-minded and willing to take risks.

The club anticipated graduating 40 new students and increase the size of their dances by 50 to 60%

They also anticipate that this year’s graduating class will produce additional members willing to give back to promote next year’s class.

The 2017 Annual ARTS meeting will be held immediately after the 66th NSDC Convention in Cincinnati, OH

All Dancer and Dance Leaders Welcome.

Respectfully Submitted
Ailene Picheco, ARTS Liaison

26. Old Business

A. Tax Status – Cheryl Miller

As expressed at the May 29, 2016 Federation meeting I began the process of applying for a 501c3 Non Profit tax status with the Internal Revenue Service, it was determined that our organization could file a form 1023EZ and I was told to wait until after July 1 to submit the form online since effective July 1, the fee would drop from \$400.00 to \$275.00. I waited to file the application online until July 5. In August, I made several attempts to contact the Internal Revenue Service Center regarding our application several times with no success. However, my messages must have worked as we received a letter from our IRS Agent assigned to our application date September 6. The letter requested that I submit more information regarding our organization addressing six specific questions and submit our organizations documents. I was very excited to get our package put together since when you apply online the IRS website does not allow you to upload supporting documentation. I was very detailed in regards to our responses to these questions;

- a. What specific activities you conduct
- b. Who participates in the activities
- c. Where you conduct the activities
- d. When or how often the activities occur
- e. What fees, if any, are charged and how you determine them
- f. What percentage of your time and resources you spend on the activities

I submitted a (3) page letter addressing each of these questions as well as providing them with copies of the Proclamation from the Governor of Florida; a flyer from ARTS “Benefit of Dance your way to a BETTER Life”, (2) newspaper articles covering the benefits of Square Dancing as well as Contra Dancing, (1) promotional flyer advertising lessons and the United Square Dancers “Code of Conduct”. A copy of the complete application & response package is available for review in the Secretary’s records.

On October 13th, I received a call from the IRS Agent handling our application to change our status from a Social Recreational 501c7 to a 501c3 Non-Profit and was told our application was denied. He stated **the following reason our application is being denied.**

The organizations that we support & benefit are all 501(c)7: Social & Recreational Organizations. (Which I confirmed was correct). In order for us to qualify for the 501c3 status; we would have to benefit & support organizations that are established Non-Profit 501c3 organizations. We cannot be a 501c3 organization and work solely for the benefit and support of only 501c7 organizations (which we have 5 that are 501c7 organizations). He stated he was impressed by our letter and the supporting documentation I sent regarding our organization, but in order for our application to be accepted the organizations we support would need to be 501c3 organizations. Hence, he said we had it backwards, our 5 area Associations should apply for the 501c3 status and then we would be directly benefiting and supporting Non-Profit organizations (for the purpose of education) and our application would be approved. He gave us (2) options for our current application:

1. He could “Reject” our application and it would be on file that our organization had applied for a change of status and we were “Rejected”.
2. Or I could fax him a letter; Requesting that our application be rescinded, and the file would be closed as “unapplied”. *His recommendation was to “withdraw our application at this time”*. I confirmed that if we withdraw our application that we would be able to reapply at a later date. He stated yes. Unfortunately, we do not get our application fee back and can't apply it to the next application process.

I contacted the Executive Board and they all agreed it was in our best interest to “withdraw” our application at this time.

Possible solutions to our immediate problem:

1. I have contacted Mr. Maczko with the USDA to see if we could still try and get in with their Group Exemption. Mr. Maczko stated that the USDA is currently pursuing the Group Exemption, however, they will not begin working on it until after the June 2017 meeting. He confirmed that the USDA will apply no matter how many applications they have after the June 2017 meeting. I have stated that Florida would like to be included in this Group Exemption. (Which is another delay...). I had asked *Mr. Hinds our IRS Agent if he was familiar with the United Square Dancers of America Group Exemption and he stated that he does not work with the Group Exemptions so he could not advise me if this was a possibility for our organization.*
2. Have our area Associations apply for the Educational 501c3 status. I am looking at attempting this with the Northwest Association (however, as you know it is a long process with document changes, etc. AND WE ALL KNOW THAT ALONE IS A LONG PROCESS!) but I have made it my mission to begin the process.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Miller

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Discussion followed regarding reporting process and each association's position of 501c7. Main difference between 501c7 and 501c3 is that 501c7 pays taxes and 501c3 does not.

B. Convention procedures – Anita Taylor said there could not be revisions to these procedures until pending changes become permanent. She moved to have a temporary exemption for change of date and location of the convention procedure revisions until a decision is made as to the permanent location. Seconded by Jack Hoffman. Motion passed.

C. Nominations – Terri Little

I have received consent – from all Board Members to be moved to the next appropriate position.

I have also received a nomination letter and resume from Flo Ormsbee, President of West Coast which was read which nominated Ed Drexel and Terry Wetherby for Federation Parliamentarian.

Pending acceptance from the voting members at the Federation, the new board will be as follows:

President – Dennis & Nancy Taylor
Vice President – Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Secretary – Cheryl Miller
Treasurer – Linda Tester
Parliamentarian – Ed Drexel and Terry Wetherby

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Little
Nominating Committee

Jack Hoffman moved that slate of officers be accepted as presented and the elections be closed. Motion passed.

D. Installation – Kathy McKinney installed the new officers as stated above.

New Business

C. Document Review – Dennis Taylor appointed a committee to review the current documents with Judy Anderson as Chairman. Association presidents are to appoint someone from their association to be part of the committee. This information should be sent to Judy prior to the working weekend.

The working weekend is Feb. 25 and 26 at Comfort Inn & Suites on Lee Road in Orlando. That Saturday night will be a benefit dance for 2018 at Whirl & Twirl. All dancers and delegates are encouraged to attend.

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The Extra Mile Award nominations by dancers is due by Feb. 1. All information is on the web site.

The definition of the working weekend was explained. Signup sheets are available for committee selection.

A gift was presented to Penny in appreciation of her service for the last five years.

27. Announcements –

Next Meeting will be on February 25, 2017 in Orlando.

28. Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Federation Secretary