

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Homewood Suites, 165 Bill France Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL
Sunday, February 23, 2020

Call to Order (Linda Tester):

Linda Tester called the meeting to order at 9 am.

Invocation (Walt Syphard):

Walt Syphard offer the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance (Ed Drexel/Terry Wetherby):

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors and Guests (Terri Little/Linda Tester):

Terri Little called roll and determined that we have a quorum. Linda Tester introduced Ed and Lynda Willis of USDA and Dawn DeWitt and Charles Tharp from Southeast.

Minutes of November 2019 Meeting (Terri Little):

The minutes from the November 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Carol Poole indicated that her USDA meeting report was “messed up” in the minutes. She will re-send it to Terry Wetherby for correction. ***Bruce Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Ray Huddleston seconded. The motion carried.***

Correspondence (Ed Drexel/Terry Wetherby):

Terry Wetherby reported that the Federation received a letter from the USDA regarding our non-profit status, which will be discussed in detail later in the meeting. We also received a thank you note from Cheryl Miller regarding her gift for serving on the board.

Financial Report (Cal & Ann Maki):

There was some question regarding how the \$500 security for the Federation credit card is being reported (liability versus asset). Cal will check into it and make a correction, if necessary. Linda Tester let everyone know that the main purpose of the credit card is to allow the Federation to get our website set up on Go Daddy without requiring Bruce Morgan to use his personal credit card. The financial reports are on the following pages.

12:31 AM

02/05/20

Accrual Basis

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2020

	Jan 31, 20	Sep 30, 19
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
WF Business Checking.....3154	\$	
Market Savings Account...9599	\$	
WF Convention Checking2033		
Insurance (per Carol Poole)		
Total Checking/Savings	\$	
Total Current Assets	\$	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$</u>	<u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
WF Secure Credit Card		
Total Credit Cards		
Total Current Liabilities		
Total Liabilities		
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u></u>	<u></u>

12:24 AM
02/05/20

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS Deposits October 19 through January 2020

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Amount
Deposit		10/28/2019		WF Business Chec...	
			Northwest Association	Association Dues	
			Westcoast Associati...	Association Dues	
			Central Association	Association Dues	
			Southeast Association	Association Dues	
			Northeast Association	Association Dues	
TOTAL					
Deposit		10/31/2019		WF Business Chec...	
			Wells Fargo Bank.....	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					
Deposit		10/31/2019		Market Savings Ac...	
			Market Savings Acct...	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					
Deposit		11/29/2019		WF Business Chec...	
			Wells Fargo Bank.....	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					
Deposit		11/29/2019		Market Savings Ac...	
			Market Savings Acct...	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					
Deposit		12/31/2019		Market Savings Ac...	
			Market Savings Acct...	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					
Deposit		01/17/2020		WF Business Chec...	
			66th FSDC	Web Services	
TOTAL					
Deposit		01/31/2020		WF Business Chec...	
			Wells Fargo Bank.....	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					
Deposit		01/31/2020		Market Savings Ac...	
			Market Savings Acct...	Bank Interest	
TOTAL					

12:24 AM
02/05/20

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Deposits October 19 through January 2020

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Amount
Deposit		01/31/2020		Insurance (per Car... Insurance Account	
TOTAL					

12:27 AM
02/05/20

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Check Detail
October 2019 through January 2020

Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount
Check	Debit	01/08/2020	Wells Fargo Secur...		WF Business Chec...	
					WF Secure Credit C...	
TOTAL						
Check	1067	10/17/2019	United Square Dan...		WF Business Chec...	
					United Square Danc...	
TOTAL						
Check	1068	10/27/2019	Linda Tester		WF Business Chec...	
					Gift Given	
TOTAL						

Parliamentarian Report (Barbara McDonald):

I received the Parliamentarian tubs, the show case display, magnet board and made an inventory list of what I received. I was able to find the missing plaque plate from 2018 and my husband was able to get it put on. I was able to contact the Spokane, Washington, Chairman for the Showcase and he said Cheryl Miller had already applied for Florida's table. I read through the minutes from the working weekend and was able to find Barbie doll shoes (donated by Kay Schmidt) for the square dance Barbie doll. Later I found the missing shoe so now she has 3 pairs of shoes. I talked to Bill Reid about the wood panel display that his friend makes and it would cost us \$400.00. Our question was do we want something this heavy to transport, and how would you attach items for display? Bill stated that the Fire Marshall at National said we could not have any extension cords for power displays or computers on our tables. This eliminated the idea of computer pictures. He mentioned that dancers look for things to pick up at displays and don't really look at the picture books. He suggested maybe we could do a cardboard display with a Florida map, put each region with the clubs in that region and maybe the booklets with each regions' information. He also mentioned that the Mickey Mouse ears were a great attraction on our dancers..."Dance with Mickey and Minnie!" As far as I know the only people from NW going to national are Alec & Kay Schmidt. In closing I will be out of the country for the working weekend and will work to help find someone to take our Showcase to National. I do not think it prudent to mail all the Florida maps but maybe take a portable display, the oranges and coins, table covers, 6 boxes of Federation business cards, banner (white one in tube or blue one), National plaque and small blue plastic box. Do I need to order more of the little oranges? Any suggestions are greatly appreciated. I just did this little display on my computer so if we wanted to do something like this instead of taking the big showcase, you can do this on a trifold or something like that. You can look at it later.

Linda Tester thanked Barbara for all of her wonderful suggestions and indicated that it would be worked on at the Working Weekend. Linda then presented Barbara and Brian with their Federation badges.

Sunshine Report (Ed Drexel/Terry Wetherby):

We have sent 2 Get Well cards to Kathy McKinney and a Sympathy card to Cal & Ann Maki on the passing of his mother. We have another card for Kathy for everyone to sign. Linda Tester let everyone know that Kathy has had cancer in the past and is currently having some problems getting her numbers regulated. Linda spoke with her last night and Kathy indicated that she is feeling better.

Florida Callers Association (Bob Ormsbee):

No report.

Round Dance Council of Florida (Lloyd & Ruth McKenrick):

Susan Snider reported that she thought the convention went very well from a Round Dance Council perspective. The halls were generally very full. She had one couple tell her that they left one of the teaches because there wasn't enough room for them. She stopped by the Caller's meeting before coming to the Federation meeting and spoke with Bob Poyner. He asked

her to report that they were pleased as well. If anyone has any positive feedback, let Susan know. If you have any negative feedback, please e-mail Earle Collins and let him know. Earle and Carol Collins will be the Cues Chairman for next year's convention. The only issue was that at about 5 minutes to 9, Bob Bahr's crew hadn't started putting the flooring down yet. But they did get it down in time and just had to come back at lunchtime to finish securing all the flooring.

Florida Square Dance Campers (Ken Shacter):

We are the Florida Association of Square Dance Campers or FANSDC. Each of our chapters meets once a month at a local campground for a weekend of camping and dancing. The months each chapter meets varies from part of the year to year-round. Thank you for inviting us to tell you about 2 of our major activities for this year. First up is our Spring Fling on April 17 and 18 when members get together from all Chapters at a common campground for a weekend of fun, dancing and visiting the local attractions. This year it will be held at the Southern Palms RV Resort in Eustis. Some of our clubs arrive early for their monthly campout and other members arrive during the week or stay longer to enjoy the shopping and dining in Mount Dora. There are rental park model units available for those of you who do not have an RV but would like to join us. We would also love to have you come dance Friday, April 17 at 7 pm or Saturday from 2-4 for round and square dance classes and workshops and from 7 to 9:30 for square dances with rounds. In October we have our Camp-o-Ree, which is the 2nd of our yearly dances in which all chapters come together for a joint camp out and dancing weekend. Barbara and Bob Rosenthal are the chairpersons for this year's event. We or they would be very happy to provide you with any information if you are interested. Our chapter's individual scheduled campground places and dates are available if you are interested. Our *Times* editor, Ken, can supply you with contact information should anyone need any information regarding this.

Association Reports

Southeast (Steve Adler): Cal Maki read the report submitted by Steve Adler and Sally Galik. As we commented at this time last year, it's hard to believe that in "dance time" we are four-fifths of the way through our season. "Spring Has Sprung!" is our fifth and final dance of the season and will be on Sunday afternoon, March 22nd. It will be held in the Auditorium at Briny Breezes with early rounds starting at 1:30pm and squares at 2 pm. Chris Phillips will be the host caller; Zail Greenbain the host cuer. We have both decline and growth. Most recently Mike and Patty Doughty's Sailfish club in Stuart turned "dark". Additionally, the Whirlaways with Chuck and Mary Ryall, have lost their hall in Fort Pierce and are seeking a new location for their Sunday afternoon round dance classes and dances. On the positive side, our two newest clubs, the A-Jacks (Jack Lewis, caller) and the Scotty Dog Squares (Scotty Sharrer, caller), as well as the Castoffs (Jack Lewis), all in Boynton Beach, are continuing to attract a good number of dancers. All three clubs will soon be moving from their temporary venue, the Boynton Beach Senior Center, to the newly renovated "Old" Boynton Beach High School. The high school is part of a major development in downtown Boynton Beach. Regarding classes and workshops – Chris Phillips has two classes: a combined Advanced/C-1 class on Tuesday nights and a Mainstream class on Thursday nights - both in Wilton Manors. Scotty Sharrer is holding a Beginner's class at Floral Lakes in Delray Beach on Thursday

nights and the Long Key Squares with caller Joe Uebelacker have both Basic lessons and a Mainstream workshop Sunday afternoons. They also run a Plus workshop Thursday afternoons. Finally, we would like to thank both the Briny Breezes club for hosting our dances, which are held in the Briny Auditorium, as well as the Briny Board of Directors for their continued support.

Central (Richard & Carol Douget): First of all, I'd like to say "Kudos" to The Firm for a terrific convention. The CFA next 5th Saturday Dance is February 29, 2020. Early Rounds with Earl & Carol Collins at 6:30 pm and square dance with rounds 7-9 pm at the Adult Center in Port Orange. The address is: 4970 Ridgewood Avenue, Port Orange, FL 32127. Flyers are available. Please come join us. There will be a CFA meeting prior to the dance at 4 pm at the Golden Corral, 907 Taylor Road, Port Orange, FL 32127.

Northeast (Linda Tester): Changes are a-coming to Northeast. Or maybe I should say they have come! NEFSARDA has new officers: President, Linda Tester; Vice President, Erik and Robin Burton; Recording Secretary, Bill and Paula Dion; Correspondence Secretary, David and Donna Smith; Treasurer, Shirley White. The NEFSARDA board will be going out soon to the clubs who won visitation metals and serving them their ice cream sundae social. We had a lot of fun at the Olustee Festival Dance in Lake City on February 15. Of course, we always go down to the street fair. It was huge this year. I'm sure everybody who went had a great time. Unfortunately the attendance was down for the dance that night. But those in attendance had a great time. And don't forget the silent auction! Yours truly certainly did a lot of shopping. On March 26 through the 29th our Northeast callers will be attending the Sunshine State Caller's School along with other callers throughout the state. Then on Saturday night, March 28, we will have a Sunshine State Caller's School dance so the callers who just finished the class can polish up their new skills. We're hoping everyone will come and help out. We need dancers. And a little birdie told me Bobby Keefe is hoping to start a new Advance Club in Jacksonville soon. No plans have been finalized but trust me, as soon as we know we will let everyone know. How exciting! Then on November 20 and 21st come to Jacksonville Beach to Catch the Wave of the Future at the NEFSARDA Fall Festival Dance. The caller is Steve Holzerhausen and the Cuers will be Earle and Carol Collins. The chairman of the Fall Festival is Jane Dando and the Rollaways' chapter of the Epsilon Sigma Delta. If you're not familiar with The Epsilons, they are youth dancers and ARE the Future of Square Dancing.

Northwest (Brian & Barbara McDonald): Northwest officers for 2020 are President, Brian and Barbara McDonald; Vice President Libby Penrod and Laura Davis; Secretary, Sherrilee Lewis (temporary until October); Treasurer and Insurance Chairman, Alec Schmidt. We have 19 new members and a total of 128 NW members. Members who have passed are Victor Rhodes, Charlie Love, Fred Cornet, Wendell Murphy, David Hinn and Terry Traimer. These people were active members in our association and will be missed. Northwest would like to report that for 2020 we have 6 clubs renewed with insurance and 2 clubs renewed using caller insurance. Most of our clubs had Christmas dances and one New Year's Eve dance which brought a lot of dancers out to have fun. TNT Rounds and Seaside Squares raised over \$200 for Toys for Tots. Grand Square Hall raised money for the ARC of the Bay. We have some changes with Agape Squares,

which is now a member-run club and Burlin Brand will be cutting back on his calling. He will have scheduled callers on the 5th Monday of the month. Swinging Squares of Panama City have changed their dance night to Friday and Bob Poyner is their caller. They have had 3 open houses for a total of 35 students. Classes there are starting February 14. Capital Twirlers had a graduation January 27th and they will continue dancing Monday nights. They are also teaching A on Tuesday nights and hope to start classes in the Fall. Last weekend we had a Sweetheart Swing in Pensacola with 6 squares and lots of round dancers. We took a donation for the ARTS dance and received \$40 for them. We have 2 dances coming up in April and a dance on July 18. July 10 and 11 is the Round-Up in Tallahassee which is just prior to football season. Libby and Laura are in charge of that. It's going to be fun and we have good callers. We also will be having a dance on October 17. It was a great convention and we look forward to 2021.

West Coast (Penny Green): Terri Little read the report submitted by Penny Green. We are still operational, but it's been a struggle! Our first business meeting didn't have a quorum in attendance, and out of six dances in southwest Florida, there is only one left. Until November, we didn't know if that club would still be in existence. Over the summer, when everyone was gone, the park was sold, and we didn't know if the new owners would allow square dancing. So they are dancing but who knows what will happen during the next dance season. Our last Fall Fun Fest was a success. We had Jerry Biggerstaff and Scotty Sharrer as callers, and Judy Barnhill was our cuer. Any time we don't go in the hole is a success to me! The attendance was down, but we didn't have to pay rent on the facility due to being bumped from our previous location at the last minute. We made approximately \$1,500. The 2020 Fall Fun Fest will be November 13 – 14 at the same location in Bartow. Ted Kennedy and Jack Lewis will be calling, and Earle Collins will be cueing. Ribbons are \$22 per person in advance for the entire weekend. Jenny Green is the chairman, and I don't know if I'm the co-chair, assistant chair, or maybe I'm the consultant! Strawberry Square Dance Center in Plant City has closed its store and converted the room into another dance hall. So now they have two rooms in the same building. Grand Square is moving the Winter Fest back to the Florida west coast in 2021. The one problem they had when they used Strawberry Square before was that there weren't two rooms to have Advanced in one and Plus in the other. I think this new set-up will be great for them. I've been trying to get Tony to move it back to the Florida west coast because they have two dances on the same coast and not very far apart. We have several clubs that tried to start new dancer lessons back in November with no success. They re-started in January and are having better attendance. It seems like the dance season in our area is shifting. Back when I started to dance about 40 years ago, the class went from September to May. Then for several years, it's been November to April. It now seems to be January to April. Red Bates had several classes and dances scheduled in the Venice area, but he had to cancel most of them due to some health issues. I haven't heard what their plans are for next year yet. Red's 90 years old, and he's been calling for over 50 years. Don Bachelder, a caller from Massachusetts, has purchased in Strawberry Square. He calls Basic through Advanced. Sheila Terhune, a caller from Indiana, is renting in Strawberry Square. She calls Mainstream and Plus. When I first asked her if she wants to call down here, she didn't

because she was thinking about it. The next time I saw her, she is scheduled with two local clubs! Tim Scholl, a caller from Kentucky, has been calling in the area. He calls from Basic through C3A. At first, I saw his name on schedules in southwest Florida. He now seems to be calling at Shufflin' Squares in Lake Wales and Strawberry Square. Several dancers in Florida have belonged to Single Square Dancers USA (SSDUSA) and attended the Dance-A-Rama over the years. This year's event is their 50th and final dance. Guess what? No one wants to be an officer, there have been several openings for area reps that nobody wants to fill, and none of the clubs wants to host the Dance-A-Rama. Where have we heard that before? Last year we lost one of the hardest workers unexpectedly. He was a past president (a few times), Historian, and worked with each DAR committee. When he died, the arrangements for the next DAR were incomplete. So at the last minute, the Board was scurrying around trying to find a location. They announced about a week ago that it would be held in Newark, Ohio, over the Labor Day weekend in September. This why I try to encourage people not to ask for the same volunteers every year, who are getting older every year, instead of talking to younger people who could be learning from the experienced volunteers. There are several of us making plans to attend this final dance. Ailene Picheco has been serving as its newsletter editor for the past three or four years. I have received several dance inquiries over the past few months. It seems to me that I have received inquiries this year than any other. Questions come directly to me, through the Federation president, or they are referred to me by callers, cuers, and dancers. They also find DANCERgram when they do an Internet search. Most of the questions are about Ft. Myers in southwest Florida. When I hear they are moving to Ft. Myers, I bite my tongue, but I wonder why you would move to Ft. Myers? First of all, it's costly to live there, and they only dance three months of the year! Suncoast Squares of St. Pete is still our most successful club in the West Coast area. They have classes from Basic to Challenge and dance on two different nights each week. Tuesday night is Mainstream and Plus with Rounds, and Thursday is Advanced and Challenge. Then they also have a special dance once a month on Sunday. I went to their last Sunday afternoon dance when Betsy Gotta was calling. They had five squares that day, and they had six squares on the previous Tuesday, and it's the same way every week. I received an email from some dancers last year that suggested we use Suncoast Squares as a model to grow our other clubs. I agree with him and I have been telling my home club about some of the ideas, but they're not using any of the suggestions. Guess what? They're falling apart! Some things that Suncoast Squares do are no one sits out; they make sure everyone gets to dance. Most of their dancers can dance both positions so they are switching back and forth and filling in wherever they are needed. When they attend conventions, they make their travel plans together so they fly or drive together, share rooms, sightsee and share meals. They plan birthday parties for themselves and hold them at each other's houses. They go to plays and concerts together. If one of their members is involved in something, they make sure they attend to show their support. Groups of them get together and travel overseas. They call them recruiting trips! If someone wants to go to a convention with them but can't afford it, they are to notify the Board and they come up with the money. When out-of-towners fly in for the annual Flip-the-Flamingo Fly-In

(their equivalent of an annual convention), members pick people up at the airport and open their homes to guests. Several angels work with the new dancers, and one of their members has a “reinforcement class.” They help the new dancers practice calls they have learned. They include a meal or two in the ribbon price for their Fly-Ins. They have members of their club who live in other parts of the country and they meet up at the various conventions around the state. They have fun at their dances! They are big on themes and love to wear costumes for each theme. They have a theme for their annual Fly-In. When they do a demo, like at the annual Pride Parade in St. Pete, they collect all kinds of names and contact information so they can stay in touch with these people and keep working with them to get them interested in dancing. I wish I lived closer to them so I can dance with them more often. I get to dance at their club more than at my home club! My home club, Buttons & Bows of Lakeland, celebrated their 68th anniversary last month. Right now, I’m pretty sure we won’t make it to the 70th, and possibly the 69th. Nobody wants to join because they don’t want to work. I bit my tongue again and think, “I’m glad everyone doesn’t think that way. You wouldn’t have a dance to go to!” I’ll end with this quote, “Dance – it’s cheaper than therapy!”

Publication Reports

Web Site (Bruce Morgan): The website is doing well, but isn’t getting used much. The clubs, caller and cuers are not posting their dances. It is free advertisement. Go Daddy does not allow the site to be used for archiving, so they shut us down for a few days. I had to delete all of our history from the Go Daddy server (it is still on a local server, so no worries). It cannot be made active again as long as we are with Go Daddy. If you will remember, about a year ago, we renewed our Go Daddy server for 5 years. I don’t recall how much it cost, but we recoup that expense each year from the Convention. This year’s reimbursement was over \$220. We have a couple of options. #1 – We stay with Go Daddy and I continue to put the history on the local server. #2 – We can move to a new provider and forfeit what we’ve paid for Go Daddy. I have found a new company called Web Masters. They are \$10 a month (\$120 a year) plus taxes and fees. I’m certain that after taxes and fees, it would be less than \$20 a month, which is about what we pay for Go Daddy. If we do this, it would double the expected reimbursement from each Convention. Or the Federation could just “eat” the Go Daddy fees. Jack McKinney indicated that his choice is to have the Federation waive the reimbursement of the Go Daddy fees for the conventions and just move everything over to Web Masters. If we go to Web Masters, we could put everything back on the website again...they have no limit to what we can store. Ed Drexel asked about the pop-up problem that exists on the Federation website now. Bruce said he has worked with Go Daddy and they haven’t been able to determine where the pop-up is coming from. Bruce also feels that the pop-up will probably still occur if we move to Web Masters. ***Don Slocum made a motion that the Federation move their website to Web Master and cover the remaining cost of Go Daddy. Barbara Hoffman seconded. The motion carried after some discussion.*** Bruce also stated that the map program is not working. Google has changed their policy and you have to have a credit card on their account in case you went over a certain number of views (which is extremely high...we don’t come

close). Now that the Federation has a credit card, Bruce will be able to get the map program working again. And it will take him a little bit of time to get everything transferred over to Web Master.

Bow & Swing (Susan Elaine Packer): No report.

Grapevine (Laura Martin & Jim Maroldo): The Grapevine is a free email NEFSARDA publication that is issued at the beginning of each month. It is distributed to about 320 email addresses. Many of these addresses have more than one name, so the actual distribution list contains about 500 names. The normal Grapevine has about 32 pages. It is published in color and in a PDF format. The contents include:

1. When and where NEFSARDA clubs dance, plus contact names and telephone numbers
2. A listing of upcoming special dances in Northeast Florida
3. A listing of all dances that include round dancing plus pictures of the local cuers
4. Information about camping clubs
5. News about NEFSARDA and the Federation
6. Information about state and national dance conventions
7. Dance club news for the twelve clubs in Northeast Florida (plus one youth club that dances the Rollaways Club)
8. General news and happenings in the dance community
9. Farewells and concerns
10. A listing of dance clubs that are near Northeast Florida (Ormond Beach, Ocala, Brunswick, etc.)
11. Information about special dances of note outside of the local area
12. Square dance callers in the area, including their pictures
13. Helpful web sites
14. Places to buy and sell square dance clothes

The two most popular parts of the Grapevine are:

1. General information about when and where to dance
2. Club News and Pictures

The editors rely on contacts at the individual clubs to submit articles and pictures. Virtually all articles and pictures that are received are included in the Grapevine. Eight of the twelve clubs submit articles and pictures to the Grapevine Editors each month. The February Grapevine included 100 pictures. The editors take pictures and write articles about selected dances, activities and news.

Keepin' Posted (Ailene Picheco): I am accepting articles for the April issue of *Keepin' Posted*. Please send me any changes to your published information.

Panhandle Press (Tim & Terri Wilaby): No report.

DANCERgram/West Coast Dancer (Penny Green): The DANCERgram is being well-received by close to 1,000 subscribers! In the effort to keep the material interesting, changes continually made. I delete things, add things, and I listen to suggestions from the readers. This publication is intended for Florida west coast dancers, callers, and cuers, so articles of interest and other information are for all three groups. Several people from outside our area are also receiving the DANCERgram. There have also been some people from outside the country receiving it over the years. It started as a weekly

publication, but it has grown so much, distribution had to be reduced to once a month. Each issue is between 40 and 50 pages long. That has gotten to be a pretty high number. In consulting with a librarian, she has suggested that I split the newsletter into several smaller publications. Some things don't need to go out monthly like the schedule needs to go weekly. This will make it easier for me to work with and will also be less cumbersome for the readers. I am currently working on what would be the best way to split it up. We will then make some changes to our website. In addition to schedules, flyers, and meetings, I include the re-occurring deadlines for award nominations, deadline for callers to submit a profile for the state convention, deadline for RDFC submitting their intention to cue at the state convention, some registration deadlines. I have attempted to create a network with all the regional association leaders to share information and encouraging them to attend the Working Weekend. Some associations are participating, and some aren't. Sometimes *Bow & Swing* is included. As the editor of the DANCERgram, I work with Ailene in compiling the Memorial page for the convention program booklet. We both maintain a list during the year, and at the end of the year, we compare the listings, and I proofread. You may have noticed on this year's list we have one dancer, Frank Habersberger, who was 104 when he passed away. There was also a Mr. Portifay who was 100. He was from Northeast, but I was unable to find out if he was still dancing at 100. You may know that the USDA has a Centennial Program to recognize dancers who achieve the age of 100. I maintain a list of dancers in the West Coast who are in their 90's so I can keep track of them. I have told just about all of them about the Centennial Program and said if they are still dancing at 100, to let me know so we can get this recognition for them. In my capacity as editor of this publication, I created a chart listing all the publications I feel Florida should be using to advertiser their annual festivals and the state convention. The list contains each of the regional associations, *Bow & Swing*, *American Square Dance*, *USDA News*, *NSDC Times* (campers), the Florida website, and the Florida Email Tree. The submission deadlines are listed, what they will accept, i.e., ads, articles, etc., and contact information. This list is sent to the convention chairpersons, convention publicity persons, Federation officers, presidents of each of the regional associations, and the editors of each of the Florida publications. I maintain a Master Calendar for the West Coast area, which lists all the local dances, state convention, regional festivals, meetings, holidays, classes (for dancers, callers, and cuers). When I add new information to the Calendar, I check for conflicts and notify the concerned parties when there are any. I assist Bruce with proofing the floridasquaredance.com site, and if I am searching for something on that site and find that a page should be updated, I send a friendly reminder to someone with the club to remind them. I monitor Facebook for death and illness notices, and the Lakeland Ledger for obituaries of former and current dancers. I also have a few "field reporters" who send me information about our dancers. If someone other than the individual involved notifies me of something, I confirm with them that it's ok to publicize the information. I work with numerous publications and flyers, and when I notice something is missing or incorrect, I notify the concerned party, and it's up to them if they correct it or leave it the way it is. In 2014 when Jenny and I co-chaired the 2014 convention, I created a Convention Fact Sheet. It is written for both new and seasoned

dancers. It provides all the essential details every dance needs to know about the convention. Working with the chairperson(s) each year, I update the form and then email it via the Florida Email Tree so that hopefully, everyone receives it. There is a website that is a companion to the publication. You will find the entire newsletter posted as well as separate documents for each section. There is also a lot of other information posted on the site. When I searched Florida square dancing on Wednesday night, the DANCERgram was fifth on the list. As of January 17, 2019, there were 4,775 hits which is an increase of 1,693 from the previous reporting period. On Wednesday night, February 19th, the DANCERgram had 5,214 hits and an increase of 439 since January 17th (a month and two days later). I am pleased with these numbers. The number of hits increases every time and the increase over the previous reporting period keeps rising. I may have to hire some help!

The Times (Ken Shacter): We have 4 active chapters in Florida. There is the Sunshine State Pioneers (Ted Hughes, caller), The Hitch-N-Go (Ron Reardon, caller), The Square Wheels, which is The Square Wheels and Gypsy Wheels combined (Bill Chesnut, caller) and The Florida Roadrunners (Sonny McCartney, caller). We also have Bill Cassidy and Mark Fetzer as callers. Susan Snider and Ann Henzel are our cuers. Florida happens to have the largest percentage of all members of the NSDCA...we have about 16.5% of all members, about 150. Alabama is the next closest with 52. There are 4 Canadian provinces and 1 German province. Our upcoming Camp-o-Ree is going to be June 30-July 2 in Lebanon, Tennessee. I have about 750 households that the newsletter goes out to. It has about 62 pages and goes out quarterly. The deadlines are the end of January, April, July and October. You can always read a copy on line at nsdca.org as well as find out about our camping schedule.

Florida E-mail Tree (Penny Green): There hasn't been much activity with the Florida Email Tree since our last meeting. The Tree is used to forward state convention information to everyone. The last one contained the Convention Fact Sheet. I'm still not sure that every association is sending the emails to their dancers. I have a brochure published by the USDA regarding email trees that I haven't had time to read yet. It's on my desk though!

Convention Reports

2020 (The FIRM: Little, Miller, Reid, Green & Reid): On behalf of The Firm, we're glad it's over. We had a good time doing it, but we're a little bit exhausted. We also have a check for \$4,250 to repay the Federation for the seed money and deposit on the Ocean Center. We had about 600 total in attendance, about 520 of those paid. Our theme was the ability to see the future and we can say "We came; we saw; we conquered" and the future is here. Our final report will be submitted in May at the Working Weekend. For any of you who were chairmen for us, we will need your reports submitted in the next month. Also, if you have any receipts to be turned in for reimbursement, please get them to the Treasurer (Jack and Barbara Hoffman) before the end of March. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding C-1 dancers and why they did not attend the convention as a whole. The FIRM kept records of attendance in each room during the 2019 convention and based their decisions on what type of dancing to have in 2020 on

that data. If the dancers don't come to the convention, the next Chairmen don't have any way of knowing how to plan for their convention. We try to fit a lot of dancing into a little bit of time and limited space. The decisions made are based on previous convention attendance and best efforts are made to accommodate the majority of our dancers.

2021 (Richard & Carol Douget): The 67th Florida State Convention will be held February 19-20, 2021, at the Ocean Center in Daytona. Our theme for the 2021 Convention is "Lighting the Way to Friendship and Fun in Twenty-One". The decor is lighthouses and the colors red & white. Our logo was designed by Shannon Reid and Carol Douget. Our benefit dance held May 18, 2019 provided \$1,512 income. Last night's activities are still being calculated. We have raffles ongoing:

1. A lighthouse quilt sewn by Terri Little and quilted by Peggy Huston to be drawn at the convention. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.
2. Two lighthouse structures by Richard Douget and Tom Leaf to be drawn at the convention. Tickets are 1 for \$2.00 or 6 for \$10.00. There will be 2 winners.
3. A Virtual Headset to be drawn November 21, 2020, at Jacksonville Beach Fall Festival. Tickets are 3 for \$5 or 6 for \$10.00.
4. We will also have a 50/50 raffle each night at the convention.
5. Our polo shirts are \$25 each or 2 for \$45 and the buttons are \$1 each.

We have recruited some committee members but are in need of more volunteers. Our current committee consists of:

General Chairperson - Carol & Richard Douget
Secretary – Penny Green
Treasurer - Terri Little & Sheila Reid
Program Book & Advertising - Ailene Picheco
Cuer Coordinator - Earle & Carol Collins
Caller Coordinator - Bob Ormsbee
Web Master - Bruce & Colleen Morgan
Housing - Randy & Carol Poole
Décor - Keith & Angie Olds
Registration - Linda & Bill Reid
Asst. Registration – Jenny Green
Dangle Dances & Publicity - Judy Anderson
50/50 Raffle - Jack & Barbara Hoffman
Facilities – Randy Poole
Photographer – Jack McKinney
After Party – Kathy McKinney
Camping - Paul & Marilyn Scott
Ways and Means:
Chairman- Jenny Green
Southeast- Steve Alder
Central – RoryAnn Martin

Still Need:

Ways & Means - Northeast

Ways & means – Northwest
Ways & Means – West Coast
Hospitality Chairperson
Flooring Chairperson

Please consider volunteering for a committee position. We need all the help we can get. If anyone has suggestions to help make this convention a success, please do not hesitate to tell us.

2022 (TBD): No report.

Facilities (Don & Ann Slocum): On the morning of Feb. 21st at 8 am we did the walk-thru of the facility with Jan Adams, Randy & Carol Poole and members of the Firm: Terri Little, Sheila Reed and Jenny Green. All was found to be in order as requested. We then asked for several more tables than we had planned for as some showed up without a request and others needed more tables than requested. Rooms 101 and 102 had requested more cooling which was addressed by OC personnel. The 66th FSSRDC is now complete without any major facilities problems. The contract is in place for the 67th FSSRDC in 2021. The room layouts will be needed by December 15th, 2020. The contract for 2022 is not signed yet but the date of March 4-5 is supposed to be saved for us. The Center will let us know when we can secure that date with a Contract. We have enjoyed serving as Facilities Chairmen for the last several years. Now that we have found out the Federation has received the 501(c)(3) status, there will be approximately a \$600 savings on the Convention billing on the convention venue. We will now turn over the duties to Randy & Carol Poole.

Hall of Fame (Ailene Picheco): The Hall of Fame is financed through funds derived from the state convention. Our account is maintained at \$1500. We have not received any nominations this year.

History (Penny Green): We have so much history to capture! You may or may not know we have a history section on the floridasquaredance.com site. We have lists of past presidents, convention chairpersons, and festival chairpersons by association. I have been attempting to collect pictures of the past Federation officers, convention chairpersons, and Hall of Fame Inductees. I also collect photos of the Florida Callers Association members, the Round Dance Council of Florida members, and the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association members. I forward pictures to webmasters of the FCA, RDCF, and SCCA. I also send photos to Mary Lee VanValkenburg for the Hall of Fame at Strawberry Square. A success story: I was looking for a picture of Caller Bart Bartley and Cuer Ruth Bartley. Bart was the president of FCA in 1960 and a professor at the University of Florida. Working with Mary Giera from Northeast, we checked everywhere for a picture. She found the obituary and sent it to me. When I found out he had worked at the university, it dawned on me that the University Library would probably have a picture of him in their archives. So I contacted the archival librarian and explained what I was looking for and the reason. About two weeks later, I received two different headshot poses of Bart! We still haven't found a picture of Ruth. The Bartleys are also Florida Hall of Fame inductees. When I say we checked everywhere for a picture, I mean that I have searched the Internet, Vic Ceder's Caller and Cuer Database. I've contacted callers and cuers as well as their

national organizations to see if they have pictures. I'm in touch with the 1953 FCA president and has been able to provide some information and photos. I have received square dance memorabilia and files from relatives of deceased dancers and callers. I sort through everything, and either take pictures of everything or forward it to the appropriate person. I've told some of the dancers in my area that they need to be sure that someone in their family notifies me when they pass away. There have been some deaths of former dancers, and no one knew how to reach a family member. When I contact their family members, I extend condolences on behalf of the dancers and ask if there is anything we can do to help them. I've helped gather photos and information for obituaries, communicated the funeral or memorial service information to the dancers, etc. In the West Coast area, we wear our badges to the funerals and memorial services. I received "stuff" from Larry and Dorry Clevenger a couple of years back. Some of you may recognize their name. They joined Buttons & Bows of Lakeland in 1958 and had the most years of membership until their death. They also attended all the Knothead Konventions during their dancing careers. Towards the end, Art used to call them to the stage to receive their bar, indicating how many they had attended. By stuff, I mean everything clothes, shoes, boots, accessories, badges, fun badges, ribbons, and every copy of the *West Coast Dancer* and *Bow & Swing* they had ever received. Even though Bruce already had the majority of most of these publications, I was able to furnish many of the missing ones from what I had received. I have photographed and scanned everything else. With all the clubs folding, I think it's essential to gather all this historical information. I encourage all the clubs to write their history and keep it updated. When Buttons & Bows celebrated their 50th anniversary, I worked with the Clevengers and a charter member to put the history together. I have kept it updated, and it's included in our pictorial membership directory so it doesn't get lost.

USDA Report (Ed & Lynda Willis): A few weeks ago we had a meeting in Wilmington. One of the things we covered in that meeting and which will come out at the Spokane meeting, is that we have asked for a different class of membership to USDA. This class will allow individual clubs to become members of USDA for the sole purpose obtaining 501(c)(3) status. If it passes, individual clubs will be able to joint USDA at a reduced rate, have NO vote, but be able to take advantage of the 501(c)(3) program. The requirements to join are very similar to what Federation had to do to join. The Associations will also be allowed to join. Keep in mind that this has not yet been approved...voting will happen in Spokane.

USDA Insurance (Carol Poole): We have now started the third year of the "new" Portal system. A new USDA Insurance Director took over this year in September. Her planned two-week trip in December followed by the holidays backed things up a little but getting the insurance certificates is still much faster. A few years back we needed a 45-day window, with email it was shorten to 30 days. Now, we are looking at a week or less. It has gone smoothly this year but there are still some bugs to iron out. Dancers that are members of two or more clubs is still not completely solved. A new club enrolling must still use the forms on the website which the association chairman mail to me. We will always need to use the ID number assigned to every association and club. Each insured club is given a Member Certificate which has this number on the front. In the three months following the last report, thirty-five dancers were enrolled. This brought the total of dancers insured for 2019 to 1357 an increase over 2018's total of 1283.

Douget on January 21, 2020. The receipts have been given to the 2020 Convention and already reimbursed.

ARTS (Ailene Picheco): You are invited to attend the next meeting of the ARTS board. The meeting will be held Sunday, June 21, 2020, immediately following the 69th National Convention in Spokane, Washington. All persons interested in supporting the activity are invited to attend. For more information including meeting time and location, please contact Jerry Reed, Executive Director, at executivedirector@arts-dance.org.

Old Business

Dennis & Nancy Taylor: Jack Hoffman reported that Dennis and Nancy Taylor have moved to Massachusetts to a progressive assisted living facility in the middle of December to be closer to their children. Soon after they got there, Nancy ended up in the hospital. Not sure of all the details, but she has been through rehab and is back in their apartment.

Approve changes to Agenda: Barbara McDonald pointed out that when changes are made to the agenda during the meeting, such as out of order reporting, the changes must be voted on. *To that end, Barbara McDonald made a motion that we approve the changes to the Agenda that happened during the meeting. Ann Slocum seconded. The motion carried.*

Agenda order: Barbara also stated that what she was reading in Robert's Rules of Order indicate that the Roll Call should be first on the agenda before Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge. After some discussion, the consensus was that you have to Call to Order before you can start anything and God and Country come before Roll Call. The agenda order will stand as is.

USDA IRS Exemption Status: Terri Little reported that thanks to the inexhaustible efforts of Cheryl Miller, we got our acceptance from the IRS. We have been officially 501(c)(3) since December 23, 2019. In February we received an e-mail with a list of requirements. We have to provide our By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, Standing Rules, Constitution and Financial Reports along with some USDA forms. Cal, Ann and Terri worked several hours getting all of the forms filled out and collected. Terri has all the forms and the check and will get the package in the mail to USDA next week. Bruce pointed out that the Articles of Incorporation have to be changed to reflect our new status. *Bruce Morgan made a motion that due to our change of status with the IRS as of December 23, 2019, we change the Articles of Incorporation to read non-profit 501(c)(3) and update the address. Al Burchsted seconded. The motion carried.* Bruce will attempt to make these changes on line. We also need to verify that Dennis Taylor has been replaced by Bruce Morgan on Sunbiz.

Relief Program: At the last Working Weekend, there was a relief program that was brought up that Bruce Morgan, Penny Green and Jenny Green were to be working on. Bruce has asked to be removed from this task. Penny will chair and have something at the Working Weekend.

Booklet for New Dancers: This was also discussed at the last Working Weekend. Penny will also look into this.

New Business

2022 Convention: Don Slocum asked for verification that we will be having a convention in 2022 so he could get with The Ocean Center to finalize our dates and get a contract. If we contract with the Ocean Center and do not have a convention, we will lose our \$1750 deposit. It was suggested that we go ahead and book the convention center. Then if we cannot find a chairman, the current board could act as Chairman. Cheryl Miller brought up that Susan Snider and Bill Chesnut are looking at an alternative location. Don Slocum brought up the fact that a full year was spent looking for an alternative to Lakeland when the Ocean Center was found. If we are going to consider an alternate location, a new committee needs to be set up with the new Facilities Chairman. ***Cal Maki made a motion that we go ahead and book the Convention Center for 2022. Don Slocum seconded. The motion carried with one in opposition.***

Announcements: Our next meeting will be the Working Weekend, May 16-17, 2020, at the Homewood Suites, 165 Bill France Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL, (386)258-2828. Randy Poole will work with the hotel for pricing.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.