

DANCERgram

January 2022



... for the latest news in the square and round dance community.

This publication is a sub-set of the *DANCERgram*, which provides Square and Round Dance news for the West Coast of Florida AND is the official Newsletter of the West Coast Square & Round Dancers Association (formerly the *West Coast Dancer*).

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West Coast Association

CLASSIFIEDS

2023 Fall Fun Fest Chairman – Responsibilities: schedule the callers, cuer, and the facility, make arrangements for a special rate at the hotels and campground, order ribbons, make arrangements for fundraisers at the Fest, etc. People can be assigned each of these tasks. Solos, couples, or partners may serve in this position. Position start date: as soon as a chairman is identified.

2022 Fall Fun Fest Secretary – record notes at committee meetings, sell 50/50 tickets at the Fall Fun Fest. Others can help sell tickets.

2022 Fall Fun Fest Registration Chairman – coordinate the selling of the ribbons, receive registrations in the mail, and mail ribbons

2022 West Coast Association Vice President – Responsibilities: make arrangements for the Membership Dances for the year. West Coast Board meetings are now virtual so there is no longer an issue about a long drive to attend the meeting. Position start date: immediately.

WC County Representatives for Lee County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, and Sarasota/Manatee Counties (four [4] positions) – Responsibilities: be the contact person for information about dancing in your area, promote the state and national conventions and the West Coast Association, ensure the clubs in your area are well supplied with flyers, provide a report at the West Coast Association Board Meeting.

Club Representatives – Every club should have a representative to represent them at the West Coast Association Board meetings. Each representative (solo or couple) gets one vote. It is recommended to have a representative other than someone who is already on the Board. For example, if one of your members is already a county rep, you should have someone else serve as your club representative. This gives us more votes when making decisions instead of having only five or six people voting.

Contact Penny Green for questions or if you are willing to volunteer for one of these positions. sgdnfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393

The deadline is fast approaching!

January 15, 2022 – Extra Mile Award

For details on each award, click here <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dancergram.com%2FCurrentPDF%2FDeadlines.pdf&clen=704009&chunk=true>

ARTS (The Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance)

Sent – 12-15-2021

Subject – ARTS Background Article and Dance Fact Sheet and ARTS Trio-Fold

Hi Publication Editors and Managers,

It has been quite some time since we have sent you information. We apologize for the long delay and hope to do better in the future.

We hope you are doing well during these challenging times. We are encouraged by the number of reports we are receiving about clubs & associations getting back to dancing.

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Jerry Reed, and I am the Executive Director for The ARTS.

The ARTS is The Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance. This alliance is a gathering of nine of the major dance organizations involved with square dancing, round dancing, and contra/traditional dancing. The Member organization represents dancers, dance leaders, callers, cuers, and others involved with the activity. More information is available on our website: <http://www.arts-dance.org/>.

The ARTS mission is to generate public awareness and promote growth and acceptance of contemporary Square, Round, and Traditional Folk Dance by encouraging and assisting a coalition of allied dance groups. The ARTS will provide the leadership and resources to create an achievable marketing

program. The ARTS will encourage, promote and support healthy lifestyles through dance programs and events that provide fun and effective exercise for both mind and body, all within a unique system of social interactions. ARTS-Dance is incorporated in North Carolina as an IRS 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt Corporation.

I am writing to send you three documents:

- 1) A news article with some background info about the ARTS and our activities.
- 2) The Dance Fact Sheet and
- 3) The ARTS Tri-Fold brochure.

FYI – The Dance Fact Sheet and the ARTS Tri-fold are posted on the ARTS website: www.arts-dance.org.

Please consider including all of these documents in your publication.

Brief descriptions –

DANCE FACT SHEET –

The Dance Fact Sheet was created to provide clubs, associations, and others with a wealth of information about the various forms of our dance activity. Included is a timeline with significant events from the 1400s-1500s to 2021. This document provides concise information and facts for use in the promotion and recruitment of new dancers.

ARTS TRI-FOLD –

The ARTS Tri-Fold brochure provides information about The ARTS including Member Organizations and some of our accomplishments. Also included is a Membership Application. As with all non-profit organizations, we depend on memberships and donations.

PLEASE REVIEW THESE FILES

https://www.arts-dance.org/ARTS_Dance_Fact_Sheet.php
[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgglefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arts-dance.org%2FARTS_TriFold.pdf&cflen=312535&chunk=true](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgglefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arts-dance.org%2FARTS_TriFold.pdf&cflen=312535&chunk=true)

THESE DOCUMENTS ARE FOR YOUR CLUBS!!

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jerry Reed
ARTS Executive Director

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**THE ALLIANCE OF ROUND, TRADITIONAL, AND SQUARE-DANCE
(ARTS-DANCE)
December 2021)**



The Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance (ARTS-Dance) brings together the major dance organizations in the USA. Our goal is to revitalize our activity and educate the public on the multiple benefits of dancing. Quite simply, we have this wonderful, healthful, and fun activity, but with so much competition with other leisure pursuits, we need to figure out the best way to bring more people into it.

There are currently nine members of the ARTS Board. These organizations include:

- 1) All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd (Gordon Macaw)
- 2) International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs – (IAGSDC) (Gordon Macaw)
- 3) National Square Dance Campers Association - (NSDCA) (Barbara Connelly)
- 4) National Executive Committee of the National Square Dance Convention - (NEC) (Vacant)
- 5) The International Association of Round Dance Teachers – (ROUNDALAB) (Paul Connelly)
- 6) The International Association of Square Dance Callers – (CALLERLAB) (Betsy Gotta)
- 7) The International Organization of Contra Dance Leaders - (CONTRALAB) (Dotty Welch)
- 8) United Square Dancers of America – (USDA) (Ed & Lynda Willis)
- 9) West Square Dance Convention Policy Board – (West) (Jim Maczko)

All Member organizations maintain their independence and concentrate on their individual goals and missions. Each member has an equal voice in the decisions of The ARTS and is encouraged to provide the views and input from their organization. The true beauty of the alliance is its ability to increase cooperation among the Member organizations. The ARTS has been able to bring together the varied dance forms to work toward the common goal of increasing the public's awareness of the activity and increasing the number of dancers.

Since our first organizational meeting in 2002, The ARTS has built a close relationship with all Member Organizations. We have actively supported National Square Dance Conventions (NSDCs) and USAWest Conventions. We have participated in most of the activities offered during these conventions including 1) Trail End Dance 2) Showcase Of Ideas 3) Education Program 4) Round Table Discussion 5) Ads in Daily Program Books

Our participation in the 71 NSDC includes: 1) Trail End Dance (Plus with Rounds) on Wednesday, June 22, 2022) Displays and handouts in the Showcase of Ideas 3) Participation in the Round Table Discussion

Immediately following the 712st NSDC in Evansville, IN we will hold our annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on Sunday, June 26, 2022. All dancers and dance leaders are invited. If you would like to attend, please contact our Executive Director, Jerry Reed at ExecutiveDirector@arts-dance.org.

For more information please check out our website at www.arts-dance.org If you have ideas or comments regarding our activity or for more information please contact our Executive Director at: ExecutiveDirector@arts-dance.org.

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On The Record Squares

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AN ANNIVERSARY OF SORTS

This year makes ten years since the last square dance record was pressed on vinyl. The vinyl age of square dance records was fifty-one years of 45-rpm discs and 33 1/3 rpm long-plays albums. This doesn't count the twelve years before that when records were made on 78-rpm shellac.

What makes this anniversary even more remarkable is when you consider that in 2003 vinyl records represented 95% of all new square and round dance music sales and in less than ten years vinyl was zero percent sales. In fact, MP3 sales in 2003 represented 23% of all new square dance music sales and in less than two decades is now 100% of all new square dance music sales. As remarked in previous articles, change will happen whether you embrace it or not.

As a caller who used records for many years, I initially missed the easy method of grabbing a record and throwing it on. There was a rhythm to how we as callers and cuers used our vinyl records at a dance. However, as a person who truly appreciates good audio, I don't miss vinyl records. Something you may not know is square dance record labels had to make low fidelity vinyl records to play on our turntables. The reason is the 89-T needle which was commonly

used by most square dance audio companies. These needles were thick so they could stand up to the abuse of travel and general rough handling. Thick needles needed fat record grooves and high fidelity (bass and treble meant narrowing the grooves, so to make a fat groove, the fidelity went flat. Some of the “old-timers” will remember the brand new record where the needle would skip across it. It was because the fidelity was good causing narrow grooves which could not accept fat needles unless...you put lots of weight on the needle forcing it into the groove. Remember coins on the needle?

Rawhide Music, a label produced by this author, will use the original studio master tape and re-eq or change the fidelity to make it richer sounding. This is something we could never do in the vinyl days. Today, the music goes straight to MP3 files for sale – no vinyl record involved, only square dance music with great bass and treble. For this reason, all of the releases on the Rawhide Music label sound so much better than the original vinyl records. Listen for yourself.

Do all music labels do this when putting their older title on MP3? No, so the buyer should ask and listen carefully to the audio samples put on the website. If you’re not sure, ask your partner, your friend, your spouse, anyone with an ear for music.

If you are still using vinyl records then know that you are using old music. I would encourage you to move into digital music either with a laptop or consider a tablet for ease of use. Square dance music has come so far in the past ten years; don’t cheat yourself or your dancer, buy new music.

Please visit buddyweaver.com for previous articles/reviews. On Facebook through the following pages: Buddy Weaver and @buddyweavermusic.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – December 2021



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

By Ed Foote

"It is never too late to be what you might have been." ... George Eliot, British author

"Surround yourself with people who will lift you higher." ... Oprah Winfrey

"All of us are better when we are loved." ... Alistair MacLeod, author

"The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes." ... Frank Lloyd Wright, architect

"The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." ... Mark Twain

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ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

By Ed Foote

I WON'T DANCE TO THAT CALLER BECAUSE...

We have all heard dancers say: "I won't dance to that caller because; (1) "no one has fun there," or (2) "he always breaks down the floor," or (3) "he is too stressful."

This was brought into focus for me when I was in another part of the U.S. and heard these comments about a very successful caller in that region. I wondered how a caller could be successful if people were making these comments about him. So I decided to look more closely at the comments and who was making them.

It was immediately obvious that those making the comments wanted a very relaxed form of Plus dancing or a relaxed form of Advanced dancing. They felt the caller was not providing that. He would push the floor a little from time to time, using some DBD choreography. Now let's look at each comment.

(1) "No one has any fun." Of course, there is fun, otherwise, dancers would not attend. All dancers want to have fun, and they will go where they get fun. What the person making the comment is really saying is: "It's not my kind of fun." Fine, go where you have fun. But don't say that it's not

fun at that caller's dances, because that caller's popularity proves he is providing fun for many dancers.

(2) “He always breaks the floor down.” Not true. Dancers want to dance, and they will not support a caller who “always breaks the floor down.” What the person making the comment is really saying is: “I can’t handle the material at this caller’s dance.” Fine, go where you can handle the material. But there is no way for a caller to be one of the most popular in a region if he always has the floor broken down.

(3) “He is too stressful.” Dancers do not want the stress and will not support a caller who is stressful. So, if a caller is popular, there must be a large group⁹ of people who do not feel stressed at his dances. What the person making the comment is really saying is: “He is too stressful for me.”

The psychology. It is interesting that you never hear any of the above comments about bad callers – you only hear them about successful callers. Why is this? Because people do not want to admit they cannot handle the level of someone that many people like, so they make up what they believe are socially acceptable reasons for not supporting the caller.

Any dancers deceive themselves into thinking they are good dancers when, in fact, they are not. If they are constantly successful because they only go to easy dances, then when they find difficulty in dancing to another caller they will think: “I’ve always been successful before, but now I am not, so it has to be the caller’s fault.” The fact that everyone else in the hall is sailing right through and is having a good time means nothing – if they can’t handle the level, it’s because the caller is no good.

Summary. A caller cannot be successful and attract people if he/she does not provide fun, constantly breaks the floor down, and cause stress. If a dancer makes these comments about a successful caller, it is usually an indictment of their own dancing ability.

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The DANCERgram magazines presented on this website are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include Planner (weekly), This & That (monthly), Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies (as needed), and Directory (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the Flash. The Editor reserves the right to edit, condense, or rewrite any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine or on this website are not necessarily that of the Editor or the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow. Distribution of the DANCERgram magazines is encouraged via forwarding or hard copies. All of the Magazines, as well as additional content, can be found at www.dancergram.com. If you would like to receive the DANCERgram Magazines via email or you would like to submit information to any of the magazines, please contact the Editor at sqdnfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393.

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DANCERgram Magazines

Planner (weekly)

Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies (as needed)

Directory (as needed) • WC Key Contacts • WC Dances • SCCA • Links

This and That (monthly) • WCA president's message • Federation president's message • Club News • Reprint of articles • New Articles