

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS, INC. MEETING MINUTES
ST. CATHERINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4758 Shelby Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32210
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

Call to Order (Ann & Cal Maki)

The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.m. by Call Maki.

Invocation (Mark Fetzer)

Pledge of Allegiance (Cal Maki)

Roll Call, Introduction (Jenny Green)

Jenny Green stated there is a quorum at the meeting.

Guests:

Sandy Sturgis (Round Dance Council
President)
Mark Fetzer (Florida Caller's Association)
Dave & Michelle Vieira (Caller & Cuer)

Tim Tharp (Northwest Association)
Marilyn Scott (Northeast Association)
Virginia Bomhold (Northeast Association)
Leslie & Bill Rebik (Central Association)

Under Section 16 subsection C (Secretary) #5 of the Standing Rules, it states "*To recommend to the Board of Delegates the deletion from the active roster of the names of past presidents who have not attended a meeting for a period of one year, as provided by Article IV of the Bylaws.*" I would like to recommend the following Past Presidents be moved from the Permanent Delegates roster to the Inactive Roster.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. George Knapp | 6. Bob & Maria Spence |
| 2. Garland & Carol McKenzie | 7. Anita Taylor |
| 3. Jack McKinney | 8. Dennis & Nancy Taylor |
| 4. Elsa Huddleston | 9. Ed Drexel & Terry Wetherby |
| 5. Val Newsome | |

There were no objections to the recommendation.

Dave Vieira pointed out that as of last month (October) Keith Stevens is now the President of the Florida Callers Association.

Minutes of Last Meeting (Jenny Green)

Updated Minutes for the May 4 & 5, 2024, meetings were provided at the beginning of this meeting.

May 4, 2024:

Carol Poole stated when she gave her insurance report, she had incorrect numbers; Under clubs insured for the West Coast Area she had seven clubs when it should have been three clubs. Which reduced the number of dancers to 159 and the Grand Total to 20 clubs and 629 dancers (updated May Insurance Report available at the end of these Minutes). Jenny went over the major corrections that were made to the Minutes that were sent out to everyone. Stephen Bigelow made a motion to approve the updated Minutes as provided; Terri Little seconded, motion carried.

May 5, 2024:

Stephen Bigelow made a motion to approve the updated minutes as provided; Terri Litte second, motion carried.

Correspondence (Linda Tester/Cal & Ann Maki)

Cal stated our previous registered agent, Bruce Morgan, had received an inquiry from the IRS regarding the Form 990N, which we send in every year so we can keep our non-profit status. Since that letter, the form has been filed and submitted to the IRS. Annie Minor stated she had printed the Status of Approval.

A letter was received from a couple volunteering to be chairpersons for the 2026 Florida State Convention (appointed during Convention section) and requesting their seed money.

Financial Report (Annie Minor)

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

Parliamentarian Report (Linda Tester)

No report

Sunshine Report (Linda Tester)

Sympathy cards were sent to

- Elmer Sheffield regarding the death of his wife and daughter.
- The family of Judy Anderson for the passing of Judy.
- Bill Chesnut regarding the death of his father.
- Anne Hadsall regarding the death of her husband.
- Bob Ormsbee regarding the death of his wife.
- June Keefe regarding the death of her husband, Bobby.
- The family of Sam Dunn for the passing of Sam.

A congratulations card was sent to Jerry Reed for his retirement. Jerry returned with an email thanking us for thinking of him.

Thinking of you card was sent to Val Newsome.

Florida Callers (Mark Fetzer – filling in for Keith Stevens)

Keith Stevens has become the President; Mike Gormly is the Vice President; Bill Cassidy is the Secretary; Dave Vieira is the Treasurer.

We have finished the programming for the State Convention. There will be Advanced & Challenge all-day Friday & all-day Saturday. Friday we're going to split Mainstream and Plus in the Main Hall. On Saturday we will have separate halls for Mainstream and Plus.

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

We have 13 cuers programed with 14 dances during the day Friday & Saturday. We will have Round Dancing in the Plus Hall in the morning as well as the evening. We have 2 rooms for teaching during the day.

Round Dance Council Weekend is coming up November 21-23, 2024at Strawberry Square in Plant City. The Clinicians are Pamela & Jeff Johnson.

There will be Council meetings at both the Council Weekend and the Convention.

Florida Campers (Susan Snider)

We have 3 active clubs in Florida– Square Wheels just had the State Camp O Ree in Eustis. We had 30+ rigs. Next year will, again, be in Eustis. We already have 32 rigs signed up. The campground also has 4 cabins.

We lost Ted Hughes and Sam Dunn this year. Sam was the caller for the Road Runners; John Sweeney took over.

Association Reports

Central (Richard & Carol Douget)

We had our elections in August the officers are, Presidents-Richard & Carol Douget; Vice Presidents-Keith & Angie Olds, Secretary-Terri Little, Treasurer-Jenny Green, Area Vice President-Ailene Picheco, and Membership Vice President-Sheila Reid.

Our next Fifth Saturday dance will be November 30, 2024, at the Whirl & Twirl in Oviedo. Daning will be from 5pm-7pm, the caller will be Rod Barngrover and cuer will be Earle Collins. We will have a meeting prior to the dance at 3pm.

(Side note from Terri Little – Central Florida has a small disaster fund if there is any dancer in the state that is in need of a couple hundred dollars; if they let us know we can probably accommodate them.)

Northeast (Shirley Wright)

We have 3 graduations this year the biggest problem is its mostly women with a shortage of men. We also had our wonderful Fall Festival this weekend. Thank you to Susan Snider.

We have our elections this year, however, we are still in need of a First Vice President.

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

Greetings from Northwest Association. First, we've been praying for those who were in the way of the hurricanes and suffered damage. We will continue to pray for those who suffered damage.

We celebrated Northwest's 50th anniversary October 25 & 26. We have sold about 50 ribbons, and our caller was Ted Kennedy and cuer Sandy Sturgis. All had a great time at Ragon Hall in Pensacola.

Please welcome Tim Tharp as our delegate. At this time Northwest has 68 members. One of our members (Tim Tharp) started a club at Ragon Hall in Pensacola called Emerald Waves Squares. They started in May, have about 15 members and have started another class in October. They are welcoming all ages and have a lot of fun. Nick Hartley is their caller. That brings us up to 6 clubs in our association!

Agape Squares started classes at the end of September and have quite a few younger folks learning to dance. Capital Twirlers are having some open houses in November and December. They will start classes in January. Swinging Squares will start classes in January. The Grand Square Hall Panama City is not a Northwest member, but they have a new publicity person in charge of promoting dancing in the hall. T-N-T Rounds offers classes about every quarter. Our clubs are offering classes, but it seems like a lot of students don't continue on to learn more.

We are going to host a Sweetheart banquet in February with Ted Kennedy as caller and Terri & Tim Wilaby as cuer. So come for a visit if you have February 15th free. See you at the State Convention.

Tim added that he has fliers for next year's Round Up. They will have Sandy Sturgis cuing and Tony Oxendine calling. He is working on hotel rooms now. It will be at Grand Square Hall in Panama City.

Southeast (Cathy Waltz [read by Annie Minor])

Here are the activities that have been addressed, completed or are in process with the President's oversight:

The SEA held its season of regional dances in October, November, December of 2023 and February as well as March in 2024. The median level of attendance was less than two squares per dance and only one dance had three squares attending.

SEA Board decided after many discussions about the poor financial state of the Association to create a video in which the State of the SEA was presented. The board members focused on Value (of square dancing), Viability (of the SEA), and Vision (for the future of the SEA). Two short videos were posted on YouTube and emails announcing the availability of the information were sent to the membership encouraging everyone to watch the video and then complete a Vision Development Survey. Responses to the Survey helped the Board see what our members wanted. Questions asked are available from the President, Cathy Waltz upon request.

The videos were watched 39 times. However, we only had 19 responses to the Survey. Those responses were used to guide the Board in preparing for this season's dance schedule and a series of emails focusing on a Membership Drive was sent to the membership detailing these facts:

- Expenses for the same number of dances has gone up 65% for this coming season
- We will be having 4 dances and one caller has allowed the SEA to 'sponsor' a Membership Drive at one of his regular Friday night dances (reducing some of the expenses)
- Our Membership fee per person was far too low (and for too long) to cover the costs of dances
- Every dance has added to our deficit

The Board decided to set the membership fee for the Association members at a level that would cover the expenses over the coming season. This season's membership will be \$55 per person.

No additional fees will be paid by members at the door. Visiting dancers will pay \$14 at the door. The Board will use current assets to cover the costs of this season. The SEA will complete this season whether or not all of the prior members all renew/rejoin the SEA. We have made it clear that we need more than 41 members to have any chance of breaking even. We have another caller in our area but the two clubs for which he calls refuse to join the SEA. The caller supports us but there is active resistance to joining the Association. Therefore, if fewer members join this season, the Board anticipates that the SEA will fold.

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

Even though we are no longer an Association, dances and classes continue to happen in our area. Two of our largest clubs are Suncoast Squares and Promenade Squares, both in St. Petersburg.

Suncoast is an LGBTQ+ club that gets together twice a week. On Monday night, they have lessons and dance Mainstream and Plus. On Thursday they have Advance and C-1. At their dances, they don't alternate tips. They break their evening down to an hour – an hour and a half for each level. From 7:00 – 8:00 they dance Mainstream and from 8:30 – 9:30 they dance Plus. They have a lot of support from their members with the classes and a good turnout for their dances.

Promenade Squares has a class and a class level dance on Wednesday night and a club dance on Friday night. Their current class started back in September, and they are now starting to include them on Friday nights. They have several squares at their Friday night dances.

We've lost two callers and a caller's wife from our area in October. The first caller was Ron Reardon who lived in Zephyrhills. He called at Temple Twirlers in Tampa and Strawberry Square. He retired a few years ago due to health problems. He and his wife, Sue, had moved back to Massachusetts to be near their son.

We were shocked a few weeks ago to hear of the death of Sam Dunn, a well-known and popular caller in Sebring. He was killed in Summerfield near The Villages during the weekend of the Callers' Clinic. He had been at the Clinic on Friday and was killed early Saturday morning when a car hit him in a poorly lit area of the road. Sam was originally from Ohio and still called there during the summer. He was also a member of the Good ol' Boys Trio in Ohio. He hasn't been calling for the past few years due to poor health. He was just getting back into calling. In fact, he had a class scheduled to start on October 22nd in Punta Gorda. He was killed on the 19th. He was also scheduled to do a dance in High Springs to celebrate his 50+ years of calling and the second anniversary of High Springs Squares. I noticed on his website that he was planning to be at the convention. The Celebration of Life hasn't been announced yet.

Flo Byington Ormsbee was married to Caller Bob Ormsbee and she passed away on October 6th from a heart attack. Bob hasn't been calling for the past few years due to Flo's health. Her Celebration of Life will be at Strawberry Square on Sunday, November 10th, from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Southwest Florida is starting their season now. Judy and Dwayne Barnhill are back down here from Tennessee. They got down here the Thursday after Helene made her visit. Dwayne told me they spent their anniversary on I-75. I told him, "Well, at least you were together!" The class continues! Judy is teaching it and cueing lines.

Curt Braffet, a national caller from Illinois, will start wintering in Naples this year, and he already has several calling dates scheduled.

- January 8th – he's starting a beginners class and dance at Marco Shores on Marco Island
- January 12th – he'll be calling for an SCCA dance in N. Ft. Myers with Judy Barnhill cueing
- January 19th – he'll be calling for Happy Promenaders in Estero with Judy cueing

There will be three or four line dance groups this Fall between Judy and Susan Wolford. Judy and Susan have been keeping the dancing going in Southwest Florida, sometimes starting square dance classes

until they can line up a caller. There is actually more dancing activity in Southwest Florida than in the rest of the West Coast Area. The only thing is they only dance three or four months of the year!

Publication Reports

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

The Bow & Swing is still in the growing phase. It has been 6 months now since I took over the Bow & Swing. 2 months after I took it over the computer that I had received when I took it over crashed and I had to start the task of recreating all that information. With the help of many people in the square dance world in Florida, I am slowly getting it all together.

I am slowly growing the database for this magazine and endeavor to reach all the dancers in Florida. I hope that it is being shared and forwarded to the dancers when I send out to each officer in the individual associations in Florida.

I would still like to include news for the individual clubs; I have started to include news from the Northeast. I am hoping that when people read the Northeast news it will start an avalanche of news from other areas.

Maybe sometime soon this magazine will reach the people that it did when Bill Boyd was your publisher and editor, and it won a national award at the National Convention.

The deadline for the Bow & Swing is the 15th of each month.

Please send me your news.

***DANCERgram* (Penny Green)**

Distribution remains about the same.

For those of you that don't know, there are five sections under the DANCERgram banner:

- *Planner* – This is a weekly publication that goes out on Saturday. It lists the dance schedule for the West Coast of Florida for the upcoming seven days, as well as classes, upcoming special dances, meetings, deadlines, and travel. I recently expanded this section to include dances that SCCA members have outside our area. This time of the year I start requesting full schedules for the seasonal dances, as well as the full yearly schedule for the clubs that dance all year. When I list a dance, I include the full address of the location of the dance, name of the caller and cuer, time, level of the dance, the theme (if applicable), attire, and anything else that will entice someone to check out a dance, i.e. like the floating wood floor at Strawberry Square and Stardust. I also include a phone number, email address, and website, if available.
- *This & That* – this is a “newspaper” for Square and Round dancers. It is distributed once a month and contains original articles, article reprints, announcements, and flyers. I try to include articles that will educate dancers about what is happening in our activity.
- *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* – This is distributed as needed and includes information on any dancer in the West Coast Area, as well as callers, cuers, and Association and Federation officers (current and former).
- *Directory* – this is also distributed as needed. It contains the names and contact information of the officers for the Federation, Round Dance Council, Florida Callers and their regional associations, Square Dance Campers, all the Florida Associations, members of the SCCA with their contact

information, a list of all the dances by day of the week in the West Coast area, a list of all the publications Florida should consider using to advertise our conventions and festivals, with the submission deadlines and editors' names with their phone number and email address.

- *Flash* – This is for messages that are time-sensitive that need to be sent between the distribution of the *Planner* or *This & That*.

There is also a website (www.dancergram.com) where all of these publications are archived. There are also chronological lists by year (through 2027) that list all the upcoming conventions and festivals as well as all the themed dances in our area. I think I have just about every state convention on the list! There are also individual lists of upcoming meetings, deadlines, and square dance travel, as well as a lot of flyers.

Even though the target audience for these publications is the dancers in the West Coast area, everyone is welcome to be added to the distribution list.

Florida Email Tree (Penny Green)

Every time I give this report it's the same thing. I'm not sure these emails are being forwarded to all the Florida dancers. I started out with a representative for each association, and I requested that my name be added to the distribution lists, so I know they are being forwarded. That's not happening!

It's really simple to keep this tree going. When you receive an email with the title "Florida Email Tree", just hit forward, put your name in the To field, and add your distribution list to the Bcc: field, and click on Send. When those people receive the email, they only have to hit Forward and follow the same steps. When you have two or more names, it is recommended that you put them in the Bcc field to eliminate spam.

I think this is a good thing to have but if the messages aren't being forwarded it's not doing any good.

Grapevine (Stephen Bigelow)

The *Grapevine*, which is the square dance magazine for the Northeast Association of Square Dancers, is doing well. Our readership is continually growing as I reach out to inform others of this great activity we enjoy.

I have started e-mailing this to organizations that encourage physical activity to children, young adults, and the elderly. This is to show them that there is a fun low impact activity that helps you stay active no matter your age.

Keepin ' Posted (Ailene Picheco)

News for Central Association is sent out by email. There is no longer a magazine.

I have added more types of dancing to "Where to Dance in Central Florida" (Contra, Scottish, English Country, and Clogging)

If anyone would like to be put on my email list, please let me know.

Panhandle Press (Barbara McDonald)

The *Panhandle Press* is doing great. Last year I published the Roundup booklet and did so again for this year's Roundup. It is always fun getting ads for it and then putting them together. I had a glitch this year when I only got about 45 books made when the printer said no more. So, we will be looking for a new printer.

Website (Cliff Reiss)

The Florida Federation Website has been "up and running" for the past 20 months - since March 2023. When I volunteered in January of 2023 to provide web access for information about the 2024 Florida State Convention, I realized that I could also convert and bring the entire website back online and up to date. 2 months later it was up and running!

Everything that was on the website when Bruce Morgan was no longer able to provide support is on the website today with just a few exceptions. And there is one very significant improvement - the "virus" that had been introduced by one of the website counters is no longer causing a problem.

I am actively maintaining and updating information for the Federation, the 5 Federation Associations, Club information for 30 of the 62 clubs listed on the website, and every update that is needed for the 2025 Florida State Convention. I am posting flyers for Federation, Association and other major events and also posting copies of Association and other publications.

As a reminder, the Federation website is hosted on a server as a subset of the DANCERgram website. The hosting is funded by the West Coast Association at a cost of \$119 a year. The Federation funds the additional "SSL" security for \$60 a year that allows us to present the website as "secure" ("https://" instead of "http://").

Changes to the website that I have implemented include: showing the date a webpage and its content were updated to generate interest in "looking further" into the web page; adding "Flash" type headlines about events and other relevant information; prominently displaying links to the Federation's and each Association's Facebook pages; a modified "map" function (the original was too complex to maintain); and correcting outdated / incorrect web page "html" code.

What is not yet on the website? The photo galleries and graphics images that were removed years ago due to space limitations. More about that below.

The "Clubs" page now lists 62 clubs organized alphabetically by Association. The club counts are: Northwest @ 6; Northeast @ 12, Central @ 17, Southeast @ 7, and West Coast @ 20. 32 of the listed clubs maintain their own website or Facebook page and I provide a link to those websites and pages; the other 30 clubs have links to the webpages that I maintain for them.

Florida 2025 State Convention information: updates, links, and flyers are posted as soon as they are received. The updated Florida State Dress information was added a few months ago. The Food Truck flyer was recently added, and I will soon be adding the food truck menu flyers. One item that is still needed is a flyer for the Trail-In dance.

Website activity: webpage counters were added on September 16. Overall, for the past 45 days the website is averaging about 17 "hits" a day to the main Federation page (705 "hits" from September 16 thru

October 28). The Convention page is receiving about 9 “hits” a day (374 during this time frame). The Clubs page (where viewers can look up a club by Region and City) has been averaging about 2-1/2 hits a day. The individual Association pages for the Northwest, Northeast, Southeast and West Coast) are averaging a little more than one hit a day while the Central Association page is averaging a bit more than 2 hits a day. (Just for comparison the DANCERgram website where Penny Green’s DANCERgram newsletter and Flash emails are posted to the web receives about 9 “hits” a day). Keep in mind that these are webpage counts BEFORE the return of the Snowbirds – I will have updated counts in my next report in January.

Recent additions to the website were the “New Dancer Handbook” and “My First Convention” booklets that Penny Green prepared. Penny also is essential to helping me find entries that need “tweaking” to fix, correct or improve the website content.

What’s missing? The Photo Galleries and the thousands of square dance images that Bruce had collected and posted. Our current hosting platform has eliminated the space constraint that necessitated removing these items from the website, but we have run into a problem trying to retrieve this information from the Federation’s Seagate NAS “server”. The server houses two (2) 5Tb drives (a terabyte? – that’s a trillion bytes of data!) but these drives are generating error messages when attempting to access them. I determined this by purchasing an identical Seagate server that generated the same error messages when the Federation drives were inserted. My next step is to install the drives in a USB connected hard drive box and try some file recovery software to see if that will allow me to access the data files. However, if the data files have been encrypted by the Seagate server software, then my next steps are uncertain. More to come....

To put this into perspective and evaluate the effort required to maintain the website vs. value added...

- The Federation website is a valuable resource for dancers searching the web when looking for information about where to dance in Florida.
- The Federation (and Association) webpages provide contact information that would otherwise be difficult to find.
- The Federation website is a repository of historical data that would otherwise be unavailable.
- Posting flyers for Association events does not take a lot of effort – but they must be sent to me as I do not have the bandwidth to search for them.
- Maintaining current club dance schedules can be very time consuming. I have found the Southeast Association’s format the easiest to use – I can simply copy and paste their schedule page into their website instead of retyping and formatting the information in html code.

What is important to know -- Facebook has become the method of choice for providing information about Square Dancing. It is interactive and it allows anyone to post information immediately and without requiring the assistance of a webmaster. This is why I have made sure the Federation and Association home pages prominently display links to their respective Facebook pages! Bruce Morgan and I are administrators of the Federation’s Facebook page; each Association should have one or more active Administrators for their respective Facebook pages.

What’s next:

- Continue to update and maintain the Federation website.
- Add a flyer for the Florida State Convention Trail-In dance.
- Attempt to retrieve photo gallery and other files from the Server.

- Handle changes sent to me about Club information for the 30 clubs; that depends on the Federation to maintain their web sites.
- I continue to maintain the DANCERgram, Rounds-With-Judy, and other websites that I am responsible for.

I am always open to suggestions ... You know how to contact me!

Committee Reports

Governing Documents (Jenny Green)

After talking with Cal, it was decided we would make this a standing committee whose purpose will be to keep all the Governing Documents current not just the By Laws.

At this time, we don't have any documents ready to present with changes. But, I would like to point out to everyone going forward all Federation minutes will need to have the full correct business name as it appears on Sunbiz. This has caused us some issues this past year, more on that under New Business. The full name is FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS, INC.

Convention Procedures (Penny Green)

This has become a lot bigger job than I thought it would be. It ended up being a complete re-write of the document. It hasn't been updated since 2012. A lot has changed in 12 years!

First, I went through the document using Revision Marks. Then I sent it to the committee members for their input. Then I combined all the comments in a document that shows the current wording and the proposed wording, addition, or deletion.

We met yesterday afternoon for 2.5 hours to go through a 20-page document. Now I have to draft a final document, have it proofed, and hopefully have it ready to present at the Federation meeting in January for a vote.

After that is completed, there are some ancillary documents that need to be reviewed.

- There is a separate document for the Vendor Chairperson. We have to ensure it matches the Guidelines document. There is also a vendor contract that has to be reviewed.
- We discussed a timeline in the Guidelines. When Jenny and I were co-chairs of the 2014 convention, we created one. That needs to be updated.
- There are very detailed instructions on how to disburse the profit amongst the three state organizations. Jenny has created a template with formulas so all the treasurer has to do is input the numbers and the formulas will do the calculations.

I had hoped to have this completed for the 2026 chairperson to start using but this is taking a lot longer than I planned!

Convention Reports

2025 (Charles Tharp & Dawn DeWitt [called in to give report])

The 70th FSSRDC is coming together.

The halls will be the same as last year. There will be mainstream, plus, advanced, and challenge square dancing. There will be level 2 through 5 round dancing. Callers and cuers have established a framework of a schedule. There will be 20 to 30 callers and 10 to 13 cuers. They have assured us that all halls will be as good or better than last year.

An Italian dinner is planned. That decision is based on last year's survey that showed 98% of respondents preferred Italian. And after dinner there will be a circus show by Ravelli, the real deal, but no big top.

Arrangements are being made to have food trucks on sight Friday and Saturday for those who want a convenient lunch rather than drive around town. There will be a tent with tables near the trucks.

Ribbons have been produced.

Decorations are being produced.

Deposits have been made for the Center at Deltona, the dinner caterer, and the circus show.

We need someone to organize vendor requirements. Last year's vendor chairman retired.

We need someone to organize dangle dances. In the past two years, the dangle dance has been well received. It would be a shame to miss this convention.

A crew of about 12 is needed on Thursday to help lay the dance floor. Contact Jeri Huston if you can help. And, of course, a helping hand picking it up after the convention is also needed. Many hands make light work.

A few workers are also needed to put out and pick up tables and chairs for the food trucks and for the dinner show.

We need lights on a stand for the circus show. If anyone has some suitable for a stage show please let us know.

Rooms are still available at the DeLand Courtyard by Marriott.

Benefit dance on Saturday 9 Nov 2024 at the Wildwood Community Center, Washington and Jefferson Room, 6500 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785

We expect to see you there and be square.

(Side note from Jenny Green – The tent we're going to have for the Food Trucks, Mark Fetzer is donating it to us to use. He's going to need 4 people to help set that up. And if you're wanting to help lay the flooring, they ask that you have gloves, close toed shoes, a Utility knife, wear comfy clothes and knee pads or

something you can roll around on the floor with. Please arrive by 11:30am Thursday morning. This will be for 3 dance halls.)

Facilities (Carol Poole – filling in for Randy Poole)

We have no report

Housing (Carol Poole – filling in for Randy Poole)

As of October 16, there are only nine rooms rented out of our 60-room contract. The deadline to reserve a room at the \$150.00 rate is December 25.

We have the meeting room for the Federation meeting.

The lobby now has a Bistro that serves breakfast Saturday & Sunday from 7 am – 10 am. During the week breakfast starts at 6:30 am and ends at 9:30 am. Dinner is from 5 pm to 10 pm. There were only two menus available when I was there. I took one and tried to print it. It didn't print very good.

2026 (Cal Maki)

Cal introduced/appointed Richard & Carol Douget as the 2026 Florida State Convention Chairpersons.

Richard and I are volunteering to be the convention chairmen again. The theme is going to be really different, its going to be "Survive the Caller's Curse at the 71st." The décor is going to be Halloween

The callers have been approved by the Caller's Association and that is Rod Barngrover & Jack Lewis. The cuers will be Susan Snider & Jack M. We are hoping for more volunteers, we do have a partial committee. We still need After Party, Camping, Dinner & Show, Greeters/Hospitality, Photography, Publicity (Stephen Bigelow volunteered) and we need Ways & Means for the areas. We do have a General Ways & Means Chairman, it's Annie Minor. Our Treasurer will be Terri Little.

We have submitted our request for funding so hopefully we will get that today.

After some discussion Carol Douget said she will talk to The Center at Deltona.

2027 (TBA)

Hall of Fame (Ailene Picheco)

This award is not limited to dancers! It was organized to also honor: callers, cuers, publishers, teachers, organizers, promoters, vendors for 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.

A nomination can be made at any time. If approved, the award will be given at the next Florida State Convention.

History (Penny Green)

Nothing to report

USDA (Carol Poole/Terri Little)

The annual meeting was held in June at the National Square Dance Convention in Milwaukee. It was attended by Cal & Ann Maki, Jack & Barbara Hoffman and Terri Little. The most Florida delegates to attend in a very long time. There are always many reports but to highlight just a couple. This past year they gave a scholarship to a young lady from Oregon. They encourage all high school senior and college freshmen square dancers to apply. To join the USDA Exemption Program there is a \$100 application fee and a \$50 annual renewal fee. Now that this program is fully up and running, it has been decided that the \$50 annual renewal fee will only be collected for the first two years of participation in the program. It will still be necessary to pay annual dues to USDA. They voted on some Bylaws and Standing Rules with only one major change. USDA is now a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation and corrected punctuation and spelling errors. An election of officers was held with only changing the secretary. Their winter meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona at the Tucson Square & Round Dance Festival January 17- 19, 2025.

USDA Insurance (Carol Poole)

Financial report is available at the end of these Minutes.

As everyone already knows, the Federation Bank Accounts were closed and new ones opened in June. The insurance account had one outstanding check. Checking with the club they still had not deposited it. I informed them not to deposit the check that I would issue them a new one. I was not a signer on the new account when this happened. I also just had two surgeries and needed one more. I was in no condition to go anywhere. Several renewals came in; therefore, I sent them in with my personal check. Around this time a club had an urgent request. Their venue increased the amount of accident medical coverage required from \$10,000 to \$25,000. They were unable to dance until this was corrected. Working with the USDA Insurance Director, Elizabeth Sanders, we were able to get it added to their policy if the insurance company received the money now. Elizabeth isn't authorized to write a check, but she has a card (I don't remember if it was a debit or credit card from USDA). She agreed to use her card. We got the certificate, and the club may have missed that first night. I used my personal check to pay USDA. I had the club send me a check payable to me. I wanted this in the minutes for two reasons. So, everyone would know how much it costs and to be sure to check the insurance requirements of the venues. It costs this club an extra \$228.00 for a year. I'm hoping other venues don't up their requirements.

As I prepared this report, I did not have the rate for 2025. But, as of Thursday morning the insurance premium per dance went up to \$6 per person. If you have a minimum club of 8 people its \$48.

We did not have any accidents, this summer, that got reported to me.

ASCAP/BMI/SESAC (Richard & Carol Douget)

Licenses for 2025 are due in December. I will pay them with my credit card then submit for reimbursement to the 2025 convention.

ARTS (Ailene Picheco)

The ARTS team has created 60-second videos with information about the many benefits of dancing. Links to the videos produced for this project are intended to be posted and shared throughout the dancing community. As the videos become available links will be posted, shared and publicized.

https://www.arts-dance.org/Promotion_Ads/2024/index.php

Other web sites which provide important information include:

- www.You2CanDance.com - includes information about the various forms of dancing
- www.ReimagingSquareDance.com - includes a wealth of information about the activity including where to dance

NEXT ARTS BOARD MEETING is Sunday, June 29, 2025, in Shreveport, LA

For more information, please contact:

Jerry Reed, ARTS Executive Director

321.794.9646

ExecutiveDirector@ARTS-Dance.org

Old Business

First Convention Booklet (Penny Green)

It is finished and posted on the Federation website. A message was sent on the Florida Email Tree announcing that it is available. It is scheduled for an annual update in June.

New Dancer Handbook (Penny Green)

It was updated back in June and a revised copy posted on the website. It is also scheduled for an annual update in June.

Any other Old Business?

New Business

Awaiting Subject (Dave & Michelle Vieira)

Michelle introduced Leslie & Bill Rebik; Leslie gave an introduction of themselves.

Leslie explained, to the Board, the possibility of sponsoring the 77th (2028) National Square Dance Convention® (NSDC) should our bid be accepted. At this time, it is not official that we will host this convention. We have to prepare a bid and present it at the next National Convention, where there will be a vote on accepting. If the Federation agrees to sponsor the convention, work will begin to create the bid package.

An initial contact has been made with the R. P. Funding Center in Lakeland to hold the convention there. A site visit will be made soon. The National Convention is usually held the third week in June.

Bill and Leslie Ribek have agreed to be the General Chairpersons and Dave and Michele Vieira have agreed to be the Assistant General Chairpersons should our bid be accepted. Working with two couples from the National Executive Committee (NEC), who are past National Convention Chairpersons, they will prepare the bid package.

Terri made a motion that we commit \$5,000 to fund their start up for the 2028 National Square Dance Convention and to act as the sponsoring organization, Carol Douget seconded; motion carried.

There is a lot of work to do and there are a lot of committees to fill. If you are interested in being a part of the Committee, please contact the Ribeks at lribek@calpoly.edu.

New Bank Accounts (Jenny Green)

So, back in May I reported that Terri and I had everything corrected with Wells Fargo and that we shouldn't have any problems. Boy was I wrong.

When Annie and I went to the bank prior to our last, meeting to get her added as a signer, I didn't catch that we were also making a small change to the business name on the account. Even though Wells Fargo tried to contact us, in the mail, to come in and re-do the Beneficial Ownership Information papers. We missed the deadline and Wells Fargo was about to start the process of closing our accounts by the time we actually understood what was going on. With Cal Maki and Carol Poole's approval we opened three new checking accounts; Main account, convention account, and insurance account; and one savings account.

Proposed Budget Amendment (available at the end of these Minutes)

When I originally sent out the Minutes from the May meetings Cliff had responded back that we missed a couple items on the Proposed Budget that pertain to the internet and the website. What we are adding is the SSL Encryption which makes the website secure, that's what adds the 's' at the end of the (https:\\) and for the URL which is floridasquaredance.com; the encryption is \$59, and the URL is \$35.16. If we add that to what was already approved \$1,692.32, which means the convention would need to give us \$1,464.32. But I also wanted to make one other change to the Budget only because of the discussion we had at Sunday's meeting about the Friendship Cards that we no longer have; I would like to remove those from the Budget, which is \$30. Jenny made a motion to remove \$30 for Friendship Cards, add \$60 for the SSL Encryption and \$35.16 for the URL that would be a total expense of \$1,662.32; Stephen Bigelow seconded; Discussion: Annie Minor questioned what the Advertising budget covered, Jenny stated "I always thought it was the ads and things we did. Terri Little stated this can be investigated at the next Working Weekend we just wanted to get these on the Budget. Terri Little seconded the motion since it was questioned by Susan Snider if Stephen Bigelow could vote on this motion. Motioned carried.

Nominating Committee Report (Carol Poole)

Annie Minor agreed to be Secretary; Jenny Green agreed to be Vice President; Linda Tester agreed to take the Presidency for the second time.

My nominee for Treasurer would be Mrs. Shirley Wright; she started square dancing in Junior High School in the fifties. She moved to Florida from California in 2017 after retiring as a restaurant manager. Shirley loves to travel. I mean, she really loves to travel; she's visited all 50 states and over 55 countries. She has 4 children, 12 grands, 30 greats and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She enjoys activities such as zip lining.

Shirley Wright is serving her third year as President of the Northeast Florida Square & Round Dancers' Association; she also served as Treasurer for three years. Shirley was a member of the Mandarin

Marauders serving as Treasurer for four years and President for one year. She's currently a member of the Seabreeze Singles and the Moose Promenaders.

Shirley is the nominee for Federation Treasurer.

Terri Little made a motion to accept all the nominations as presented, Linda Reid seconded; motion carried.

Election and Installation of Officers (Terri Little)

Terri explained each officer's duties. All new officers accepted their new positions and duties.

Any other New Business?

In place of Linda Tester, Terri Little presented a gift of appreciation to Cal & Ann Maki from the Federation Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm by Cal Maki.

Announcements

Next Meeting - Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 9am

Courtyard by Marriott

308 N. Woodland Blvd, Deland, FL 32720

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Green
Secretary

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
Floirda 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
Soncoast Squares	\$ 11.00
Carol Poole - 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		3	148
Florida Federation			24
69th Florida State Convention			22
Total: Federation, Convention, Two Associations & 18 Clubs			<u><u>621</u></u>

Randy & Carol Poole
Insurance Chairmen

Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Inc.
Treasurer's Report

BEGINNING BALANCES AS OF MAY 1, 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:	<u><u>\$ 45,417.82</u></u>

Wells Fargo Business Checking Account6002

Beginning Balance	19,299.08
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Receipts

05/07/24	Convention profit	\$ 1,945.64
05/10/24	Reimbursement for fundraiser venue	\$ 125.00
05/31/24	interest	\$ 0.09
06/12/24	interest	\$ 0.04
09/24/24	Central Assoc. dues	\$ 50.00
10/04/24	Southeast Assoc. dues	\$ 50.00
10/31/24	Northwest Assoc. dues	\$ 50.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 2,220.77

Disbursements

5/1/2024	CD purchase	\$ 10,000.00
5/4/2024	ck 1122 Linda Tester	\$ 65.04
5/5/2024	ck 1123 70th FSDC	\$ 125.00
01/28/24	ck 1124 Jenny Green	\$ 38.07
07/18/24	Carousel checks	\$ 169.41
09/21/24	ck 2000 Clifford Reiss	\$ 35.16

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 10,432.68

TOTAL Wells Fargo BUSINESS CHECKING ACCT \$ 11,087.17

Wells Fargo Market Savings Account2837

Beginning Balance	12,900.08
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Receipts

05/31/24	Interest	\$ 0.11
06/12/24	Interest	\$ 0.03
06/28/24	Interest	\$ 0.06
07/31/24	Interest	\$ 0.11
08/31/24	interest	\$ 0.11
09/30/24	interest	\$ 0.11
10/31/24	interest	\$ 0.11

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 0.64

Disbursements

No Activity

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ -

TOTAL Wells Fargo MARKET SAVINGS ACCT \$ 0.64

Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Inc.
Treasurer's Report

Wells Fargo CD Time Account6968

Beginning Balance	10,000.00
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Receipts

06/03/24	Interest	\$	39.48
07/01/24	Interest	\$	38.36
08/01/24	Interest	\$	39.79
09/01/24	interest	\$	39.95
10/01/24	interest	\$	38.80
11/01/24	interest	\$	40.26

TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 236.64</u>
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Disbursements

No Activity

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ -</u>
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TOTAL Wells Fargo CD TIME ACCT	\$ 10,236.64
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ENDNG BALANCES AS OF Oct. 31, 2024

Wells Fargo Convention	\$10,122.52
Wells Fargo Business Checking	\$11,087.17
Wells Fargo Savings	\$ 0.64
Wells Fargo CD Time	\$ 10,236.64
Insurance	\$ 3,212.34

TOTAL:	\$34,659.31
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Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Inc.
Convention Account
Treasurer's Report

Wells Fargo Convention Checking Account6028

Beginning Balance	10,122.52
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Receipts

No Receipts

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ -
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Disbursements

No disbursements

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ -
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TOTAL Wells Fargo CONVENTION CHECKING ACCT	\$ 10,122.52
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Other assets (Receivables) as of 10/31/2024

70th State Convention Loan for Deltona Center Deposit	\$ 4,050.00
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70th State Convention Loan of seed money	\$ 2,500.00
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Total other assets	\$ 6,550.00
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TOTAL ALL ASSETS as of 10/31/2024	\$16,672.52
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Liabilities

Florida Callers Association	\$ 5,500.00
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Round Dance Council of Florida	\$ 5,500.00
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Florida Federation of Square Dancers Inc.	\$ 5,672.52
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Total Liabilities	\$ 16,672.52
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TOTAL ALL LIABILITIES as of 10/31/2024	\$16,672.52
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FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
INSURANCE FINANCIAL REPORT
November 3, 2024

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

Income

Central	\$	114.45
Northeast	\$	16.35
Northwest	\$	38.10
Check No. 2073 not cashed	\$	19.25
Total Income		\$ 188.15

Expenses

USDA Insurance	\$	113.60
Promenade Squares (reissue)	\$	19.25
Carol Poole - to USDA for insurance	\$	32.40
Total Expense		\$ 165.25

Ending Balance as of September 30, 2024 \$ 3,140.84

As of September 30, 2024	Assoc.	Clubs	Members
Central		6	111
Northeast		7	195
Northwest	1	4	112
Southeast	1		36
West Coast Area		3	159
Florida Federation			24
69th Florida State Convention			22
Total: Federation, Convention, Two Associations & 20 Clubs			659

Randy & Carol Poole
Insurance Chairmen

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

Florida Federation of Square and Round Dancers, Inc

Prepared May 4, 2024

Amended November 3, 2024

	Approved 05/04/24	Amended 11/03/24	Amended 11/03/24
INCOME			
Association Dues	200.00	200.00	200.00
Convention Profit	1,369.16	1,464.32	1,434.32
Internet Reimbursement	-	-	-
Interest	28.00	28.00	28.00
TOTAL INCOME	1,597.16	1,692.32	1,662.32
EXPENSES			
President	100.00	100.00	100.00
Vice President	250.00	250.00	250.00
Secretary	150.00	150.00	150.00
Treasurer	50.91	50.91	50.91
Parliamentarian	250.00	250.00	250.00
USDA	100.00	100.00	100.00
Corporate Dues	61.25	61.25	61.25
Honorariums	200.00	200.00	200.00
Historian	-	-	-
Delegate Badges	80.00	80.00	80.00
Friendship Cards	30.00	30.00	-
Welcome Center Cards	-	-	-
Wkg Wknd Benefit Dance	100.00	100.00	100.00
Advertising	95.00	95.00	95.00
Insurance	130.00	130.00	130.00
Handbook	-	-	-
Disaster Relief	-	-	-
SSL Encryption (https:\\)	-	60.00	60.00
URL (floridasquaredance.com)	-	35.16	35.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,597.16	1,692.32	1,662.32