

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS, INC. MEETING MINUTES
HOMEWOOD SUITES
165 Bill France Blvd, Daytona, FL 32114
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

Call to Order (Ann & Cal Maki)

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 a.m. by Cal Maki.

Invocation (Mark Fetzer)

Pledge of Allegiance (Linda Tester)

Roll Call, Introduction (Ann Maki – filling in for Jenny Green)

Ann Maki stated there is a quorum at the meeting.

Introductions:

Sandy Sturgis (Cuer from West Coast Area)

Mark Fetzer (Caller from Northeast)

Susan Snider (Cuer from Northeast)

Minutes of Last Meeting (Jenny Green)

November 12, 2023:

Website:

Under websites he (Cliff) monitors, it says Round Dance Council, it should be Rounds with Judy.

Penny Green made the motion to approve the Minutes as amended, Stephen Bigelow second, motion carried.

January 21, 2024:

Website:

Under websites he monitors, it says Round Dance Council, it should be Rounds with Judy.

New Business:

1. Says “When Jack & Zony Taylor turned over the history to me....”, needs to say, “When Jack & Zony Taylor turned over the history to Bruce Morgan....”

2. Ann Maki questioned if “It was suggested to Cal that we have an assistant facility chairman” should say assistant convention facility chairman. It was agreed by the floor that it meant the same thing.

Penny Green made the motion to approve the Minutes as amended, Stephen Bigelow second, motion carried.

Correspondence (Linda Tester)

A carryover from when I was secretary in 2023: one of my jobs was to, after a delegate/representative has missed 3 meetings in a row, we send out a letter that says, “Thank you for your service you haven’t been here....” and we take them off the roll. One couple was Bob & Barbara Rosenthal for the Florida Campers, I sent them the letter and I sent the information to Jenny; they are now officially off the roll call. I contacted the Campers about a new representative, I received an email back from Tim Hill, co-president of Square Wheels Chapter of the Florida Campers, it says: “*Linda, we do not at the present time have anyone available to attend the Federation meetings. At our meeting I will ask if there is anyone available to attend the meeting. Thanks, Tim.*” Susan Snider stated she is the representative for the Campers.

Financial Report (Annie Minor)

Annie Minor presented the Treasurer's Report (available at the end of these Minutes).

Susan Snider questioned how the Convention account funds were being listed on the Treasurer's Report. Where does it show the \$5,500 that was given by the Round Dance Council, Florida Callers Association and the Florida Federation for a total of \$16,500? Terri Little stated, in the past it was listed but had stopped being reported for some reason. Annie said she will amend her Treasurer's Report to include these funds (Amended Treasurer's Report available at the end of these Minutes). Will be filed for Audit.

Parliamentarian Report (Linda Tester)

Linda stated she doesn't have a report at this time. She will have a follow up report after the meeting today for the Showcase of Ideas.

Sunshine Report (Linda Tester)

A Sympathy card was sent to caller Elmer Sheffield (Capital City Squares of Tallahassee) for the passing of his wife Margie on 04/05/2024.

A Thinking of You card was sent to Art Springer who has been moved to a memory care unit in Brandon, FL. Art was a very popular caller in the Tampa Bay area and called for many clubs in the area.

A Thinking of You Card was sent to Charlie and Leona Lovelace. Charlie and Leona are no longer able to dance. Charlie was a cuer at Strawberry Square and surrounding clubs for many years. He is a past president (1970) of the Round Dance Council of Florida.

(Side note from Penny Green - I have been trying to reach several former dancers trying to gather information for the website.)

I communicated with Carol McKenzie this past week. She says they are "getting" by. Garland had acute septic appendicitis a year and a half ago and has not been doing well since the surgery. He is starting to get dementia. They lost their daughter four years ago in August, so they have no family near them in Ocala. Their grandson in Stuart comes up every few months to do things for them.

I've emailed Elsa Huddleston and Sandy Brasfield but haven't had any responses yet. I got Elsa's phone number the other night and will be calling her and will also be calling Sandy.

I called Bill Boyd's cell phone, and he hasn't responded. It rang and went right to voice mail, so he hasn't disconnected the number. I left a message, but he hasn't called back. Is anyone in contact with him?

I've also emailed Nicki Horne, who was the person at Strawberry Square that did all the programming for I don't know how many years, but it was a lot. Last year she moved down around the Bradenton area closer to her daughter. She hasn't responded so I have to try calling her this week.

I emailed Ann Slocum and heard from her, but she didn't really say anything about how she is doing.

I communicated with Art Springer's grandson a few weeks ago. Art has been moved to a memory care unit in Brandon so he's closer to his kids. This grandson talked to me about going to Spinning Wheels on North Boulevard in Tampa. Jenny's dad and I used to dance there but I don't remember seeing him there. He said Art remembers some things and not others. I sent his address out in the *DANCERgram* trying to get people to send him cards. The grandson thought he would enjoy that. I'm trying to schedule some time to go see him.)

Florida Callers (Mark Fetzer – filling in for Rod Barngrover)

Everything seems to be going well with the Florida Callers Association. We have about 50 members; Bill Chesnut is Caller Chair for the upcoming convention, I'm one of his assistants. We have been working with Sandy & Susan, the Cues chairpersons, on making sure we have everybody's dancing needs met at the convention. We have a caller meeting in October and a clinic and a dance all around the Villages and that is October 18th & 19th. The dance is on the 19th, the caller and clinician is Kip Garvey from California. The cues will be Lloyd & Ruth McKenrick.

Round Dance Council (Sandy Sturgis – filling in for Earle Collins)

We just had our election of officers: Earle & Carol Collins (President), Tom & Cindy Bunn (Vice President), Lloyd & Ruth McKenrick (Secretary), Ellen Bell (Treasurer). We also have our Fall Weekend of Rounds in November 21-23, 2024, at Strawberry Square. Pamela & Jeff Johnson will be the clinicians that weekend and the focus will be on the Foxtrot.

We are looking forward to this weekend. Susan and I are curing tonight at the benefit dance and looking forward to the convention in January.

Florida Campers (Susan Snider)

The Campers are doing well. We just had our camp weekend; we camp the third weekend of the month generally that gets interrupted occasionally. Our camp out a couple weeks ago was at Steven Foster State Park in White Springs. It has a beautiful campground; we had a really good turnout, one of the biggest we've had in a long time.

Penny asked Susan about the other chapters; Susan said she doesn't know anything since she got this job a week ago.

Reported later during the meeting: The State Camporee will be October 24th, 25th, & 26th at Southern Palms Campground in Eustis, FL. You do not have to be a member of the Square Dance Campers to attend if you just want to come to the dance one night, please come.

Association Reports

Central (Keith Olds – filling in for Richard & Carol Douget)

We have a 5th Saturday dance at Whirl & Twirl in Oviedo on the last Saturday of March. It was very well attended, unusually well attended, we had over 6 squares; we had Rod Barngrover calling and Earle Collins cuing.

We had a sad event, Jerry Reed has been running an A2 club for as long as anyone can remember, the Dixie Diamond. His and his wife's health has deteriorated some and he has decided to retire, so Jerry had a final dance at Dixie Diamond later in March. That is the only A2 club active in Central, but I understand that Rod has started some A2 classes up in Barberville. Penny Green asked if Dixie Diamond is folded or is someone taking over; Keith said yes, they were folding.

Right now, by my count, there is 6 active clubs in Central.

(Side note from Ailene Picheco – we had 2 members of Promenaders turn 90 and there was a party for them. Also, at our 5th Saturday dance there was a full square from the Villages, Orange Blossom Square. This is Jerry's group; this is all the dancers that danced to him one time or another. Bob Stern, at the CallerLab Convention, received a certificate for 50 years of calling.)

Northeast (Shirley Wright)

Northeast is having three graduations starting May 6th with the Joy Seas of St. Augustine, Caller Mike Akers. The Rollaways in Jacksonville on Tuesday May 7th, Caller Mark Fetzer and our third graduation is Coastal Georgia Squares in Brunswick Ga., Caller Don Heines.

Our 70th Fall Festival will be held on November 1-2, 2024, at Triff Ave. So. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1415 McDuff Ave. So. In Jacksonville. The cost is \$25.00 per person. This includes the dance on Friday night, round dance workshop on Saturday morning, square dancing Saturday afternoon and the Saturday night dance. Also included is a spaghetti dinner on Saturday. Our Cuers will be Wayne and Barbara Blackford with Caller Dave Viera.

Northeast will be having elections this year for Vice President and Corresponding Secretary. Also, we will be recruiting someone to go on the Federation board.

Bill Dion, our Visitation Chairman has proposed a new award for the Northeast. It is titled the Voyager Award. This award is for traveling longer distances for a dance. The guidelines are being worked on and will be presented to Northeast at the July meeting. This award does not replace the KnotHead.

Northwest (Brian & Barbara McDonald [read by Jenny Green])

I am sorry we can't attend because Brian's back is not good. Northwest had a meeting April 20, 2024, and we did not get anyone to come as a delegate. I will continue to sell raffle tickets, help with registration, and promote the January 2025 state Convention.

Northwest currently has 67 members and 5 clubs. One of our members is trying to start a club this month in Pensacola at Ragon Hall with 2 open houses then start classes. We will let you know how that goes.

Swinging Squares dances in Grand Square Hall and they celebrated their 52nd Blue and White Ball! This year Seaside Squares will be celebrating their 61st Anniversary in August. October will be Northwest 50th anniversary.

Most of you know that Bob Poyner announced his retirement. We will miss him in all the help he has done for our clubs, state convention and square dancing. Also, Elmer Sheffield's wife Margie passed on the 5th of April. He still is having health concern so please pray for him.

October 25-26 is Northwest Roundup, and we have Ted Kennedy as caller and Sandy Sturgis as Cuer. We are so happy to have them both and you all know them well. It will be at Ragon Hall in Pensacola.

Southeast (Cathy Waltz)

No report

West Coast Area (Penny Green – filling in for Don Wolford)

All of the seasonal clubs in southwest Florida are closed for the season. If it hadn't been for Dwayne and Judy Barnhill and Don and Susan Wolford, I seriously doubt there would have been any dancing since the pandemic. The Barnhills are from Tennessee and the Wolfords are from Alabama. The Wolfords have gotten Nick Hartley from Alabama down in the southwest area a few times for special dances which everybody enjoyed.

Both couples started beginner square dance classes starting out doing the teaching themselves. These two couples are cuers!

I received word Thursday night that Caller Curt Braffet from Illinois will start wintering in Naples in January 2025. If you don't know Curt, he calls with Bob Asp a lot of times and also calls at Pride RV Resort in Maggie Valley. There are already plans for a class; they are still looking for a location and they hope to get a club started. I can't tell you how many times I have received inquiries about dancing in Naples! There isn't anything!

There are two clubs across the Bay (St. Pete) that are really growing – Promenade Squares and Suncoast Squares. Scotty Sharrer is the club caller for Promenade Squares. On Wednesday night they have an SSD class and student dance and on Friday is their club dance and they have a workshop before the dance to continue teaching the SSD group more moves. They were down to one or two squares, and they now have five and six squares at their dances. Something this club does is when Scotty goes to call at like Temple Twirlers, they encourage their dancers to attend and if they don't want to or can't drive to the dance, they meet at their dance location and carpool. This club started having a cruise last year that was very successful. They have a pre-cruise banquet before the trip and a representative from the travel agent attends to answer questions and give out information about the cruise.

Suncoast Squares is our LGBTQ+ club. I don't know anything about their caller other than he's from Orlando. His name is JR St. Jean. I offered to add him to the *DANCERgram* distribution list but he doesn't want anything to do with us. Scotty Sharrer also calls at this club frequently. They have a class, Mainstream and Plus dancing on Monday nights and Advanced and Challenge on Thursday night. This club does something different too. Instead of alternating square dance levels, they'll break the dance down into like an hour of just Mainstream and another hour for just Plus. Since Mike Cox retired, they don't have Rounds. This club participates in the Pride Parade and always has a booth with information about their club. They always have big crowds at their dances.

The SCCA took over sponsoring the former membership dances that the Association held. They have them in different areas on the west coast with different callers and cuers at each one. I've heard they have good attendance at them. I haven't been able to attend them.

Strawberry Square started having a Strawberry Fall Fest in November to replace the West Coast Fall Fun Fest. This year it will be November 15 – 16 with Keith Stevens and Rod Barngrover calling and Tom Bunn cueing. Plus, Advanced, and Rounds. There will be alternating Mainstream on Friday afternoon if it's requested. There will be Hex dancing on Saturday afternoon if the majority requests it.

Publication Reports

***Bow and Swing* (Stephen Bigelow)**

The *Bow and Swing* is still a viable online publication. The reason I have not sent out another issue is that I don't have any new news to reply. Under Bill Boyd a large number of clubs from around the state would send articles and pictures. I am trying to do the same thing. The submission date for the *Bow and Swing* is the 10th of each month. Right now, I am getting an article from The Florida Callers. Judy Barnhill is sending me the round of the month.

What I need is news from each of the different Florida Federations. The Round Dance Council president. And as many as I can get square and round dance clubs to send me news and pictures.

I know in the past Bill charged a fee for putting your special dance flyer, advertising the club dances, and club news. This is an online publication so some of those fees really do not apply. My only real expenses are internet, and the sfbigelow domain. I keep this mainly for ease of use and the ability to use and maintain the databases maybe in the future have a place that I can publish the magazine directly to a website. This would give me the ability to get out news of an immediate nature.

If you have any articles or reports you would like published in the *Bow & Swing*, please send them to bowandswing@sfbigelow.com.

So, in conclusion I need everyone to send me news and anything else that would help me make The *Bow and Swing* the magazine like it used to be.

(Side note from Carol Poole – Bill Boyd would send his *Bow & Swing* to the National Convention and one year he won an award for “Best Magazine” in the nation.)

I’ve talked to Bill Boyd, about 6-8 weeks ago, he liked my magazine. Originally, he fought putting it online but then I told “Bill you how much it cost these days for just a ream of paper?” So, he gave me permission to put this online. When SusanElaine took it over, he said under no circumstances put this magazine online.

***DANCERgram* (Penny Green)**

Distribution is at 783. Most of the requests to unsubscribe are because they don’t dance anymore, or they are no longer coming to Florida. Some of them just say unsubscribe and don’t give a reason.

In addition to the dancers, I have all the SCCA members and the presidents of all the state organizations on the distribution list.

When I hear that new callers and cuers have moved into our area, I send them a welcome email and explain how the state is split up, about the state organization that pertains to them, the SCCA, and the state convention. I also tell them I will be adding their name to the *DANCERgram* distribution list.

I have been writing the DANCERgram for 17 years. It started out as a club newsletter for Buttons & Bows, and it has grown and grown. NEC has a Blue Line Club that is a designation for editors that have been publishing their newsletter for 20 years. That’s my next goal!

Florida Email Tree (Penny Green)

I have been sending messages on the Tree about the convention, reminders about each association’s annual weekend (if I remember to!), and any other important information that needs to get out to the Florida dancers.

Right now, I don’t think that’s happening. I have a contact in each association, in most cases the Association president. When there is an email to send out, I send it to these contacts who are in turn to forward it out to their clubs, who should then send it to their membership. At the beginning, I requested that my name be on each of these distribution lists so that I know the message is being forwarded.

There is not much you have to do when you receive one of these emails. The email is already formatted with instructions about what to do. All you have to do is hit “Forward” and insert your distribution list(s). I would think the president of each association has a distribution list for the presidents of all the clubs in their area, and I would think each club has a distribution list to all their members.

In my book, there is no option to choose what will or will not be forwarded. The only association that I see evidence of these emails being forwarded is Central. And of course, I send it out to my *DANCERgram* distribution list. I try very hard to ensure the dancers aren’t flooded with these emails.

Throughout my entire career, communication was very important to me. The “dancers” need to know about things. If I receive or read something that I feel needs to be sent out to the “masses”, but it doesn’t “qualify” to go on the Email Tree, I send it to all the other editors so they can include it in their next issue.

It always shocks me when I find a flyer posted on Facebook or the Internet for a big dance in Florida, but no one thought to send it to the editors.

That’s not really pertinent to this report but I had to get it off my chest!

Grapevine (Stephen Bigelow)

The Grapevine is going well. I have about 620 subscriptions covering many people inside and outside of Florida. I endeavor to spread the news of Square Dancing and Northeast Florida.

Keepin ' Posted (Ailene Picheco)

I send out *Keepin Posted* news by email which has a much wider circulation when I did the magazine. Printed copies are available on request.

The “Central Florida Club News” includes club news, pictures, Area and state news, and any special occasions.

I have added more types of dancing to “Where to Dance in Central Florida” (Contra, Scottish, English Country- there is also a clogging group nearby)

I also send out other information that dancers, callers, cuers may be interested in.
If you would like to be put on my email list, please let me know.

Panhandle Press (Barbara McDonald)

Please note these two changes for the latest issue: on page 5, under Agape Squares contact please change Andrew Sejan's phone number to (843) 902-5715 and on page 9, under Agape Squares, Secretary change Tammy to Tami.

Please note if anyone wants to send Elmer Sheffield a card his address is: 3765 Lakeview Dr., Tallahassee, FL. 32310

(Side note from Penny Green: They are trying to open another LGBTQ+ club at Ragan Hall. They’re having their first dance this week.)

Website (Penny Green – filling in for Cliff Reiss)

Summary

- The Florida Federation of Square & Round Dancers website and the 4 Association websites are actively maintained and kept up to date.
- Assumed responsibility as an Administrator for the Florida Federation Facebook page replacing Bruce Morgan.
- It is my understanding that the project to create a replacement website has been discontinued. I plan to continue to support the current website for the foreseeable future.

Website Maintenance

- The main Federation page and the 4 Association pages (NW, NE, C & SE) all display the date of the last update to the page content – this helps to suggest to visitors to the websites that they should “look

further”. The Federation main page also lists the date sections of the website were updated as well as the date each Association page was updated.

- The Federation main page and the 4 Association pages all prominently display a message and a clickable link advising viewers to visit their respective Facebook pages as these pages are where individual Club and other updates are posted.
- Flyers displayed on the Federation page include upcoming state-wide events – both Federation sponsored and non-Federation (i.e. Grand Square events such as the Daytona Beach Ball). Flyers for Association sponsored events are also posted. Association flyers and Federation flyers are also displayed on each Association page.
- Convention updates are posted as soon as I receive them. The Host Hotel information was updated on April 25 although I understand the Hotel link does not (as of 4/29) include a discounted rate for Saturday night. As of April 29, the Trail-End Dance flyer is still needed.
- Publications (*Bow N Swing*, *Grapevine*, *Panhandle Press* and SE Newsletters) are uploaded and posted as soon as I receive them.
- Insurance documents and the insurance section of the website were completely updated on April 21 as requested by Carol Poole
- Federation meeting Minutes have been brought up to date with the help of missing items that were provided by Jenny Green
- Links to active clubs (the “Club” page) were updated to keep the page current – adding new clubs and removing clubs that have closed. Penny Green is usually my source for this information. The current Federation member club counts are NW @ 5, NE @ 12, C @17, SE @ 6, WC @17. 28 of these clubs maintain their own website or Facebook page. I maintain the websites/webpages for almost 25 of these 57 clubs.
- When I receive a publication (*Panhandle Press*, *Grapevine*, ...) I review the content for club and dance information (when, where ...) and check that the dance information pages for each Association matches what is in the publication.
- As previously mentioned, the website was upgraded last year to become a “secure” website. Web page URL’s display https:// instead of http://. This eliminates any “not secure” messages from a website visitors web browser.
- When I can I update the webpage html code to remove instances of the spurious “A” characters that show up due to old, outdated or inconsistent html code.
- I maintain the GoDaddy accounts for 8 URL’s. With the exception of Suzie Q all have been funded by the person/club/organization that uses the URL; Suzie Q owes me for her December 2023 renewal, and she will lose her webpage access in December 2024 when her next URL renewal comes due.
- The West Coast pages were updated to now refer to the “West Coast Area” instead of “Association”. References to the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association (SCCA) were removed from the West Coast pages; instead, the navigation buttons on most pages were updated to include the SCCA on the same line as the RDC, FCA, and Campers.

Facebook

- I am now the Federation Facebook page administrator replacing Bruce Morgan. The page is open to everyone, however members of the page who want to post to the page must first be approved by the administrator (me) to permit them to add posts. If I cannot determine that they are part of the square dance community, they will not receive approval. I receive notifications whenever posts are added to the page; posts that are inappropriate or not dance related will be removed.

Open Items

- The Trail End Flyer for the 2025 FL State Convention is needed (as of 4/29).
- The Northeast Association Facebook page needs a replacement page Administrator – however this will be difficult as the current Administrator is inactive and only that person can add an administrator.

- I rarely receive updates for many of the webpages I maintain for clubs and individuals. Each page displays a “last updated” date to help visitors determine if the page is current. It would help if Associations “pass the word” to their clubs to look at their web pages and keep them (along with their Facebook pages) up to date.

Going Forward

- Counters that track web page views were re-added April 22 for the Federation main page and the 4 Association pages. At the November Federation meeting I will report these statistics and also hope to evaluate and report on data that can be provided by Google Analytics.
- Contingency information (in case I cannot provide website support) was sent to Keith Olds last year. It will be updated when appropriate. I will be documenting the website layout and providing “how to support the website” documentation at a future date.
- I expect to receive the Federation Server from Keith. It contains documents and pictures that were removed from the old website due to space limitations. Our current disk space usage is at 72% of the space available (7.21Gb out of 10Gb). Once I have the Server and can install it as time and space permits and with some guidance from Keith or Bruce some or all of that information will be uploaded. If more space is needed, I will obtain cost information to present at a future meeting.
- Longer term - as time permits and when I can figure out how to create the code – I will try to convert some of the linear page layouts to “mouse-over” buttons with dropdown lists. It will reduce the size of the pages by condensing content under buttons and make them more user friendly.
- GoDaddy URL registration renewals for the next 12 months include:
 - floridasquaredance.com – renews 7/6/2024
 - roundswithjudy.com – (Judy Barnhill) renews 8/15/2024 (I have been prepaid for the next 4 years)
 - DANCERgram.com – renews 10/6/2024
 - suzieqcreations.com – renewed 12/9/2023 (reimbursement past due)
 - templetwirlers.com – renews 1/16/2025
 - tntrounds.com (Terri Wilaby) – renews 3/2/2025
 - tampabayrounds.com (Sandi Sturgis) – renews 4/4/2025
 - grandsquarehall.com – renews 5/10/2025
- Web hosting (at Webmasters) will renew 1/24/2025. It is funded jointly by the West Coast Association and the Federation.

Convention Reports

2024 (Keith and Angie Olds)

We did have our convention on January 19th & 20th. We had a 399 people attended there were 3 fewer payee attendees; we had 351 this year compared to 354 the year before.

However, the profit was up nearly double what we made last year, primarily because the venue was a much lower cost.

I do want to thank the committee, a lot of you are here, thank you again for all the help and hard work you did it went very well. I literally only had one issue brought to my attention and it was kind of beyond our control. Everybody told me how much better it was than the year before.

I do want to recognize that Dawn & Charles found that venue, we had the Fairgrounds that Randy found the year before. Dawn & Charles took it on themselves and surveyed the entire state and they found 2-3 that we looked at when the Fairgrounds decided to that we had to move our weekend. And because of the work they already done we were able to get the Center at Deltona.

Regarding the Trail-In Dance, we had two of these and we had them at the same location as the convention. That seems to work pretty well, both had around 20 squares.

We reused the Masonite flooring from the Fairgrounds, bought about another 100 sq. ft. and again we did not have any negative comments about the flooring. The halls that had round dancing were floored with the Masonite and the rest of the halls used the inside/outside carpeting that the building had. Think it was adequate for everything did not have any complaints about the floors.

The Net Profit was \$9,776.57. Each organization (Federation, Florida Callers, & Round Dance Council) gets \$1,945.64. The area associations (Central, Northeast, Northwest, & Southeast) are getting \$496.68. The 20% that goes to the 70th Convention is \$1,955. The venue was a lot of that. I should mention that we had the 2 benefit dances, both of those were quite successful; the 1st one at Strawberry Square in May was \$3,000 which was easily twice what we got the year before.

The venue held 400 people comfortably, we could probably get 500 in that venue.

(Side note from Cal Maki – in appreciation of your hard work carrying 2 consecutive conventions 68th & 69th we have a few things for you. This is *The Round Dance book* by Llyod Shaw it was published in 1958. Also, here a little booklet called *An Introduction to American Round Dancing* from 1964. We have a plaque for you in appreciation “Keith & Angie Olds for chairing the 68th and 69th Florida State Square and Round Dance Conventions ‘Bring Your Date to the 68th’ and ‘Days of ‘Yore in 24’. Your hard work, dedication, and selflessness are an inspiration to all of us. From the Florida Federation.”)

2025 (Charles Tharp & Dawn DeWitt)

- At the kick-off on January 20, 2024, we sold the following:
 - 91 weekend registrations
 - 12 dinner/show tickets
 - 2 weekender registrations
 - 29 pairs of dance socks
 - <\$100 in raffle tickets
- As of 3/27/24 the reported totals were:
 - 110 weekend registrations
 - 36 dinner/show tickets
 - 4 weekender registrations
 - >40 pairs of dance socks
 - And more raffle tickets
- There are still a number of open chairs on the convention committee roster including:
 - Campers- Penny Green has reached out to Florida Camping Dancers to urge involvement
 - Dangle Dances-we have spoken with Lynn and Scott Vallee since they did it last year and the reviews of the activities showed that dancers really enjoyed them a lot.
 - Show (though we have been working on this)
 - Dinner (Peggy and Jerri Huston formally agreed last night that they will do it)
 - Vendor Chairman as Larry Z wants to retire and that he would mentor someone
 - Vice-Chairs from each association

Regarding the securing of the Center at Deltona: The Total Payment is \$8,010. 50% deposit (\$4,005) was paid on 2/13/24 and the balance \$4,005 is due by 12/16/24. The deposit of \$500.00 was carried over from the 2024 convention.

The hotel has been arranged for dancers to reserve at for a special rate of \$150 night which will include the daily parking fee. Reserve at the Courtyard by Marriott, 308 N. Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32720 386-507-2930 Starting on Thursday, January 16, 2025-Saturday night, January 18, 2025 (3 nights). The Deadline to make a reservation is December 26th, 2024.

Regarding the BENEFIT DANCE...We are having Bill Chesnut and Sandy Sturgis and maybe some other callers and cuers will be there as well. We are having a Penny Social Silent Bid Auction... a bunch of circus themed items have been purchased for a total of \$186.57. The SEA has almost collected enough in donations to purchase items for this purpose. Let's hope other associations have made that effort and have additional donations.

In the fall, we would like to have a second benefit dance, just like last year, so we would be looking to schedule something that'll work and find a location for that.

Flyers for advertising for each association were provided to Registration Chairman at the kickoff. More will be provided at the working weekend. This will include two-page full color flyer and quarter sheet info sheets with QR code for registration online and some half sheet paper registration forms. Also, all the flyers are on the DANCERgram website and can be downloaded and printed as necessary.

Susan Wolford now has a half sheet information flyer with QR code to use in program books for conventions for other states. Advertising is on Facebook at every opportunity and Clifford Reiss is very responsive to posting requests.

We have been making inquiries for the "show" which we really want to be a circus. There are a lot of irons in the fire but none of them are hot enough to "BRAND" with yet. We want to get this together as "soon as possible" so that more specific advertisement can be produced to include what the show will entail. For a 50-minute circus show, it could cost \$2000.00-\$2300.00. If we had 150 attendees, that would breakdown to a cost \$13.30 -15.30 per person. If dinner is \$15.00 per person, the total cost per person would be \$28.30 - \$30.30 per person. This results in a profit of \$14.70 -16.70 per person and for 150 people, a profit of \$2200.00 to \$2505.00.

The dinner has been penciled in with the same caterer and we hope to nail the menu down within the "soon as possible" time frame to advertise this as well.

At the convention in January, a food and beverage survey was conducted and 61 dancers were surveyed in total and asked questions about having access to lunch and/or dinner onsite and what type of food, as well as interest in beverages available onsite. Here are the results: 66% of respondents said yes to onsite lunch, 54% said yes to onsite dinner and 74% said yes to onsite beverage. Food type by popularity where people responded they like or would eat this food type: 98% Italian, 97% American grill, 80% BBQ, 70% for both Greek and Chinese, and 64% Seafood.

We would like to get a draft of the caller/cuer schedule and hopefully be able to present to dancers the number of hours of each dance level that will be available. We have heard from callers, cuers and dancers that they really want to know how much challenge and advance dancing and high-level rounds there will be as this will somehow influence their decision to attend the convention or not.

A list of room names is underway to follow the lead of last years themed room names. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

Buttons are to be given to people when they register. We ordered 300, we took delivery of 234 and the Wassermans said they would work on the remaining 76. I have the leftover ones from last year, that can be opened up and the new button logo inserted. There are 70 or 80 of those for which the button will need to be printed, then cut out and assembled.

Ribbons will be printed, and registrants will receive the ribbon on check-in at the Convention. We have all sorts of double sticky tape and glue dots that can be put to use on the ribbons. If it saves money to put our own sticky on the ribbon, how much do we need to save to make it worth our while?

Convention committee members badges were ordered from Susanelaine back in March. We were hoping they would be available for distribution at the working weekend but, alas, they are not. We will develop a distribution plan once we take delivery.

We are going to attend the National convention in Milwaukee and the Tennessee convention in Gatlinburg. We need tips and pointers on promoting the convention and selling dance socks.

Facilities (Carol Poole – filling in for Randy Poole)

The Center contract has been signed and the following year penciled in. We have been asked why we are not booking the venue for three or four years out like we did in Lakeland. There are several reasons. The first year after Covid we were not sure of the number of dancers that would attend. Next, not everyone is 100% satisfied with the current location and is not sure if there is adequate room for us to grow.

A little history here: When the convention was held in Lakeland on Memorial weekend, Sunday morning was always for the callers and dancers meeting. He's not sure about the cuers. Dancing started at 1:00 o'clock. When we had to leave The Lakeland Center, we started looking for other venues. Don & Ann Slocum were the Facilities Chairman at that time. The convention went to the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Randy was asked to check out hotels. We (Carol & I) visited every hotel on the beach side and the main street on the mainland. Besides sleeping rooms, I asked about meeting rooms because we lost Sunday morning by shortening the convention by one day. I found two that would work with us with fair rates and a meeting room – one in each hotel. This worked well when February had five weekends. We lost our weekend when February only had four weekends. About this time, Don became ill, and Randy took over Facilities. Another search was started for another venue. This time the Volusia Fairground was selected. We live in DeLand, so he went looking for hotels. Everyone was working together to get the convention doable a year sooner than Keith & Angie planned. That is how facilities and housing got grouped together. Maybe hotels should just be a convention item.

The facility chairman is a Federation Delegate at Large. It should remain that way because the venue contract is in the name of the corporation. Of course, the callers and cuers need to approve the final selection. Everyone needs to be on the lookout for venues.

He has enjoyed his involvement in the Federation and the conventions. After grandchildren, square dancing is his life, but now would like to resign from this position. I told him I'm tired of typing his reports. If we can find someone by the fall, they can assist at the convention and be ready to take over for the 2026 convention.

Housing (Carol Poole – filling in for Randy Poole)

The Courtyard by Marriott in downtown DeLand finally gave us a contract for 60 rooms at \$150.00 a night for a standard king and for a standard double queen room. They have also reserved the meeting room for the Federation meeting on Sunday morning. The pet fee is a \$50 one-time fee plus a \$5.00 a day cleaning fee. There is a two-pet limit, and they must be under fifty pounds. They have waived the parking fee and the Wi-Fi fee in the sleeping and the meeting room. Getting them to commit to a room fee a year out has been impossible. The Holiday Inn at the Orange City/Deltona exit was willing to work with us for rooms this year, but their meeting room was unavailable on Sunday mornings. It was suggested to us to check out The Center for the meeting which is a good idea for next year. We've enjoyed the hotels giving us the meeting room free all these years for sleeping at their hotel.

Back in the day when each of the five associations chaired the convention, Randy took over from Howard Wilson in the mid-nineties to find hotels for the Central Association. He was ready to quit when Bruce Morgan asked him to continue because his convention was upcoming in 2004. Ours was next in 2009. And he's been hotel shopping ever since. The hotel is set up for the 2025 convention, therefore, it is a good time for him to resign. He doesn't have a replacement because this is a recent decision.

2026

No volunteer yet

Hall of Fame (Ailene Picheco)

This award is not just for dancers! It was organized to also honor: callers, cuers, publishers, teachers, organizers, promoters, vendors and/or others, for their STATEWIDE contributions made to our square dance activity. Anyone involved in the Square Dance Activity can make a nomination.

Please think of someone who might qualify and send a resume to your Association President, any committee member, or directly to me, for consideration.

The committee members are listed on the website and a format to follow for the resume is also listed on the website.

Later during the meeting Ann Maki asked when the deadline is to submit nominations. Ailene stated September 1st.

History (Penny Green)

Cliff and I have been busy updating the website and filling in missing information.

I have rewritten a lot of the West Coast material in order to preserve the historical information as well as explain the partnership with the SCCA.

A big project I have been working on last week is the Extra Mile Award Recipient list. The last two names - Henry Arsenault and Frank Bedell don't show the year they received the award; it only shows 19??. Since Frank is Henri's father-in-law, I am wondering if they won the same year. I have been contacting a lot of the Federation past presidents trying to find out what the years are supposed to be, hence my contacts to Carol, Elsa, and Sandy. I've also contacted Bob Poyner, Bill Chesnut, Jack Lewis, the SE president, and Skip Cleland who is the FCA webmaster. It has now been suggested that I call Shiela Arsenault, Henri's wife, but no one seems to have her number. I've also asked if it's in the Federation president's notebook; guess what? That's missing! Does anyone have her phone number? As I am writing this, I remembered I haven't asked Steve Adler, so I just sent him an email. He used to be the guy that had all the information for SE.

I'm supposed to get the Federation server this weekend to take to Cliff. When he receives it, hopefully he will be able to reload all the photos we used to have on our site. Those photos are a lot of historical information.

USDA (Carol Poole)

The Central Region Vice President, Scott & Sandy Ebright hosted the USDA Executive Committee meeting in Deland. I will read a section of their article that was in the USDA News Spring magazine *"This year was a huge honor for us, personally, because it was our turn to host the meeting in the Central Region. Since Florida was having their state convention around the same time, we slid our meeting one week so we could do USDA winter work in conjunction with the Florida Convention. In my humble opinion, it was quite the success. We really want to send out a BIG THANKS to all of the Florida Convention staff for their amazing cooperation and coordination in making this collaboration such a victory for all!"* The USDA News editors said *"The Florida State Festival was very well done! We enjoyed the callers, the variety of dances and the friendliness of all the participants. It was nice of them to invite all of us."*

There are only 20 inductees across the United States to earn the Centennial Award. That's if you're dancing at 100. One was given to a man in Colorado. Listen carefully there are only 3 qualifications (1.) Reach 100 years old; (2.) Still be active in some way in the square dance community; (3.) having a minimum of five years membership in a club. Look around, we may have a candidate in Florida.

The USDA's next meeting will be in Milwaukee, WI, June 26th in the Hilton Milwaukee City Center 5th floor Crystal Ballroom. We will not be going to Milwaukee this year; hope you can find someone to go.

(Side note from Penny Green – For more information about the Centennial Award, they don't have to be dancing; if they like coming and being a greeter or they're at the dance doing other things, they qualify. Mary Guerra is tracking a bunch of people in the Northeast that are in their 90s. and I'm watching a couple that are in the West Coast that are in their 90s. Rest of the associations need to look at what your membership is.)

USDA Insurance (Carol Poole)

Financial Report is available at the end of these Minutes.

There are three reported accidents so far this year. Only one at the convention. I have always sent accident reports to the USDA Insurance Director and mailed a claim form to the dancer. The current USDA Insurance Director made some changes to the insurance program. She now mails the claim form to the dancer. Therefore, I no longer know how many claims Florida generates. Penny Green sent me an email that other dancers fell at the convention. These were not reported to me. When a dancer falls, it should be reported even if they get up and dance. You don't know what may show up the next day. Some good news. The insurance forms are being updated on the website. I supplied an updated copy of all the forms to Cliff. This may be in his report. There are a lot of clubs in Florida without insurance. I've been told that caller insurance covers their dancers but only when they dance at a club where he/she is calling. This is a good thing but not if they visit another club. One final note: Remember to enroll your new club members. To keep the insurance in compliance ALL dancers need to be enrolled.

ASCAP/BMI/SESAC (Terri Little – filling in for Richard & Carol Douget)

SESAC is new; we were able to get it paid for this past convention even though it wasn't finalized until after the convention was over, but they were aware that we were dancing and using their music.

I wanted to give you an idea; our total licensing fees were \$769. ASCAP is \$159; BMI is \$190; SESAC is \$420.

Cal asked who was paying these fees; Terri explained they are an expense that is shared by the 3 organizations (Federation, Callers, and Cuers) that's one of the expenses that is taken out of the bottom line everyone else's disbursement and then put back in for the 3 governing entities.

(Side note from Susan Snider – If the cuers get their insurance from Round A Lab, SESAC is included. The CallerLab has never gone over to SESAC.)

Terri's response: it is our understanding that if we do not have the licensing then every single performer on the stage has to have that licensing.

ARTS (Ailene Picheco)

A grant program is available, funded by ARTS-Dance (ARTS), to encourage various dance associations and organizations to conduct Educational Seminars. Any square, round, contra, clogging, or folk-dance organization willing to present a program which includes explaining ARTS and its function in the dance community is eligible to apply. https://www.arts-dance.org/ARTS_Education_Grant.php

The 2024 ARTS meeting will be held on Sunday, June 30, 2024, immediately following the 73rd NSDC. This meeting will include "face to face" and Zoom attendees.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM Central Time. ALL dancers, callers, and cuers are invited. If you are planning to attend and would like an agenda, or if you want the zoom link, please contact: Jerry Reed, ARTS Executive Director, 321.794.9646, ExecutiveDirector@ARTS-Dance.org

Old Business

By Laws (Carol Douget, Jenny Green, Annie Minor)

No Report

There was a suggestion that we create a standing By Laws committee to go over revisions of the By Laws and at each annual meeting/fall meeting to give an update. There are some corrections needed. Cal asked for volunteers. Linda Tester asked if we had a committee. We do, but it was set up for a specific purpose. Linda suggested we ask them if they want to continue. Annie Minor and Jenny Green agreed. Cal appointed Jenny the chairman. And asked her to check with Carol to see if she wanted to continue as well.

Federation Dress (Terri Little)

Terri showed a sample dress made with her own pattern using the approved fabric. Carol Poole has the Florida patches for \$1 each. I chose to put yellow lace on it because I thought it needed something to "pop" the yellow through the rest of the dress. I also plan to wear a yellow belt with it.

The instructions and a picture have been uploaded to the Federation website.

Carol Poole asked what color petticoat to wear with a short skirt. Terri said a yellow one would look great.

First Convention Booklet (Penny Green)

About two years ago I found on the Internet a booklet entitled *First Convention Handbook* written for the IAGSDC (International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs) and then I found another version on the website for the last National Convention. I was intrigued by this idea. I even talked to Ailene about it, and we agreed we need something like this for Florida. So, I added it to my ever-growing To Do list. When I told Cliff about my idea, he immediately saved a spot on our website with a note that the handbook was coming. Talk about some pressure!

On the website for the last National Convention, they noted that most of the material for their handbook came from the one the IAGSDC had. I went on the IAGSDC site and found the name of the author and then I thought "Chris probably knows this guy!" I contacted Chris; sure enough, he knows the guy. He set an email to the guy and introduced me to him. The author sent me an email giving me permission to use some of his material.

So here we are! I have completed a first draft. I had to delete some things, change some other things, and add some info for Florida.

I've been nagging Cal and Ann for several weeks encouraging them to assign people to the committees so I would know who was going to be on the HEPP Committee. I wanted to send a copy of the draft to the committee members before the meeting so they could read the draft and be able to discuss it.

So, Ailene, Linda, Stephen, and I will be meeting this afternoon. We'll have a report Sunday morning.

My goal is to have it completed before the next meeting in November.

CD Investigation (Jenny Green)

Terri and I believe we have everything correct now with Wells Fargo for signers. So we shouldn't have any problems in the future.

Wednesday, we opened a CD at Wells Fargo. We had \$10,000 transferred from the checking account into this CD. It is a 7-month term at 4.75%. As long as we renew at the 6th month, we can keep that percentage otherwise it will be a smaller percentage, unless the rate changes.

Replacement for Bruce Morgan as registered agent (Cal Maki)

Bruce gave me a call and said he would not be at this meeting and would not continue to be the registered agent. I talked to members of the board, and we appointed Jenny Green to replace Bruce. This is to receive notices from the state or whatever or anyone that has a conflict with the Federation.

New Business

Nominating Committee for annual meeting

Cal said Carol Poole has offered to do it again.

USDA delegates

Cal Maki - I did get an email from Edythe Weber from the USDA. It states we are authorized 4 delegates and 2 alternate delegates at the 73rd Convention in Milwaukee. The volunteer delegates are 1. Terri Little; 2. Barbara Hoffman; 3. Jack Hoffman.

Committee to address Convention Procedures

Cal Maki – it has been brought to my attention that the Convention Procedures are well out of date. The last amendment was in 2012, there's been a lot of water under the bridge since then. I'm going to appoint the committee to update the Convention Procedures as it appears now in our booklet. Penny Green, (Chairperson), Ailene Picheco, Terri Little, Jenny Green, Randy Poole, and also a representative from the Florida Callers I will be in touch with Rod to see if he would like to have someone on here and also with the Round Dance Council. Cal asked Penny if we could have this done by the January meeting; Penny said yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm by Cal Maki.

Announcements

Next Meeting Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 9am
Homewood Suites, Daytona

BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024

Wells Fargo Convention	\$ 7,622.52
Wells Fargo Business Checking	\$ 19,728.47
Wells Fargo Savings	\$ 12,899.40
Insurance	\$ 4,860.24
TOTAL:	\$ 45,110.63

Wells Fargo Business Checking Account3154**Beginning Balance \$ 19,728.47**

Receipts

01/27/24	cash for Florida emblems	\$ 18.00
01/31/24	interest	\$ 0.17
02/29/24	interest	\$ 0.15
03/29/24	interest	\$ 0.17
04/19/24	reimburse from Convention acct for downpayment	\$ 4,005.00
04/30/24	interest	\$ 0.16
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 4,023.65

Disbursements

1/14/2024	ck 1114 Patti Ping	Badge, 1 magnet, 3 dangles	\$ (18.14)
1/21/2024	ck 1115 Linda Tester	copies of minutes	\$ (120.45)
1/21/2024	ck 1116 FL Fed Insurance	associations insurance	\$ (129.60)
01/28/24	ck 1117 Suzie Q Creations	extra mile & Board badges	\$ (45.00)
01/28/24	ck 1118 Clifford Reiss	website hosting	\$ (60.00)
02/05/24	ck 1119 City of Deltona	down payment for 70th Convention	\$ (4,005.00)
03/12/24	ck 1120 Linda Tester	postage	\$ (13.60)
04/09/24	ck 1121 Bruce Morgan	SunBiz reg	\$ (61.25)
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			(\$4,453.04)

TOTAL Wells Fargo BUSINESS CHECKING ACCT \$ 19,299.08**Wells Fargo MARKET SAVINGS ACCOUNT9599****Beginning Balance \$ 12,899.40**

Receipts

01/31/24	Interest	\$ 0.36
02/29/24	Interest	\$ 0.10
03/29/24	Interest	\$ 0.11
04/30/24	interest	\$ 0.11
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 0.68

Disbursements

No Activity

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ -**TOTAL Wells Fargo MARKET SAVINGS ACCT \$ 12,900.08****ENDNG BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2024**

Wells Fargo Convention	\$ 10,122.52
Wells Fargo Business Checking	\$ 19,299.08
Wells Fargo Savings	\$ 12,900.08
Insurance	\$ 3,096.14
TOTAL:	\$ 45,417.82

Wells Fargo Convention Checking Account2033

Beginning Balance		\$ 7,622.52
Receipts		
1/29/2024	Reimbursement from 69th Convention	\$ 6,505.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 6,505.00
Disbursements		
04/18/24	FL Fed. of Square Dancers reimbursement for Deltona deposit	\$ (4,005.00)
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ (4,005.00)
TOTAL Wells Fargo CONVENTION CHECKING ACCT		\$ 10,122.52

Other assets (Receivables) as of 4/30/2024

70th State Convention Loan for Deltona Center Deposit	\$ 4,050.00
70th State Convention Loan of seed money	\$ 2,500.00
Total other assets	\$ 6,550.00

TOTAL ALL ASSETS as of 4/30/2024 **\$ 10,122.52**

Liabilities

Florida Callers Association	\$ 5,500.00
Round Dance Council of Florida	\$ 5,500.00
Florida Federation of Square Dancers Inc.	\$ 5,672.52
Total Liabilities	\$ 16,672.52

TOTAL ALL LIABILITIES as of 4/30/2024 **\$ 16,672.52**

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
INSURANCE FINANCIAL REPORT
May 4, 2024

Beginning Balance as of December 31, 2023 \$ 2,786.44

Income

Central	\$ 76.30
Northeast	\$ 316.25
Northwest	\$ 280.35
Southeast	\$ 38.50
Promenade Squares	\$ 22.00
Suncoast Squares	\$ 393.75
69th Florida State Convention	\$ 121.00
Florida Federation	\$ 129.60

Total Income \$ 1,377.75

Expenses

USDA Insurance	\$ 858.80
Northwest Association Overpayment	\$ 103.55
Space Trackers Overpayment	\$ 31.80
Promenade Squares	\$ 19.25
Temple Twirlers	\$ 8.25
Suncoast Squares	\$ 11.00
Carol Pooles - Postage Stamps	\$ 13.60

Total Expense \$ 1,046.25

Ending Balance as of March 31, 2024 \$ 3,117.94

As of March 31, 2024	Assoc.	Clubs	Members
Central		5	94
Northeast		6	192
Northwest	1	4	105
Southeast	1		36
West Coast Area		7	251
Florida Federation			24
69th Florida State Convention			22
Total: Federation, Convention, Two Associations & 22 Clubs			<u><u>724</u></u>

Randy & Carol Poole
Insurance Chairmen