

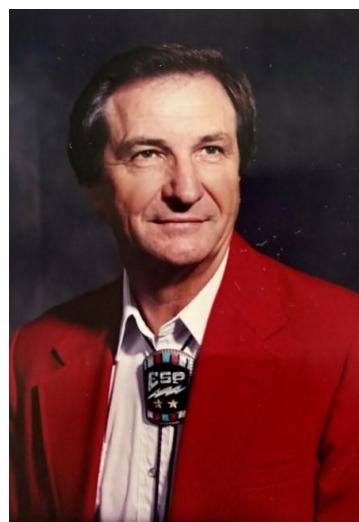
PANHANDLE PRESS



**Volume 50, Number 2
April, May and June
2025**

NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

**In Loving Memory
of Elmer Sheffield, Jr.**



November 19, 1938 to February 18, 2025

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May 26, 2025

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to you all and hope you have a great Spring.

We had a record snowfall in January, so does any weather surprise you in Northwest Florida? It is trying to warm up so get your beach towels and swimsuits ready.

Northwest meeting for officers and delegates is Saturday, **April 5, 2025 at 12:05 pm to 12:40 pm**. Please send your club delegate or President if possible and we will make it short. Sandwiches provided.

Don't forget the Northwest Roundup in October. We do not have the ribbons yet but you can still pay for them. Tony Oxendine is our caller and he is well known. Sandy Sturgis is the Cuer.



The Florida Federation website is now at www.dancergram.com/aa-floridasquaredance.com/index.html.

Send flyers to Florida Federation website publication to Cliff Reiss at dgramwebmaster@yahoo.com



Get ready for the Blue and White Ball April 5, 2025

At Grand Square Hall, Panama City, FL.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION CLUBS

AGAPE SQUARES Mondays 6:00-7:00 Class. 7:00-8:30 pm Club (SSD, M, P)

Caller: Varies

Cross Point Church Fellowship Hall, 214 Partin Dr. Niceville, FL.

CONTACT: Andrew Sejan (843) 902-5715

EMERALD WAVES SQUARES Tuesdays 6:30-9:00 Mainstream Class.

Caller: Nick Hartley

Ragon Hall, 26 Stratford Rd., Pensacola, FL.

CONTACT: Tim Tharp (703) 585-7177

CAPITAL TWIRLERS Mondays 7-9 pm (MS, P, A)

Caller: George Lavender

Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 N. Monroe, Tallahassee, FL.

CONTACT: Gary Yancy (850) 524-0510

SEASIDE SQUARES Friday 7:30-9:30 pm (MS, P)

Caller: Varies

Ragon Hall, 2600 Stratford Rd., Pensacola, FL.

CONTACT: Linda Steadman (850) 293-7720

SWINGING SQUARES Friday 6:15-7 pm Class. 7-8:30 pm Club (MS, P)

Caller: Miriam Merriwether

Grand Square Hall, 1105 Bob Little Rd, Panama City, FL.

CONTACT: Jon & Kathy Kern (850) 896-5798

Website: www.grandsquarehallpanamacity.com

Facebook: @SwingingSquaresGrandSquareHallPanamaCity

T-N-T ROUNDS Sundays 3-5 pm

Cuer: Terri Wilaby

T-N-T Hall, 6419 Dallas Ave., Pensacola, FL.

CONTACT: Terri and Tim Wilaby (850) 712-5230

terriwilaby@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5, 2025, Blue and White Ball 53rd Anniversary 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Grand Square Hall in Panama City, FL. with Darryl McMillan caller and Sandy Sturgis Cuer.

April 26, 2025, Shake Rattle & Roll Port City Squares Anniversary Dance, 2-4 pm in Mobile, AL.

June 25-28, 2025, 74th National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, LA.

July 26, 2025, Beach Blast Jamboree at Ragon Hall, 1 pm-4:30 pm

July 31-August 2, 2025, Tennessee 50th Square Dance Convention in Gatlinburg, TN.

August 23, 2025, Seaside Squares 62nd Anniversary dance at Ragon Hall at 11:00-4:00 pm

October 24-25, 2025, NWFSRDA Roundup at Grand Square Hall, Panama City, FL. Caller Tony Oxendine and Cuer Sandy Sturgis

October 31, 2025 Seaside Squares Spook Tacular dance at Ragon Hall 7:30-9:30 pm

November 21, 2025, Seaside Squares Before Gathering for Thanksgiving at Ragon Hall 7:30-9:30 pm

December 31, 2025 Seaside Squares New Years dance at Ragon Hall 1:00-4:00 pm

January 16-17, 2026, 71st FL. State Square and Round Dance convention.



“Truth will ultimately prevail where pains is [sic] taken to bring it to light.”

George Washington

**Northwest Florida Square & Round Dance Association
(NWFSRDA) 2025 1st Quarter Meeting, January 12, 2:00 PM Central
Via Zoom Meeting**

Executive Committee Attendees: Brian and Barbara McDonald; Tim Tharp; Alec Schmidt; Laura Davis.

Club Delegate(s): Andrew Sejan, Agape Squares

Visitors: none attending

Call to Order, Welcome, Invocation & Pledge

Roll Call: Quorum present. Quorum consists of 25% of Board of Delegates (Board of Delegates: Delegates from member area associations, member clubs, delegates-at-large, and the Executive Committee). Currently 14 / 25% = 4.

Minutes: October 24, 2024, minutes approved with minor edit.

Note: New club joining NWF soon – Emerald Waves Squares, per Tim Tharp.

Financial Reports: See 2024 4th Quarter Financial Report. Starting Checking Balance is \$6,942.98; Ending balance is \$7,534.31; savings are \$4,818.82. CD is \$4,412.61; account total is \$16,765.74. Note: expenses included 2024 Roundup. We still have some clubs outstanding for insurance renewal for 2025, Barbara will follow up. The Annual tax report for Florida has been done; still waiting on the portal to open for N990, the deadline is in May. We are still waiting for legislation/outcome of the Beneficial Ownership Report (Corporation Transparency), this may or may not impact NWF.

Roundup 2025: Flyers are done, ribbons to come. Tim is working on lodging arrangements, getting options; possible room blocks with discounted room rates. He is also checking on extra lounge space at one of the hotels for gathering space for attendees. Making plans for a silent auction or possible bake sale or Combination. Tim needs a volunteer for the Silent Auction.

Committee 2025 Roundup is October 24-25, 2025, to be held in Panama City.

Panhandle Press: Printer has been repaired and is working. Panhandle Press has gone to Federation and to website, along with Sweetheart Dance flyer.

Bylaws: no updates.

Florida Federation: Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention is January 17-18, 2025, in Deltona, FL. Trail-in Dance on Thursday night and meeting on Friday morning. Note: we have renewed our membership with the Federation.



Old Business: N/A

New Business:

NWF Sweetheart Dance: flyer has gone out. Terri and Tim Wilaby will cue, and Ted Kennedy is the caller. Arrangement will be made to handle food, there will be snacks and drinks only.

Note: Blast class was recently held, fun, but attendance was low. How do we get folks to attend?

Next NWF meeting may be at the April Panama City dance, if held. If not, we will hold a Zoom meeting.

Announcements:

January 16-18, 2025, FL. State Convention, Deltona, FL

January 25, 2025, January Shine, Ragon Hall 1 PM-5 PM 2600 Stratford Rd., Pensacola, FL

January 31, Friday Night special, Ragon Hall, Pensacola, FL. 7-9:30 PM

February 15, 2025, Northwest Sweetheart dance Panama City, FL 1-4 PM

February 28, 2025, Mardi Gras Dance, Ragon Hall, Pensacola, FL. 7-9:30 PM

March 14, 2025, Shamrock Shimmer, Ragon Hall, Pensacola, FL. 7-9:30 PM

March 22 and 29, 2025, A-1 Blast Class for Plus Dancers, Ragon Hall, Pensacola, FL. 10 AM-4 PM, caller Nick Hartley

June 25-28, 2025, 74th NSDC, Shreveport, LA.

Meeting adjourned 2:42 PM Central.

AGAPE

Hello from Agape Squares,

We are continuing to teach our new dancers Mainstream. It looks like we will have 5-6 graduates soon. We have lost students along the way and it makes us scratch our heads and ask what we can do differently. If you have learned anything in your experiences with teaching new students, please share. I know it is a universal problem with square dance classes. I see that Caller Lab is currently looking at the list of calls and working on a proposal for the number of calls to teach in a class. I won't spend any more time with that discussion, but certainly we want to share with each other what has been successful.

We continue to dance every Monday evening with class 6-7 pm and Mainstream/Plus 7-8:30 pm at Crosspoint Fellowship Hall. Our Valentine Dance was also a donation dance, so thank you for attending and being generous. We were able to donate proceeds to Crosspoint and are very grateful that they allow us to meet and use the Fellowship Hall on Monday evenings. We are looking forward to a little traveling this summer to some special dances. Nationals are in Shreveport, LA this year, June 25-28, 2025. If you need registration paperwork, it is available on our flyer table.

Tennessee State Convention is in Gatlinburg, TN July 31-August 2, 2025

Kay Schmidt



CAPITAL TWIRLERS

The Capital Twirlers have been on an emotional roller coaster already this quarter. We started the year (January 13) with a well-attended Open House to generate interest in our 2025 beginners' class. We were excited by the large turnout for the open house, and then disappointed by the low turnout for the first class two weeks later. However, the class has continued to grow in the following weeks, and we have been encouraged by that.



Unfortunately, the excitement over the class was followed by the sad news that our dear long-time caller, Elmer Sheffield, had passed away on February 18. We were so glad that his good friends and fellow callers, Darryl Lipscomb and Gary Shoemake, came for another visit with Elmer and were able to get Elmer to our Christmas dance on December 2. It was a great night of dancing and left us with a good memory of Elmer calling one last time.

A lot has been written about Elmer since his passing. His illustrious career, accomplishments, and accolades are posted on several square dance websites. We won't repeat them here, but we will call attention to a very nice video that Ted Kennedy put together: <https://tinyurl.com/msd2jcyb>. Although he was well-known in square dance circles all over the nation, and even around the world, Elmer ("Junior" as the older club members knew him) was the Capital Twirlers weekly caller for over 50 years. One of our club members opined after his passing that "I feel very lucky, that by pure chance, we joined the class and the club under Elmer. What a great experience, being taught by Elmer and getting to dance to him every week. Lucky, lucky, lucky. We knew nothing about him and had no idea how good he was... How fortunate we were." This sentiment is shared by many of us.



When Elmer was no longer physically able to call for us, he suggested that we contact George Lavender to fill-in in the interim until Elmer could return. George graciously accepted even though he has to drive from Valdosta each week. Although Elmer only returned a few times during the last two years, we continued to recognize him as our "official caller", and identified George as our "interim caller". We are proud to announce that George has agreed to continue and we now identify him as the Capital Twirlers "official caller". Thank you, George!

EMERALD WAVES SQUARES

Dance Schedule: Every Tuesday night at Ragon Hall; 2600 Stratford Rd Pensacola, FL. Doors open at 6pm for those wanting extra time for practice. Basic and Mainstream lessons from 6:30 to 9pm. Nick Hartley is our caller.

So much has happened since our last newsletter. We've had the worst snowstorm in Florida's history, several major wind and rainstorm events and so much more. We've all weathered the storm as the saying goes and we're so fortunate that everyone is healthy and actively participating in our weekly lessons and dancing. We very much missed Nick and Lynette for the month of February as they were traveling. We were very fortunate to have Alec Schmidt and Miriam Merriweather holding down the fort while they were gone. All the dancers gave great reviews of how Alec is progressing with his instruction and calling and skills. They equally enjoyed having Miriam and David there and were so appreciative of them making themselves available to keep us up to speed on our lessons. All the dancers are progressing through the calls so quickly. Seaside Squares are always there giving us their full support and acting as our Angels. We're so thankful for all their kindness and friendship. We also love the opportunity to go dance with them on the Friday nights when Nick is calling.

The other big news is that we're now Emerald Waves Squares, Inc . Our articles of incorporation are now on file with the state of Florida and our documents are being processed through the United Square Dancers of America (USDA.org) for our 501(c)(3) Non Profit Group Exemption.

As of April, we should have all our dancers that started in the October class through the Basic call list and we'll no longer split the Tuesday night lessons into two groups. We'll be combining the groups and everyone will be dancing together from 6:30 to 9pm.

We hope, and encourage, all active dancers in the community and surrounding communities will come visit our club and support the continued growth of the square dance culture.

NOW LET'S GO DANCING

SEASIDE SQUARES



We closed out 2024 with a bang. On December 31st we held an afternoon New Year's Dance so everyone could get home early. We joined Emerald Waves Squares to welcome in the new year at 3 pm since it was midnight somewhere. We had six squares of dancers from Niceville to Mobile enjoy dancing to Nick Hartley and Alec Schmidt (our newest caller). There was plenty of good food, fun and dancing to go around.



On January 3rd, Ted Kennedy brought caller Curt Braffet to call with him. Our small group enjoyed dancing to both of them for a great evening.

Our annual January Shine was held on January 25th. After the Great Florida Snow & everyone having been snowed in for a few days, we were all anxious to dance. Ted Kennedy kept us moving with some lively squares. Jack Pointer led us in the rounds. Enjoyable afternoon was had by all who attended.

On January 31st, we had a special treat of being able to dance to Bubba Mingus. Once again our little group danced the night away with Bubba calling.

For the month of February, we enjoyed rounds with cuer, Linda Brown from Indiana. Linda comes down to dance with us every winter and graciously cues for us while she is here. Of course, we also had squares each week to a variety of callers including Larry Belcher.

We celebrated Mardi Gras on February 28th. Caller, Nick Hartley, was back from his extended vacation. We had a fun group of dancers wearing their Mardi Gras colors and beads. Linda Brown cued for us on her last night here.



We had plenty of king cake. It was a great evening of dancing with dancers from Mobile, Niceville and Panama City. We really enjoyed seeing Arlene out on the dance floor! We also enjoyed dancing with some of the new dancers from the new club, Emerald Waves Squares.

Ragon Hall was a sea of **green** on March 14th when we held our 4th annual Shamrock Shimmer. Nick Hartley called an evening of lively dancing for three squares of dancers. It was a donation dance to raise more money for the rest of the air conditioners that we need. We want to thank everyone for being so generous with their donations. It all helps.



We held an Advanced 1 Blast Class on March 22nd. Nick Hartley called this all day class. We were extremely excited to have ten new advanced students. All the students caught on quickly and seemed to enjoy the day. We also had several experienced advanced dancers trying to improve their skills. It was a great day with lots of fun, snacks and dancing.

SWINGING SQUARES

We had 2 Open Houses in January and classes began on the last Friday of that month. We have 20 students and they dance from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. To help them retain what they are learning, Joe Sellars put notebooks together for each student. Joe included diagrams of Mainstream calls, available online resources, square dance etiquette, and other very useful information. Joe also got interest from regular dancers to workshop PLUS calls from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Miriam Merriwether has been most kind to teach PLUS and those attending the workshop are pretty excited about learning! Our club dance is from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm, alternating Mainstream and PLUS.

We are very thankful for so many angels that come early to help and support our students. Our club is so good about bringing snacks and sodas. We are very fortunate. We have great cooks as well!

We are excited about the 53rd anniversary of the Blue and White Ball on April 5th. Darryl McMillan and Sandy Sturgis always make this dance so special. We have many memories of past Blue & White Balls. It is always a joy to get together with our square and round dance friends! Speaking of getting together, if you attended the Northwest Sweetheart Dance with caller Ted Kennedy and cuer, Terri Wilaby, then you know how fun it is to have so many clubs represented. February 15th was a great day and now we have April 5th to look forward to.

We really are glad that Jon Kern and John Luzny are taking care of the building and the grounds. They volunteer so much of their time and we know everyone has busy schedules. We thank them for their dedication.

On Tuesday, March 18th, several students and dancers will be attending the Bay County Commission Meeting as it is time to renew the lease for Grand Square Hall. We are certain that we'll get a very good turnout.

We appreciate Joan Payne providing information on our FB page which is Swinging Squares Grand Square Hall Panama City.

We are thankful that our caller, Miriam, makes the trip from Ft. Walton every week to call for us. She puts lots of miles on her vehicle.

Happy Dancing!



T-N-T ROUNDS

T-N-TRounds has no news this quarter. They are continuing with a class that started in January. Stay tuned for the next class.



In Memory

Elmer Sheffield 2-18-2025 caller

Tom Miller 3-22-2025 caller

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**BJD Because Jesus Died
WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THAT?**

Romans 3:23 shows we are all sinners.

Romans 6:23 shows the cost of sin is death.

Romans 5:8 shows Jesus died for our sins.

Romans 10:9-10 shows that if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth you Will be Saved.

John 3:16 shows God's love for us in that he gave his only son for us through LOVE.

B J D Please get in touch to offer comments and join our mailing list for sales and specials! **B J D**