

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers**

Strawberry Square Dance Center

4401 Promenade Blvd.

Plant City, FL 33563

Minutes for meeting Saturday, May 3, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

**Call to Order** by Linda Tester at 9:00am.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Jenny Green.

**Invocation** done by Annie Minor.

**Roll Call:** everyone was present except Shirley Wright due to illness, Bruce & Colleen Morgan, Erik & Robin Burton, Rick & Kim Doucette, Jeff Taylor, Brian & Barbara McDonald, Alec & Kay Schmidt, Tim Tharp, Cathy Waltz, Don Wolford, Ann & Cal Maki, Scott & Sandy Ebright, Stephen Bigelow, Keith Stevens. We did have a quorum. Those who have not been present for three consecutive times will receive a letter that they are placed on an inactive roster.

Linda Tester introduced our **visitors & guests**,

Michele Vieira, Bid Chairman for 77th National Square Dance Convention (in Florida)

Leslie & Bill Rebik (Central Association), 77th NSDC Services Chairmen

**Correspondence:** Linda Tester received a letter from USDA requesting who our delegates will be for the USDA meeting and vote at the National Convention for 2025 in Shreveport, LA.

**Approval of Minutes** of January 19, 2025 Annie Minor asked for any further corrections to be made to the minutes from our January meeting. As there was none, Barbara Hoffman made a motion to accept the minutes; Sheila Reid seconded. All were in favor. Nobody opposed.

**Financial report** from Shirley Wright is at the end of the minutes. The CD will be renewed.

Jenny Green has no **parliamentarian** report.

**Sunshine** report from Jenny Green. Get well cards were sent to Stephen Bigelow for his broken femur and hip, Cal Maki for his appendix removal, and Tom Miller while he was in the hospital. Sympathy cards were sent to Dennis Taylor for the passing of his wife Nancy, Art Springer's family for his passing, Elmer Sheffield's family for his passing, Carol McKinsey for Garland's passing, Dee Stovall's family and Tom Miller's family for their passings. Congratulations were sent to Whit Brown on his retirement. Jim McConnaha and Daryl McMillan, whose wives passed away will receive cards.

**The Florida Callers Association** submitted no report from Keith Stevens. Mark Fetzer filled us in that the Callers Association has asked callers to let them know if they are calling at the state Convention. There is an October meeting with a dance planned at Hacienda Center at The Villages with caller Mike Sikorsky.

**Florida Round Dance Council** report from Earle & Carol Collins. A Fall Weekend of Rounds is planned with the Buchanans cueing. There are flyers. The Round Dance Council is looking forward to the next Convention which has a strong leader for the round dancing.

**Florida Square Dance Campers** report submitted by Susan Snider. The Square and Round Dance Campers in Florida are doing well. The Square Wheels just had one of our most fun campouts at the Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs. Bob and Terri Wallace led a bike ride on Saturday morning around White Springs, which is a very popular biking destination. Our last campout until August will be May 16-17 at Southern Oaks RV in Summerfield. As with any camping club, one doesn't have to be a camper to come and join in on the fun. Camping schedules can be found at FANSDC.net and in the Dancergram.

The International Camporee will be in Shreveport, LA which is of course the site for the National Square Dance Convention. The two events are being held back-to-back at the location of the NSD camping facility. The dates for the Camporee are June 19-21, 2025.

The Florida State Camporee will be held October 23, 24 and 25, 2025 at Southern Palms Campground in Eustis, Florida. This is a camping event which brings together all of the camping clubs in Florida. There are square and round dance workshops during the day and dances at night.

**Southeast** submitted no report. Cathy Warr, President sent an email noting that Southeast is meeting to discuss their future in which they may fold.

**Central Florida Association** submitted a report from Carol & Richard Douget. Our next 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance will be May 31, 2025, at Whirl & Twirl 5-7. The caller will be Rod Barngrover and the cuer will be Earle Collins. We will have a meeting prior to the dance.

Spin Drifters have completed their beginner square dance lessons. They do not have any plans to start Plus lessons at this time. However, Darrell is teaching some Plus figures during Mainstream tips at the club dances.

Geneva Round dance Club is conducting Beginner Bolero Lessons 7-7:30 on Fridays. They also have Beginner Rumba Lessons on Saturdays. The cuer is Earle Collins.

Whirl & Twirl have Beginner Square Dance Lessons on Saturdays 4 - 5. Caller is Rod Barngrover.

Hoedowners are having Beginner Square Dance Lessons on Sundays 3:30 – 4:30. Caller is Rod Barngrover.

Michele Vieira added that Village Squares is now open to everybody after being a closed club only for residents of The Villages. They dance Wednesdays 7-9.

**Northeast** report submitted by Shirley Wright. We are having a bit of difficulty at this time. We had to cancel our meeting in January due to half the board being out on medical.

The next meeting we had the board minis and only two delegates plus Susan Snider.

We held the meeting with lots of discussions, and it was decided that we will no longer give the clubs \$100 for graduations unless they have delegates at the NEFSARDA meetings. Jimmy Riddle is drafting a letter to be sent to each of the clubs.

I want to commend our new Vice president Virginia Bomhold for doing a good job on arranging our 5th Saturday dances.

We are well into preparation for our next Fall Festival thanks to Susan Snider who took over from Stephan Bigalow who is still recovering from his falls.

In January we have four members whose terms are up, and we are having a VERY hard time convincing anyone to participate.

**Northwest** report submitted by Brian and Barbara McDonald.

Northwest membership is around 60. The clubs are continuing to have classes. They may start a class with 10 or more people but seem to lose class members before they finish. There does not seem to be the interest like it used to be.

Northwest sponsored a Sweet Heart Dance February 15th which was successful with 4 squares and round dancing. Swinging Squares sponsored their yearly Blue and White dance April 5<sup>th</sup> with about 4 squares and rounds. The caller for that was Barry McVinn. In case you have not heard his wife passed away Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. Seaside Square will be celebrating their 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at Ragon Hall. They continue to have such special dances as the 50's, Memorial Day dance, and Beach Blast jamboree at Ragon Hall. Emerald Waves club started at Ragon Hall and has joined us as one of our newest clubs.

Northwest Treasurer Alec Schmidt has been learning to call under the instruction of Nick Hartley. He helps Agape Squares with their students and often joins Nick in a song or two.

The next big dance is our Roundup, October 24-25, 2025, in Panama City's Grand Square Hall hosted by Swinging Squares. Tony Oxendine is the caller and Sandy Sturgis the cuer. Come join us and see the pretty white beaches!

Clubs were reminded to hold open mic nights to encourage people to try out becoming a caller.

**West Coast** area report submitted by Penny Green for Don Wolford.

All of our seasonal clubs have shut down for the season. Some of them will reopen in November, December, or January. Our largest concentration of callers is in southwest Florida – Darrin Henry, Alan Hall, Nick Hartley, and Curt Braffet. The cuers, Judy Barnhill and Susan Wolford, have even been doing a little calling, teaching beginner squares. They have dances just about every day of the week. They all work together really well filling in for each other when needed or doing dances together. Judy even had a couple of line dance classes this past season.

The two clubs in the Tampa Bay area are doing really well, Promenade Squares and Suncoast Squares. They usually have four to six squares. As soon as they finish a beginners class, they start another one. Suncoast Squares is trying to get their Sunday afternoon dances (with special callers) started again. They stopped having them during the pandemic and are just now starting

up again. They had a dance on April 27<sup>th</sup> with Scotty Sharrer that I am sure was well attended. If the dancers are interested in having this Sunday afternoon dance, they will start having them once a month.

Strawberry Square is struggling with low attendance. They have several callers and cuers, some who live in Strawberry Square – Jim Davis, Bucky Tenney, Don Bachelder. Robert Arias, Allen Snell, Scott Vallee, Tom Bunn, Susan Wolford, Judy Barnhill, and Sandy Sturgis also call/cue there. Their next beginners class will start on January 6<sup>th</sup>. They will have their Holiday Fest on December 13<sup>th</sup> with Rod Barngrover and Dave Vieira calling and Tom Bunn cueing. It's \$25 for all day Saturday or \$10 per session. And then priced separately there is a Friday Frolics Mainstream and Plus dance with Jim Davis, a Trail End Mainstream and Plus Dance Friday night, and a Phases 2-4 Round Dance on Sunday afternoon. There is limited onsite rentals and dry camping available.

The other clubs are Temple Twirlers in Tampa with guest callers and cuers, Shufflin' Squares in Lake Wales with Keith Stevens and Dave Muller on Thursday night and Advanced and Challenge on Sunday afternoon for which they take a head count, Palace Promenaders in Arcadia with Robert Arias and Rounds recorded by Judy Barnhill otherwise she cues in-person, and Citrus Squares in Inverness with Charlie Pergrossi. All of these schedules are listed in the *DANCERgram Planner* which is a weekly publication. The Planner can be found online at [www.dancergram.com](http://www.dancergram.com).

Suncoast Squares participated in the Pride Parade in St. Petersburg. They have dances on Monday for Mainstream and Thursday night Advanced and Challenge. They also have great refreshments.

## **Publications**

**Website** report submitted by Cliff Reiss.

The Florida Federation website is kept current with updates posted the same day received.

I have accessed the Federation server and uploaded the graphics images, historical information and photo galleries that had been removed from the old website due to limited storage space. Our web hosting provider Webmasters doubled our allocated disk storage to 35Gb (18Gb used) so space to post these items is no longer a constraint. I am working on creating the web pages and html code to make these items accessible on the website. There is a note on the Federation website indicating what has already been uploaded – pictures from the 50<sup>th</sup> Florida State Convention (2004); Bow N Swing issues from 1951 to 1981; and Barn Owl (Central Florida/Brevard County) issues from 1996 to 2001. The historical club pictures retrieved from the server are for 70 or more clubs (a number of these clubs have folded). I also have over 50,000 photos and videos from John Occhipinti - some have already been loaded and are available on the DANCERgram website. I plan to include a link on the Federation website to these items.

The 2026 Florida State Convention website was updated with the convention logo and the flyer for the May 3 benefit dance. As additional convention information is provided it will be added. What is needed includes: a list of committee members; flyers for the convention, the dinner

show and the trail-end dance; the registration form and on-line registration link; raffle items information; forms for booster items; forms for ads for the convention handbook; advertising and donations; food truck and food tent information; and hotel and camping information with a host hotel link.

The current club count by Association on the website and the number of clubs that the federation maintains a webpage for ( ) are: Central 17 (6); Northeast 13 (10); Northwest 6 (4); Southeast 6 (0); Westcoast 22 (15). The total count is 64 clubs / (35) with webpages I maintain. I also support the website for the Round Dance Council of Florida.

I currently “own” and support 7 square dance related URLs on my GoDaddy account. The URL’s and their renewal dates are: floridasquaredance.com (7/6/2025); dancergram.com (10/6/2025); templetwirlers.com (1/16/2026); tntrounds.com (3/2/2026); tampabayrounds.com (4/4/2026); roundswithjudy.com (8/15/2026); and squaredancejacksonville.com (5/5/2027). I maintain the websites for each of these URLs. In addition, I “own” the Webmasters account that hosts the Federation website – the next annual renewal is March 11, 2026, at a cost of \$179.40 with the West Coast currently funding \$119.40 and the Federation \$60.00 of the cost.

GoDaddy costs \$22 for the web URL. I created a Facebook presence for Stephen Bigelow’s Bow and Swing publication – similar to what I have done for the DANCERgram newsletter. It provides another opportunity for dancers to find the publication. I also use the Northeast Clubs Dance Schedule copied directly from the Bow publication for the NE Clubs web page listing of club schedules.

I have asked to take control of the posting for the “Florida Federation of Square Dancers” on the website **“Where’s the Dance”** and I have provided information to the site webmaster to update the listing. Paul & Cheryl Miller were listed as the contacts – Penny Green will replace them. Florida only has 2 up-to-date clubs on that site.

Where’s The Dance also has listings for each of our Associations and many of our clubs. I helped the Seabreeze Square Dance Club update their listing; everyone should look at the website and work with the site webmaster to update and “own” their listing.

A request was received to consider using a capability such as Google Calendar to list upcoming events in an effort to avoid conflicts – 2 events on the same date competing for our limited pool of dancers. After investigation, my opinion is that the effort to set up and maintain the calendar outweighs the potential benefit, and I believe there are enough other resources already available on the web to facilitate research of potential event dates. If anyone has other thoughts or ideas let me know.

Going forward I will continue to keep the Federation website current, work on updating the website with the information retrieved from the server and also document the website operation for contingency purposes should someone else need to take over support at a future

date. The cloud background from the Space Trackers website was added to the Federation website for a nicer look.

Penny added that Dancergram.com has chronological lists by year, a list of meeting dates, and a list of travel dates. There will be no calendar on the Federation website. Too much effort for the payoff.

**Bow & Swing** report was submitted by Stephen Bigelow.

I apologize to this meeting of the Florida Federation for my absence during this meeting.

I am still undergoing rehab for my hip and femur. Please pray for me.

The Bow and Swing is still a viable online publication. I have been trying to get out an issue every month. Due to my stamina problem the last and next issue will be for two months.

The submission date for the Bow and Swing is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Right now, I am getting an article from The Florida Callers, The American Callers, The camping international President and constant news from the State Convention. Judy Barnhill is sending me the round of the month.

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

Please help me continue to grow this Magazine.

**Keepin' Posted (Central)** report submitted by Ailene Picheco.

**Where to Dance in Central Florida** is updated before each 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance. A lot of things come from Facebook.

I have some printed copies with me.

More types of dancing have been added (Contra, Scottish Country, English Country, and Clogging)

I gather a lot of information, but don't always have time to put everything together.

I have been lax on sending out information. My list of emails is very long. I need to separate it into specific groups.

So, if anyone would like to be put on my email list, please let me know the type of information you would like to receive.

**Panhandle Press (NW)** has no report at this time from Brian and Barbara McDonald.

**Grapevine (NE)** report submitted by Stephen Bigelow.

The Grapevine is going well. I have about 750 subscriptions covering many people inside and outside of Florida. I have endeavored to reach out via other Square Dance organizations to tell

people about us. It happened the last 2 awards for the National that publicity chairman contacts me usually within 2 or 3 months asking me to help with publicity I will continue to endeavor to spread the news of Square Dancing and Northeast Florida.

**DANCERgram** report submitted by Penny Green.

Distribution remains the same.

I try to support our callers and cuers who work out of state. I have started a new section in the Planner entitled Out-of-State Dances. Several of our callers and Cuers travel. The dances listed in this section are ones that our callers and cuers are doing. I also list their tours and cruises. We also post the flyers on our website. Some of the flyers can also be found at [www.sccafl.com](http://www.sccafl.com). There is also a list of deadlines for publications and awards on the website.

**Email Tree** report submitted by Penny Green.

We have an email tree here in Florida that is a way to get information out to every Florida dancer. It is used for information about the state convention and any other important information out to the dance community. If you have information you want to send, just send it to me, as the email coordinator, and I will start the process. I have a contact in each association that I send the first email to, then they are supposed to send it to the presidents of all their clubs, who are supposed to forward it to all their members. I hope that works but I'm still not sure it is getting out to everyone!

**Convention Report 2025** submitted by Dawn DeWitt, Charles Marp.

The chairman would like to hear from every committee person and receive all reports. It is very helpful for the next chairmen. Need to hear from the callers and cuers, housing and facilities, flooring committee, publicity, and decorations with expenses, pros and cons, contact information especially for out of state. Checks were distributed. Please deposit those checks as soon as possible.

### **General Chairman Impressions**

Based on comments from many dancers, the convention was a success. According to the treasurer, the convention was a success, as there was a profit. All of the events came off as planned. It was really fun and exciting, organized, and had good energy.

In planning the convention, there was a focus on a balanced budget. Expenses were cut to help ensure that the little things did not detract from the bottom line. Cuts came in the form of creative resourcing of materials and hand-making certain items. Careful selection of fundraising merchandise reduced expense. An affordable, significant show was provided that attracted registrants to attend the dinner. As for ways and means, it seems that the real money is in registrations and donations. The activities of Ways and Means seem to be a lot of effort for minimal gain. Look at the numbers, it is something to be considered. We were glad to not have to deal with shirts. We are very pleased with the outcome.



## **Kickoff 2024**

The compliments received included, “The kick-off skit was very exciting and fun.” and “That was the best kick-off skit we have ever seen!” and “The skit was so fun and joy-filled. The props were so colorful and interesting, we felt like we were at the circus!”

Registrations at kick-off: 88.

Benefit Dances: Generally, well attended. May 4, Port Orange Adult Activity Center donated by Darrell Cevalco.

November 9, Wildwood Community Center, donated by Dave and Michele Vieira.

Trail End Dance, January 16 at the Center at Deltona.

## **Notes from the General Chairman**

We, the General Chairmen (G.C.), were pleased to be able to get into The Center at Deltona on Wednesday evening. That made Thursday morning less stressful. We prepared the entryway decoration and staged supplies and materials. Made general contact with CAD Staff and outlined plans for tables and chairs.

Thursday morning with some help from Penny Grove got the front lobby decoration situated. The flooring crew arrived by 11:00 am and began staging the flooring, entering through the front doors, which seemed a lot easier than through the back loading area. We had Jeri and Peggy Huston, Paul Pratt, Bob and Cindy Leslie and Bill Reboick and a few other folks, including Jerry and Cathy Waitz. The flooring was installed in the entire Ballroom and the Meeting Room by 2:30 pm. The three-inch tape supply lasted for about 90% of the ballroom and the job was finished with two-inch tape. The 3-inch tape did not perform better or worse than the 2-inch tape. The 3-inch tape was easier to install since it was not as hard to center on the joint. Either will do.

The staff at Center at Deltona are there to make things happen. Chris Hallet, the manager, was very helpful and Luis was extremely helpful and responsive as well. They made every furniture need happen. However, they did not realize that water stations were in the contract, therefore, they did not have the water stations set up or a sufficient cup supply on hand to cover the stations. They responded quickly, setting up multiple water stations.

We almost had enough tables wrangled for the vendor hallway. For all the hallway usage, including registration, ways and means, vendors, a silent auction table, clothing sale and the dinner buffet, about 20 tables are needed. We certainly needed more than initially thought.

We secured three food trucks for lunchtime, including The Rustick Road, JD’licious and Angels Frozen Delights. The food trucks were set up in a U out in the back parking lot for serving from 11:30 -1:30 pm. Many convention attendees found it convenient to have the food trucks available. Special note: There is a Special Event permit from the City of Deltona needed in order



to have the food trucks on-site for an event. We did not collect a vendor fee from the food trucks because we felt the service they provided was worth more than the fee and we wanted them to be successful so that if their services are desired next year, they would be willing to do so.

Mark Fetzer provided the dining tent, and the CAD provided tables and chairs under the tent and the gazebo for attendees to eat. The tent was set up on Thursday afternoon and taken down on Saturday afternoon. The tent that Mark provided was really welcome as there is not really anywhere within the CAD for people to sit and eat. Fortunately, the weather cooperated.

In preparation for the Friday afternoon Dinner/Show in the main ballroom, dancing ended at 4:00 pm in the main ballroom and the 19 tables were set up and ready by 4:15 pm. The CAD staff rolled all the tables out and we were fortunate to have a lot of great volunteers to place tablecloths, decorations and chairs out.

Ravelli began the circus show at 5:00 pm and gave us an hour-long show! People loved it. We had a lot of positive compliments about the show even though Dawn did not lose her head! The show concluded at 6:00 pm and the room was restored for dancing by 6:20 in plenty of time for the evening program. The evening program included the Honor Guard from Deltona High School and Soo Jin Hall did a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Ailene Picheco presented the Halper Farm Award to Bill & Mary Chesnut and the representatives from the three upcoming NDCs spoke as did Carol Dought for the kickoff for the 7<sup>th</sup> FSSRDC.

On Saturday night the dance floor removal began at 5:30 pm in the meeting room and in the round dance ballroom A and B. By about 9:50 pm, way more than half of the Big Top flooring had been removed. There was still dancing going on in the Big Top (main ballroom), down to about 3 or 4 squares. The hard deadline of being out of the building by 11:00 pm led to an unfortunate incident that has changed the disposition of the flooring moving forward.

A huge thanks goes to all the committee members who worked hard to ensure the convention, fun and exciting, organized and successful.

### **Committee Badges**

We looked for the biggest bang for the buck when it came to badges. Engraved plastic badges have limited colors and designs. We wanted something that was more colorful and elaborate. Dawn designed the badges. The sublimation printed badges were ordered from Susan Elaine Packer. Due to the fact that we provided the blank ID cards to her, the 33 badges cost \$136.00. Based on our research, this saved significant money.

### **Ways and Means**

Annie Minor

Items and registrations were sold at visits to clubs by committee members to promote the Convention. Having clowns dance in squares helped build enthusiasm. During the Convention

we sold previous Convention shirts and garment bags at \$2 a piece rendering a couple hundred dollars in the end. Raffle tickets for the visa and shoe socks were also sold at the Convention table. People are always excited to get a deal. As has been done in the past it would be good to recruit volunteers to help man the table.

Dance Socks: What we thought was a great idea, was not an easy item to sell at the \$10 price tag. It was a slow burn though, and the socks have sold the investment down to near the cost. The upside is, that unlike a dated shirt, when the shoe covers wear out, people might replace them. And, if there is anything that can be forgotten at home or lost while dancing, it is a shoe cover. So, it might be worth ordering more, as they can be sold year-round to benefit the convention fund. Reorder will cost less since the print die has been paid for. Remaining inventory will profit for the 71st convention. Dinner/Show for 2 Raffle: Raffle tickets brought in \$152 for 2 Dinner/Show raffle tickets at \$90 value. So, that effort did bring in a few dollars. See the numbers in reports below. We comped 2 dinner show tickets to the Vieira's since they arranged and paid for the Wildwood Community Center for the November benefit dance. The \$500 Visa card raffle: Ticket sales brought in \$879. The VISA card we won in 2024 was sold to the 70th convention for \$350, therefore, the income from the raffle was \$529. The Penny Social raffle auction was a flop. We spent \$197 and only made \$50. The Silent auction at convention yielded \$265 for wine and cheese baskets. Donations from all sources totaled \$1,495.

#### Dinner/Show:

Since no one stepped in to be the chairperson for the dinner/show, the G took on the task of finding a suitable dinner show. We found Cavalli running a circus show at the Auburndale flea market on one of our journeys around the state. Peggy and Jerry Huston worked with us as the point of contact with the caterer to get the menu for the dinner set. The caterer, Abundance Catering, provided chicken parmigiana, sausage and meatballs in sauce, vegetarian baked ziti, Italian rice, fresh veggies, some funky green beans, tossed salad with dressing and rolls and sweet tea and water for \$18.70 pp. Additionally, the Huston's provided unsweetened tea and lemonade as well as assorted cookies. The 20 some centerpiece elephants, made by Dawn, were a big hit. Overall, we heard positive comments regarding the presentation of the food, taste and serving size. Future conventions might think about ways to decrease the amount of effort and expense that goes into this event. Perhaps, no show? The dinner price could even be reduced and there would be an increase in the income with less hassle and worry.

**Buttons** The Wassermans (Lewis and Linda), delivered 224 out of 300 buttons prior to convention kick-off, using up their button making supplies. To make up for the difference, they provided about 100 more button circles. Dawn reused the plastic buttons from 2024 and made 100 buttons. The buttons were to be given to registrants at the point of registration and were available on the tables at various conventions for publicity. Not too many people wear them throughout the year so, in the future, unless we can sell them to associations, maybe they are not worth the investment.

**Vendors** Larry Zuckerman wanted to retire and did not plan to be at the convention, yet he agreed to take vendor applications and collect vendor fees for the convention. Since no one stepped in to be the Vendor Chairman, we made arrangements with Keith Olds and Jerry Waltz and us to work together to provide necessary assistance to the vendors. We made an arrangement for the three upcoming national conventions; we comped their admission if they would purchase dinner/show tickets, which they did. We had Dianne Syphard with her sewing creations, Kuzco's Coffee Cart and the second-hand clothing sales in vendor row. With the three conventions present, there was little room for any other tables.

**Chairmans Notes Regarding Registration** To make the online registration and payment collection process clear to all involved parties, this information was sent out to those involved in selling convention registrations. The process for convention registration and collection of funds for Dinner/Show and raffle tickets was outlined in detail. All convention forms and flyers were made available for download and printing from the Federation Website on the convention page. Registration was designed to be paperless. Our primary and preferred means of sales was online, with a credit card payment. Use of the QR code on the convention flyers was designed to take the purchaser to a JOT-FORM page where convention registration and dinner/ show tickets could be purchased using cash, check or credit card. Every registrant received an email receipt, confirming their registration and payment.

Registration from *anywhere*

- Registrants were directed to go to the Florida Federation website convention page or point their phone camera at the QR code, to open the JOT-FORM where they would indicate form of payment as either check or credit card.
- Proceed to fill out information on the JOT-FORM and select items (registration and dinner/show tickets) to add to shopping cart.
- Enter credit card information to complete transaction.
- Registrants paying with a check could record the check number on the JOT-FORM, identify Jenny Green as the recipient, and make the check payable to 70th FSDC, and mail the check to the registration chair.

Registration *In-person* with a convention representative:

- Could be completed on-line as if from *anywhere* with a credit card *or* with *check or cash* given to the convention representative, thereby eliminating the need for a paper registration form.
- For check or cash payments, it was recommended that the representative collecting funds use a 2 part self-carbon page receipt book or use a paper registration form and a receipt if the registration was not done on-line.
- In-person sales could involve raffle tickets for the Dinner/Show and the \$500 VISA card. The convention representative would have raffle tickets on hand. A written receipt should accompany these sales, indicating the type and number of tickets and form of payment as cash or check with a check number.
- Purchaser should hold sold ticket stubs until the convention or give them to the convention

representative to hang on to until such a time as you or they meet up with Jenny Green (Registration Chairman), Annie Minor (Ways and Means) or Charles and Dawn (General Chairman), to hand off the ticket stubs.

Periodically, active convention representatives should compile an accounting sheet of the monies/funds collected referencing receipt book numbers, indicating form of payment as cash or check, and what the money is for:

- Receipt books should reflect Monies collected and paper Registration forms for registrations not done online need to be sent to Jenny Green.
- Number of Raffle tickets for Dinner/show
- Number of \$500 VISA card Raffle tickets
- Deposit the cash into your personal account and write a check in that amount to the 70th FSSRDC. Send accounting sheet and any checks received to appropriate chairman.

**Registration** Jenny Green & Linda Reid The Convention Chairmen, Dawn DeWitt and Charles Tharp, wanted to have a more digital registration process this year by requesting everyone register online. Two different registration forms were created on JotForm; one for those wanting to pay by credit card and the other for those who wanted to pay by cash or check. For this form there were options at the end to let us know how to expect their payment, at the convention, mailing it to the Registration Chairman or giving it to a local representative. To not confuse anyone, one link was created that took them to the main page where they could click on which form they wanted. There was also a link to the host hotel so dancers could make their reservation at the same time. Since we knew not all the dancers would be okay with registering online, we did give a few paper registrations forms to each association.

For the ribbons, Dawn & Charles wanted to have all the dancers check in at the convention. I liked this idea as there were no ribbons or ribbon numbers to keep track of. But this created a long line at the Trail In Dance of everyone wanting to get their ribbons and dinner tickets. To save on expenses, Dawn created the "ribbons", there were stars for the callers, cuers, & their partners while the dancers got ribbons with a circus sticker on them. It was approved at the 2023 Working Weekend to increase the ribbon prices by \$5. So, at the 2024 State Convention full weekend ribbons were sold for \$40. Following the convention until May 31, 2024, the ribbons were listed at \$45. From June 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024, the ribbons were listed at \$50 then the price went up to \$55. Weekender ribbons (Friday evening & all-day Saturday) were also available prior to the convention. Their prices were \$32, \$35, \$37, and \$40. Single day ribbons were available to purchase at the convention for \$30.

Each night after returning to the hotel the cash and check purchases were counted and passed on to the treasurer. I find this to be easier than trying to do it at the facility.

#### PAID ATTENDANCE

88 2022 Working Wknd Benefit Dance (May 21st)

124 May 22nd - Jan 18th

5 Trail In Dance

58 Convention

275

COMPLIMENTARY RIBBONS (did not pay for convention or dinner)

49 Callers & Partner

21 Cuers & Partner

70

345 Total Attendance

IN DEPTH BREAKDOWN Ribbons:

275 Paid Registrations

224 Full Weekend

19 Weekender

32 Single Day

205 Floridians

70 Out of State

Dinners:

146 Dinners Total

91 Purchased w/Convention Ribbon

55 Dinner Only (separate from ribbon)

49 Callers & Partner

21 Cuers & Partner

19 Refunds

### **Half and Half Report**

Jack and Barbara Hoffman There were no tickets bought for the 70th Convention. We used up what had been bought for the 68th and 69th.

Working Weekend Dance \$ 85.00

November Benefit Dance \$ 80.00

Trail End Dance \$100.00

Convention Friday \$125.00

Convention Saturday \$113.00

For a total \$503.00

We also worked the clothing sale which brought in \$790.00.

### **Fun and Games**

Dawn DeWitt, Charles Tharp, Jerry Waltz, Cathy Waltz

Since no one stepped up to man the Dangle Dance committee, The General Chairman and the Assistant Chairman, Jerry and Cathy Waltz took on the responsibility for this popular session. Since Susan Elaine Packer was not going to be in attendance at the convention, it was renamed FUN 'N GAMES. This session on Saturday afternoon between 2 and 3 pm was attended by 4 squares for the whole time. What fun! The dancers ate popcorn, donned clown shoes and clown noses and danced under a circus tent to circus themed music. At the end of the hour, each dancer received a hand-made, circus themed dangle. Everyone had a wonderful time.

### **Competition Squares**

To our knowledge, the Competition Squares went off without any problems even though there was no identified chair person. However, we did hear complaints that there were no awards for winning dancers from 2024 or for this year. People really liked the handmade medallions that Dawn made in 2023 and were pining over not getting anything this year. An effort should be made to provide something to acknowledge the accomplishments of the members of the winning square.

### **Convention Committee Appreciation Dinner**

Ann Maki

I ordered from the Rustic Food Truck that was willing to do 35 individual meals of seven menu items. She sent me the menu items and told her how many of each one we wanted to order, I did not hear about any complaints of the food. We bought bottled water and iced it up and had bought 2 types of cookies from Costco so the vendors would have those available. We had bought table cloth from Dollar Tree for the tables in the Conference room. We were not able to attend because of Cal's Emergency Surgery so Annie Minor and Gary Bergman helped set it up and delivered the bought materials to the Convention site.

Thanks go out to them for their help and effort. Annie stated that the room should be bigger so everyone could have a seat around the table. The Food Truck owner said it was very difficult for her to make sure all the meals were hot. She suggested we do a Catering Service next time. Leftover cookies were taken to the Federation meeting on Sunday. Thank you for the opportunity to help with the Federation Convention.

### **Program Book/Ads Final Report**

Ailene Pacheco

I requested 225 copies. She (Susan Elaine Packer) sent us 2 boxes full. Don't know the total number. Many copies had pages upside down. And the print was very faint.

The cost is on the Treasurer's report. (\$281.00) I think she only charged for the paper. I will get estimates from real printers for next year. It will cost more, but the print will be better.

All the ads were from the square dance population: 1 vendor, 2 callers, 1 cuer, 3 associations, 2 caller associations, Round Dance Council, Florida Federation, 6 personal ads, 10 clubs, 3 clubs

had booster ads (the boosters pay for the ad). They used to just put names of boosters, but I encourage the clubs to get names at \$1 each, and I put the club logo with the ad.

The income from ads was \$1,549 And I found an ad that was not paid for. Central Association for \$60.00 Checking with the CFA treasurer. They had medical problems last year and I don't know if I asked them directly. I did talk to the president of CFA several times.

There were 11 ads that we swapped with other conventions. No outside business ads. There is no one in the convention area that I know of to go out and solicit them. The book was 52 pages, and the Dance Schedule was 24 pages, which is inserted inside the Program Book. So, it was pretty thick. If they are separate, the dancers will only take the Dance schedule, and leave the advertising part, which has a lot of information in it.

It was a fun convention. Lots going on. Dancing was great, although I didn't do much. Came down with a cold Saturday. Unfortunately, I do not have any information for next year. That will be a challenge.

Financial information for the 2026 Convention is at the end of the minutes.

**Convention Report 2026** submitted by Carol & Richard Douget.

The 2026 convention will be held on October 15 -16, 2026 at The Sheraton Hotel in St. Louis. The contract has been signed, and the fee is \$7,510.00. The theme is "Survive the Curse at the 71st", the colors are black, white and orange, and the décor theme will be Halloween. Caller Chairs are Rod Barngrover and Jack Lewis, Cuers Chairs are Susan Snider and Sandy Sturgis.

We are seeking volunteers for the following:

After-Party

Camping

Dinner & Show

Publicity

Area Associations Ways & Means

Flooring

Since some traditional fundraising methods are no longer effective, we are asking for suggestions.

There is a benefit dance tonight at Strawberry Square; Early Rounds 7:00 and 7:30 – 9:30. Halloween costumes are optional. Caller is Rod Barngrover; Cuers are Susan Snider and Sandy Sturgis.



**Convention Report 2027** was given by Keith Olds. An email has been sent out to ascertain whether chairmen will keep their roles for 2027. There has been a suggestion that the Convention for 2027 be combined with the pre-convention events in January, 2027 for the National Convention in Florida for 2028. Penny will assist in advertising open chair positions.

Delegates are needed for the National for the USDA meeting. We are permitted 4 votes. We should have 2 alternates. The meeting is Wednesday at 1:00 pm before the National Convention starts.

**Facilities** has no report from Charles Tharp & Dawn DeWitt.

**Florida Hall of Fame** report was given by 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 Florida Square Dance website.

<https://www.dancergram.com/a-FWSHallofFame/index.html>

with a format to follow for the resume.

A nomination can be made at any time. If approved, the award will be given at the next Florida State Convention. The deadline for the current Convention is September 15<sup>th</sup> but may not be awarded at the Convention. The process does not have a rigid timeline. Two awards could be awarded.

**History** report given by Penny Green.

This is about the Hall of Fame which is part of our history. My good friend in Jacksonville, Mary Giera, discovered that some of the names were misspelled! She has a remarkable database of call names, birth dates, obituaries and death dates. I have the new plates and had planned to have the wall updated by this meeting, but I am waiting for my helper from Strawberry Square to get back down here so we can change the plates out.

I have also been assisting Stephen with the *Bow & Swing* ensuring the Past Presidents Lists are current and providing information as needed.

I also work with Cliff on the *DANCERgram* website and the Federation website proofreading and providing content. I recently discovered I have two or three years of back copies of the *Bow & Swing* that we are discussing the best way to upload them onto the Federation site.

The wall at the back of Strawberry Square is for plaques to note the participation in the Showcase of Ideas at the National Convention. The plaques end at 1993. After that there is one plaque with

bars for each year. We have markers through the 70<sup>th</sup> Convention. Penny will look into the ones through the 74<sup>th</sup>.

**USDA** report was given by Carol Poole.

The annual Board of Directors meeting will be held in the Exhibit Hall 2 (the auditorium) at the National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, LA, on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at one o'clock. You should arrive a little early to sign in and pick up Florida's packet. Everyone is invited to attend. I usually remind everyone to bring a sweater; the hall is often very cold. Florida was one of the organizing states and is authorized four voting delegates. We are unable to attend this year. (Yes, these are teardrops on the report.)

**USDA Insurance** report was given by Carol Poole. It is at the end of the minutes.

**ASCAP/BMI/SESAC** had no report to submit by Richard & Carol Douget.

**ARTS** (Alliance of Round, Traditional & Square Dance) report submitted by Ailene Picheco for Jerry Reed.

ARTS has an Educational Grant Program which encourages dance organizations to conduct Educational Seminars. The seminars **MUST** include information about The ARTS. A Grant of up to \$200.00 (or up to 50% of the costs, whichever is less) is available to cover the costs to present a seminar.

To apply for a grant, download and complete the Application on their website, send completed form to:

ARTS Executive Director, Jerry Reed

4461 Stack Blvd, Apt D-231, Melbourne, FL 32901

or

Email - [ExecutiveDirector@arts-dance.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@arts-dance.org)

[https://www.arts-dance.org/ARTS\\_Education\\_Grant.php](https://www.arts-dance.org/ARTS_Education_Grant.php)

NEXT ARTS BOARD MEETING is Sunday, June 29, 2025 at:

Hilton Hotel Shreveport, 104 Market Street, Shreveport, LA 71101

### **All Are Invited**

For more information, please contact:

Jerry Reed, ARTS Executive Director

321.794.9646

[ExecutiveDirector@ARTS-Dance.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@ARTS-Dance.org)

### **Old Business**

Jenny – governing documents

Articles of Incorporation will be updated with our new address for our current registered agent. Teachers will be updated to cuers and dance leaders to include all types of dancing. Dancers in areas that no longer have an association representing them will be included now as provisional members. The number of votes required was changed from a number to a percentage as we do not have near enough people to have the minimum number of people required. It was brought up how the voting takes place. We have colored cards that we use. The roster designates who can vote with a full vote or half a vote (permanent delegates which are former presidents). The seal has been removed from use as we cannot find it. Updates were made to the updates at the bottom changing Constitution to Articles of Incorporation as they are part of that document. These changes will be voted on in November.

**The First Convention handbook** for new dancers is posted online and it will be updated yearly.

**Convention guidelines** will be updated after the committee meeting this afternoon.

Flooring is being stored by Bill Chesnut's step-son and we would like to ascertain how much it would cost to have him help lay down the flooring at the next Convention, as that is his request, and how long-term his storage of the flooring can be.

### **New Business**

National Convention Festival presented by Michele Vieira.

The bid for the 77<sup>th</sup> National in 2028 will be awarded at this year's National Convention after the parade of states. Florida is the only place bidding for the 2028 National Convention. It was decided that flamingo headbands will be worn with a pink top and black bottoms. Everyone please help us celebrate when we win the bid. The potential chairmen for the National in 2028 made outfits for the mascots which are flamingos.

According to the rules of the National Convention a pre-convention is required 15 months before the actual Convention. This falls in the time period when our Florida State Convention is put on. The National would like to combine with Florida's State Convention for their pre-Convention festival. This should save money for the State Convention and draw more dancers to the State Convention. The pre-Convention for 77<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Florida will take place in Daytona Beach at the Hard Rock Hotel from Jan 20-24, 2027. The Host hotel is the Hard Rock.

The State Convention cannot be held at the Hard Rock. The ballrooms are reserved and will be paid for by the National Committee from Wednesday on. The Florida State Convention may hold their trail in dance on Wednesday at the Hard Rock at the National Committee's expense for the hall and the flooring (6,000 sq ft w/ ocean view). The flooring can be used for our Convention at the Ocean Center and will be donated to Florida after the National Convention in 2028. The pre-Convention will be held Saturday at the Hard Rock. There are presentations in the morning and afternoon followed by a big dance on Saturday night. Registration for the pre-Convention is free for those who register for the 77<sup>th</sup> National taking place in Florida in 2028 otherwise it is about \$20.

The National Convention Committee has looked into renting the Ocean Center for us to have the Florida State Convention where we have hosted it before. We hope to have a quote soon. The cost has been, in the past, more than what we are paying now for the Center at Deltona. The Committee is also working out half-price parking charges, which will include in and out privileges. There was discussion about whether we should extend dancing to Saturday during the day.

Out of the three organizations governing square and round dancing in Florida (The Federation, The Callers Association and the Round Dance Council), at least two would need to agree to change our State Convention to Thursday and Friday to change it to be part of the pre-Convention for the National.

#### Announcements

Next meeting will be tomorrow morning, May 4, 2025, here at 9:00 a.m.

Please attend the benefit dance tonight at Strawberry Square. Early Rounds 7:00-7:30 p.m., Squares with Rounds 7:30-9:30 p.m. Caller - Rod Barngrover. Cuers - Susan Snider and Sandy Sturgis.

#### Adjourn

# DRAFT

## Finance Report 5/3/25

### Checking Account

January 1st -March 31st

Beginning Balance	10,624.10
Expense's	120.00
Ending Balance	10,504.10

### Savings Account

January 1st-March 31st

Beginning Balance	12,900.93
interest	.32
Balance	12,901.25

### Insurance

December31,2024

Beginning Balance	2,482.24
total Income	5,203.69
total expense	2,095.30
Ending Balance /April 31,2025	3,108.39
CD Balance	10,115.22 expires August 1, 2025

# DRAFT

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS  
INSURANCE FINANCIAL REPORT

May 3, 2025

Beginning Balance	December 31, 2024	\$2,482.54
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Income

Central	\$ 178.50	
Northeast	\$ 838.95	
Northwest	\$ 583.10	
Southeast	\$ 166.60	
Promenade Squares	\$ 300.00	
Suncoast Squares	\$ 414.00	
Temple Twirlers	\$ 90.00	
 Total Income	 \$ 2,721.15	 \$5,203.69

Expense

USDA Insurance	\$ 2,095.30
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Total Expense	\$ 2,095.30
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Ending Balance	April 30, 2025	\$3,108.39
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As of January 8, 2025	Association/Clubs	Dancers
Central	6	110
Northeast	7	175
Northwest	1 & 3	99
Southeast	1 Assoc	28
West Coast	3	131
Florida Federation		23
69 <sup>th</sup> Florida State Convention		<u>25</u>
 Total Federation, Convention & two Associations & 19 Clubs		 591

Please remind your clubs that new club members must be enrolled in the insurance program and students are no longer insured once they graduate.

Randy & Carol Poole  
Federation Insurance Chairman

*Closing*  
**70th FSDC Income & Expense Report (All Dates) - All Dates**  
 8/4/2023 through 4/30/2025

4/30/2025

Page 1

Category	8/4/2023- 4/30/2025
<b>INCOME</b>	
Benefit Dance	
Admission	2,079.00
Auction	50.00
Half & Half	165.00
Kitty	18.00
TOTAL Benefit Dance	2,312.00
Dinner & Show	6,030.00
Other Inc	40.00
Profit Share	1,955.33
Program Book Ads	1,549.00
Ribbons	12,665.00
Trail End Dance	
Admission	1,139.00
Half & Half	100.00
TOTAL Trail End Dance*	1,239.00
Vendor Fee	70.00
Ways & Means	
Clothing	790.00
Dinner Raffle	132.00
Donation	1,495.27
Half & Half	262.00
Previous Year	48.00
Shoe Cover	680.00
Spent Auction	265.00
VISA Raffle	879.00
TOTAL Ways & Means	4,572.27
FROM Federation	2,500.00
FROM The Center at Deltona	500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>33,432.60</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Auction Items	197.65
Badges	136.50
Button Supplies	75.00
Checks	19.68
Decorations	32.20
Equipment Rental	555.00
Fees & Charges	
Bank Fee	43.00
Square Fee	413.52
TOTAL Fees & Charges	456.52
Hall Of Fame	536.87
Honor Guard	100.00
Insurance	150.00
Dinner & Show	215.65
TOTAL Insurance	365.65
Kick-off	206.49
Licensing	
ASCAP	163.00

DRAFT



Closing

70th FSDC Income & Expense Report (All Dates) - All Dates  
8/4/2023 through 4/30/2025

4/30/2025

Page 2

Category	8/4/2023- 4/30/2025
BMI	195.00
SESAC	442.00
TOTAL Licensing	800.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	36.56
Profit Disbursement	11,701.58
Program Book Printing	281.00
Publicity	0.00
Registration	44.30
Shoe Covers	741.03
VISA Card	350.00
TO Committee Appreciation Dinner	511.58
TO Dinner	2,760.00
TO Federation	6,505.00
TO Flooring	14.99
TO Show	2,500.00
TO The Center at Deltona	4,505.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	33,432.60
OVERALL TOTAL	0.00

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70th FSDC Disbursement Report				
Updated April 30, 2025				
Gross Net Profit				\$11,701.58
20% to 71st FSDC		\$2,340.32	Check #1054	
Remaining Profit				\$9,361.26
Add-ins for Association Shares				
	Hall of Fame	\$536.87		
	Internet	\$0.00		
	Total Add-ins			\$536.87
After Add-in Profit				\$9,898.13
4 Association Shares				\$2,474.53
	Central	\$618.63	Check #1055	
	Northeast	\$618.63	Check #1056	
	Southwest	\$618.63	Check #1057	
	Southeast	\$618.63	Check #1058	
	West Coast Area	\$0.00		
After Association share				\$7,423.60
Deduct Add-ins (HOF/Internet)				\$536.87
3 Sponsor Shares				\$6,886.73
	Florida Federation Share	\$2,295.58	Check #1059	
	Florida Callers Association Share	\$2,295.58	Check #1060	
	Round Dance Council Share	\$2,295.58	Check #1061	
After Sponsors share				\$0.00
Total of Checks Written		\$11,701.58		

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