

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Inc.**

Strawberry Square Dance Center

4401 Promenade Blvd.

Plant City, FL 33563

Minutes for Meeting Sunday, May 4, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Linda Tester called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Jenny Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Annie Minor gave an Invocation and did the roll call.

Everyone was present except Shirley Wright due to illness, Bruce & Coleen Morgan, Erik & Robin Burton, Rick & Kim Doucette, Jeff Taylor, Brian & Barbara McDonald due to illness, Alec & Kay Schmidt, Tim Tharp, Cathy Waltz, Don Wolford, Penny Green, Cal & Ann Maki, Scott & Sany Ebright, Stephen Bigelow due to his recovery, Cliff Reiss, Earle Collins, and Keith Stevens.

**Breakout Meeting Reports**

**Association Presidents & USDA Insurance**

Carol Poole, Chairman and Carol Douget from the Central Association were present. With only one president present there wasn't much to discuss. Later in the afternoon the Insurance checking account was audited by Holly and David Murphy. They did a thorough job and did not find any errors.

**Finance Committee** did not meet.

**HEPP History, Education, Public Awareness, and Preservation**

Committee members: Ailene, Annie, and Penny

We discussed all the things our clubs have tried in an effort to recruit new dancers: Yard signs, flyers, demos, taught dancing to a 4H group, attempted to get in the schools, and teaching home schoolers. We also discussed clubs and associations coming up with dance shirts to wear to non-dance events. We discuss the same things every year, and yet we are still struggling.

**Convention Considerations & Flooring**

Attendees: Keith Olds, Annie Minor, Charles Tharp, Dawn DeWitt, Ailine Picheco, Susan Snider, Terri Little, Barbara Hoffman, Sheila Reid, Linda Reid, Carol Douget,

Richard Douget, Earle Collins, Carol Collins, Michele Vieira, Leslie Rebik, Bill Rebik, Mark Fetzer, Carol Poole, Jenny Green, Penny Green, and Linda Tester.

Ahead of the 2028 NSDC that is awaiting bid confirmation at 2025 NSDC in Shreveport, the 77th (2028) must have a PRE-CONVENTION event in Daytona Beach, Florida. The timing somewhat coincides with the FSSRDC:

Original schedule for FSSRDC: 1/14-16, 2027, Thursday - Saturday, at the Center at Deltona (CAD).

Proposal: Shift FSSRDC to coincide with the NSDC Pre-Convention event in Daytona Beach, FL which occurs on Saturday, 1/23/27 at the Hard Rock Hotel. It is a dance on Saturday night with National Callers. This dance is free to those who are registered for the 2028 NSDC.

Proposed Re-schedule for FSSRDC: Wednesday, 1/20/27, Trail End Dance at the Hardrock Hotel, Thursday and Friday, 1/21 and 1/22, State Convention at The Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.

Pros:

- Ocean Center is bigger and the whole venue is available on Thursday and Friday, ALL DAY in contrast to the Great Room at the CAD being unavailable during the day.
- The dancers attending the Pre-Convention dance on Saturday night could potentially extend their stay to include the Florida convention. 77th NSDC staff brings in 60-70 extra people to attend the FSSRDC as personnel are required to be on-site by Tuesday. Michele Vieira has stated that she would require all personnel to register for FSSRDC.
- Daytona Beach, FL is a destination.
- Pre-Convention dance for Waco in March of 2025, hosted 27 squares of dancers.
- NSDC will provide flooring for 7000 additional square feet of flooring compared to CAD.
- The Hard Rock Hotel would provide a meeting room on Sunday, or the Federation might meet at the Homewood Suites if that is the hotel of choice
- Visitor Bureau gives a rebate when blocks of rooms are reserved.
- The 77th has given the Florida Federation until the end of the year to make a decision.

Cons:

- FSSRDC might lose registrations due to the state convention occurring on Thursday and Friday, with the Trail End dance on Wednesday.

- Holding the convention in Deltona at the CAD would not be a desirable solution, as the Great Room would not be available for use during the daytime hours.
- There would be no dancing during the day on Saturday unless it was contracted with the Ocean Center at additional expense.
- Could result in FSSRDC profits being diminished due to lower attendance.
- At this time, the 77th NSDC does not know prices for the Ocean Center, or contracted hotel rates.
- If we did not agree to combine efforts with the FSSRDC the week ahead of the 77<sup>th</sup> Pre-Convention, it is feared by the committee that losses would be increased.
- Regarding our relationship with the CAD: we are penciled in for 2027, and we need to find out if we give up 2027, would we lose 2028 and later years?
- Michele was unable to flesh out a lot of details since the 77th NSDC is not able to legally sign contracts until after June 30, 2025.
- We do not have information regarding the Ocean Center charges, which does not allow us to calculate a break-even point. Room rates in Daytona Beach, FL are not available at this point in time.
- Back of the envelope calculations show a much narrower profit margin.
- The Ocean Center is more expensive than the CAD. Of the 22 people in the room, 1 member abstained, and 3 were not eligible to vote. Out of 18 voting members, 15 voted in favor to recommend to the Florida Federation and the Callers Association and Round Dance Council that we pursue the venture of combining the 72nd Florida Convention with the 77th NSDC.

#### Flooring Disposition:

- Approximately 200 sheets of Masonite were taken by Bill Chesnut's stepson to his flooring warehouse in Ocala. He and his crew picked up the flooring and took it to Ocala.
- We do not know at this time if this is a forever home.
- He (we don't know his name), has indicated that he will install it with assistance from volunteers that we provide. It is not known if or how much he will charge for this effort.
- If...it is \$1000.00 it may be worth it.
- We do not know the current condition of the flooring.

- Options were discussed regarding purchasing an enclosed trailer in which the flooring can be stored and transported to and from the dance venue. It was highlighted that additional fees with a trailer include the cost, licensing, insurance and maintenance.
- Storing the full trailer would also incur fees.
- To prepare for damaged sheets upon installation, it was suggested that 10% be ordered in advance so that we have the material on hand if needed.
- It was emphasized that dancers want to dance and is disrespectful to be distracting them by removing the flooring during dancing.
- It was suggested that since we have to be out of the building, the dancing be relocated to the Great Room for the last hour so that the flooring can be removed without disturbing dancers.
- Linda Tester is going to need to follow up with Bill Chesnut's stepson to answer questions about services he is willing to provide and get a quote.
- No alternate plan was considered at this time.

This committee does not have enough information to make a recommendation to the board for consideration at this time. At such time when Linda Tester reports back on her conversation with the flooring guy, the committee could make a more informed recommendation.

**DRAFT**

We are still looking for a permanent solution to the flooring. It was suggested that we rent a trailer each year for transportation. A storage space for it is better. It was recommended that we reach out to the square dance community to see what offers there are for help with storage and transportation for the flooring. It was suggested to publish a request in publications such as the website, Bow & Swing, Keepin' Posted, Panhandle Press, Grapevine, DANCERgram, and the email tree. We have had an offer for help from a dancer. We do not know the particulars.

More discussion on **Pre-Convention** reported by Dawn DeWitt.

It was proposed to ask the National preconvention to change their big dance from Saturday night to Wednesday night. Michele Viera stated that too many people will be coming from all over the United States to shift the schedule. If Florida has their State Convention at Deltona, the committee would move the Saturday night dance to Deltona. Another option would be to do our Convention on the same days we have now and add Sunday instead of Saturday when the preconvention presentations will be made. A recommendation needs to be made to the Callers Association and the Round Dance Council. Dawn made a motion to form this committee and Terri Little seconded it. All were in favor; nobody was opposed. Linda will reach out to the Callers Association and the Round Dance Council to form a

committee to review options to combine the State Convention with the National Pre-Convention. A Decision needs to be made by the end of the year.

## **CONVENTION PROCEDURES**

Committee members: Terri, Ailene, Carol Poole, Susan, Jenny, Michele, and Penny

There wasn't enough time for this topic to be discussed. I will continue working with the committee we established a couple of years ago.

**National Convention Showcase of Ideas** committee reported by Jeny Green.

As this is the last year for the state participation in The Showcase of Ideas there will not be a new tri-fold board. They will just put out take way items of coins and oranges, registration flyers, Florida maps and the Barbies in their Florida square dance outfits.

Jenny Green made a motion to disband this committee as it will not be needed again. It was seconded by?. All were in favor; none opposed.

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 2, 2025, at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church for the Northeast's Fall Festival in Jacksonville

Adjourned at 10:15 am.

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