

# DANCERgram

May 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*).

# Table of Contents

2	West Coast Association
2	WCA President's Message
4	USDA Centennial Award
7	How to be a Good Angel
11	71 <sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention

## West Coast Association

### West Coast Association President's Message



It's May already! I don't know about you but time sure has flown by for me. I have been asked multiple times "if there's no square dancing, why are you so busy?" Well.... I won't go there,

All of our seasonal clubs and dances in the West Coast Association area have closed for the season. They will start re-opening in November. Most of the dances at Strawberry Square are closed and all of the classes are closed. The only dances at Strawberry Square that are open are the Friday afternoon Sunshine Plus dance, and the Friday night A-2 Workshop and Dance. The A-2 Workshop and Dance will continue as long as they have enough dancers. Palace Promenaders are dancing on the first, third, and fifth Fridays of the month. However, everyone has to call Mary and let her know you will be there. If there won't be enough dancers, the dance will be canceled and a message will be sent to everyone.

Congratulations to David Muller for receiving his 50-years of calling pin. He was recognized at the recent CALLERLAB Convention. David was unable to attend the convention, but I know he received it because he's been showing it off! 50 years? You know he was just a baby when he started calling! Dave lives in Lake Wales and calls for Shufflin' Squares and is a guest caller at many of

the area clubs. He was the club caller for Buttons and Bows of Lakeland when it folded. David is currently teaching a caller-led beginners class in Lakeland.

A large number of our West Coast dancers had such a great time at the 2022 State Convention so they are excited that there will be a convention in 2023. Stay tuned for convention details!

Dancers, there are several classes in session now that need angels. You do not have to belong to a club to angel in their classes and you do not have to be a full-time resident of Florida to be an angel. If you want good dancers to come out of these classes and keep our activity going, I suggest you get out to these classes and introduce yourself and help them learn. Don't forget that there is only one teacher in these classes – the CALLER! You need to introduce yourself to these new dancers or they will never join your club, and might not even attend your dances if they have a bad experience when they visit a dance. The ideal situation is to have at least two full squares so the new dancers can move around and not continuously dance with the other new dancers. Always remember – if you keep dancing with the same people, you'll keep making the same mistakes.

Penny Green  
President

## *Are you promoting a new dancer class?*

The West Coast Association has a limited number of FREE yard signs available for that purpose. If you are interested in having some, please contact Penny Green at 863-224-3393 or [sqdnfn@gmail.com](mailto:sqdnfn@gmail.com).



Look what the new dancers at Promenade Squares have learned to do!

In case you don't know, that's Marlene and Scotty Sharrer.

## USDA Centennial Award

Do you know someone that is 100+ years old and still active with your club? They may not be able to dance, but they still attend dances on a regular basis and are involved in the club in some way. This may be sitting at the front table and welcoming dancers as they come in. They must have a minimum of five years of membership in their club.

Do you know that the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) appreciates their many years of supporting the square dance activity and think they should be recognized for it?

The Centennial Award Program was established for that purpose. There are only three qualifications: (1) you have reached the age of 100; (2) you are still active in the square dance community. This does not require that you still dance, but you must still attend dances on a regular basis and be involved in the club in some way. This may be sitting at the front table and welcoming dancers as they come in; and (3) you must have a minimum of five years of membership in your club.

Read the article below about the most recent recipient of the USDA Centennial Award.

### ***PAUL SWENSON-BEAVERTON, OREGON***

Paul is the newest member of our Centennial Club and we are proud to have him join that group. Paul actually turned 100 on September 15, 2021, but we were unable to get together with him to present his award until January of this year. Former USDA Executive Committee Member, Marilyn Schmit was able to present this to Paul on our behalf.

Paul is not one to sit around thinking about how old he is. Age is just a number. Do what you have always done, just plan on it taking a little longer than it once did. If you don't already have a hobby, get one. You might try helping to build a float for the Rose Parade and riding in it. Pictured here are Paul and his daughter Karen. Growing up Paul loved the Rose Parade, but the highlight of the trip was touring the ships in the local shipyard. Paul dreamed of someday being a sailor. And as soon as he graduated from high school, Paul joined the Navy. On October 25 the ship he was on and two others were the first to be hit by kamikazes and by another attack the following day. This one landed about 10 feet from him and should have killed him. They left him for dead, but he survived and gives thanks daily for the gift of life that he was given. Paul Swenson is a true military hero and we could fill the page with his military accomplishments.

Paul returned to his hometown of Portland, OR after the war and did what everyone did during that time period. You got a good job, a good wife, raised a good family, and bought a good house, not necessarily in that order.

Paul and his wife Bonnie loved to square dance and were very active for more than 40 years. They were responsible for establishing the Eager Beaver Club in Beaverton, OR. Should you happen to be in Beaverton on a Monday, stop by and dance a tip or two and share a cup of coffee with them. They dance EVERY Monday from 1-3 pm. You probably would not have any trouble getting them to share a few stories and tall tales about Paul and Bonnie Swenson.

To celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary they took a cruise through the Panama Canal. For their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary they took the same cruise through the Panama Canal, only this time they took their kids. Paul said he wanted them to see something other than Oregon, Washington, and California. At this point, I had to stop and let this one digest in my mind. I never was too much on math and today's new math, well, let's not even go there. But trying to sort this out in my mind I have Paul graduating from high school, going to serve in the Navy, then coming home and marrying Bonnie. I am guessing they are about 21-22 years old at this point. Add fifty years to that and see if you agree that they are about 71 years of age when they take their 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary cruise. Then they celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with another cruise through the canal, but this time they take the "kids" with them. I have said this before, but let me remind you that I find humor in most situations and this is no different. My first thoughts were, OMG! Couldn't they find a sitter for a week? And wanting them to see other places than OR, WA, and CA is a wonderful thought, but they are too old now. You should have taken them on your 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary cruise. While my mind is programmed to find humor, it is also looking at the real issue. Our kids are our kids and will always be our kids regardless of their age. And what a wonderful show of concern to want your kids to explore the world and their surroundings without concern of age. And what a joy it must have been to be able to spend a week on a cruise with your kids. This is the Swenson way!

From the information I have received about Paul Swenson I see a family full of love. Bonnie passed away a few years ago, but when Paul was recently asked what he did now his answer was that with his growing family he did not lack for something to do. Paul loves his family.

Paul enjoys life and whatever he does, he gives his all. For more than 40 years Paul was a mail carrier. He walked his route and actually carried the mail in a bag that hung from his shoulder,

There are a couple of questions that are always asked of someone when they reach Paul's age. One of them is "what did you do to reach this age?" What is your secret to longevity? Paul was quick to answer. "I think all those hugs from the square dancers and carrying the mail and square dancing for 40 years, that was exercise without realizing it, so I think that's why I'm here."



Paul Swenson you are an amazing man and we salute you. Thank you for your military service and your many years of square dancing and promoting our favorite past time.

Reprint from USDA News Volume XXXIV Issue 2 Apr-Jun, 2022



This is the only dancer in Florida to become a member of the Centennial Club.

## How To Be A Good Angel

The monthly magazine American Square Dance carries a regular column called “Callerlab Viewpoints.” In the September 2015, issue (Volume 70, Number 9, September 2015) the author presented excellent advice on how experienced dancers can help newer dancers by being “Good Angels.” The article was included in the fall, 2015, Promenader, but with the summer season of Plus classes getting started, it seems appropriate to present it again.

All experienced dancers should read this article, even if they aren’t specifically angeling a class. Here it is in its entirety (with minor changes to adapt it to our area):

### **Callerlab Viewpoints**, by Mike Seastrom

The following has been edited from “Square Dance Nebraska—Ideas.” A special thanks to Mike Bramlett for sharing some great information on the subject of how to be a good angel.

Is your halo on straight? As many club members as possible must come to the class as “angels.” What are “angels”? They are the wonderful people who volunteer their time to ensure that new dancers have the best possible learning experience.

“Angels” provide new dancers with their first real look at a club. How “angels” behave and treat new dancers, other “angels,” and visitors will affect class members’ decisions regarding whether or not to join your club.

“Angels” are also role models. No matter what the instructor and club try to communicate to the students regarding etiquette, attitudes, or styling, class members inevitably take their cues from what they see “angels” doing. So it is important that “angels” be extra careful to be good role models.

Smile, be enthusiastic, and enjoy the dancing. Be friendly, courteous, and gentle. This is sometimes easier to say than do, especially if it has been a long day. Let’s be honest; some of us have personal agendas, perhaps disagreements with club policies, or less than cordial relationships with specific club members. These issues are out of place at new dancer events and must be put aside.

Although most of us do the right things instinctively, the majority of the time it can’t hurt to reiterate certain points. The following advice for “angels” has been extracted from several sources, including articles in square dance publications and handouts prepared for other clubs.

### **“Angels” Are Not Teachers.**

This is perhaps the most common misconception that can cause problems. The primary teaching function of an “angel” is to teach by example and be in the right place at the right time. One important thing you can do is establish handholds after every move. Not only does this help students maintain their orientation in the square, but it’s also a very good habit for every dancer to develop.

It is always tempting to explain something your square is not getting, and the new dancers will often ask you to do this—but you must resist. It diverts the student’s attention from the teacher and one of the most important things for a new dancer to learn is to listen to the teacher/caller. Sometimes you can clarify a simple point for students between tips; this is fine, but not while the caller is at the microphone.



Another difficult point is just how much help you should give in getting dancers into the right place. Dancers, after all, must learn to do the moves on their own. To gently guide someone through a maneuver, if they have a momentary lapse of memory, might be okay and sometimes one can help by indicating nonverbally where a person should go. Just remember that we accomplish little by pushing or pulling a dancer through an action when he or she doesn't know what was supposed to have been done.

It is better to let a square break down rather than to use force getting people into the right place. A broken down square is an indication to the instructor that dancers are having problems. Be sure the teacher is aware of the problems. Raise your hand if necessary and ask the teacher to explain something if your square is having trouble.

But be careful not to embarrass any dancer by the way you ask for help. It is much better to say that "the square is not getting a certain move" rather than saying "Steve is not getting a certain move."

Encourage students. Let them know that all new dancers make mistakes and that things get better with practice. Also, "angels" make mistakes too. It is good to admit to them cheerfully, as it makes the students less tense about their own mistakes.

### Club Styling

Club styling is always a major source of contention. It is important new dancers learn the calls with standard CALLERLAB styling; that is, without the added flourishes that are done in certain areas. The teacher will introduce these regional differences at appropriate times after the calls are mastered. "Angels" must use only the styling which has been taught to the class.

This is not always easy. How many remember to Swing Your Partner without a Twirl at the end? It is really very important not to introduce more confusion into a new dancer's learning experience. Some students are going to want you to teach them how it's done before they have mastered the call, but you should resist the temptation.

### Some Random Additional Advice

- Square Up With Everyone, not just a few friends. Seek out the new dancer who is having difficulty and ask them to dance with you. Make sure that new dancers are not sitting out because "angels" are dancing.

- End Conversations Promptly when the teacher begins a tip. If you are not dancing, keep your conversations far away from the dance area.
- Cheerfully Lend A Hand if you are asked to help set up or clean up, help with refreshments, or take attendance.
- Watch For security problems, accidents, and dangerous situations like spills or debris on the floor.
- Notify The Instructor if there are problems with the sound.
- Don't Complain about the hall, the floor, the caller, or anyone attending the class.
- Don't Criticize students or other "angels."

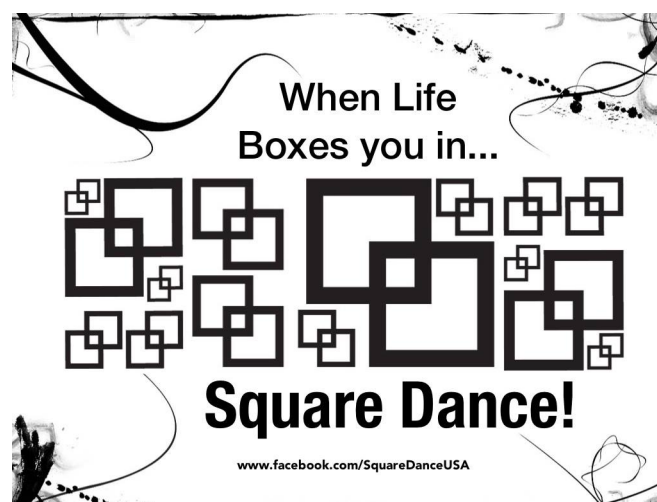
Remember:

- Your name badge.
- You are an example to the new dancers and an ambassador for your club.
- Have fun! "Angels" are a key part of whether a new dancer continues dancing or joins your club.

(For *American Square Dance* subscription information, send an email to: [AmericanSquareDance@gmail.com](mailto:AmericanSquareDance@gmail.com))

Submitted by: Peter Emmel

Reprint from the Fall 2015 issue of the *Promenader* in Rochester, New York



# **71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention®**

## **NEWS**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Make it a full week at 71<sup>st</sup> NSDC**

EVANSVILLE – The 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention® is scheduled for June 22-25, but why not make it a full week and arrive a couple days early? There's plenty to keep you occupied.

The fun begins early Tuesday with a tour of historic Vincennes, Indiana's first state capitol, and a visit to the Red Skelton Museum. Or you could attend the GSI Caller School if you are considering taking that step.

Tuesday night depends on what you would like to do. A Trail End Dance will be from 8 to 10 p.m. in the event plaza's Ballroom A and will feature Tony Oxendine, Jack Pladdys, Jet Roberts, and Ted Lizotte. For contra dancers, there will be a contra energizer dance featuring the Critter du Jour Band with a free-will donation.

Wednesday is similarly busy. The day begins with tours to the Wilstem Wildlife Safari, Marengo Caves, or New Harmony. If you want to stay in Evansville, there will be a demonstration dance from noon to 1 p.m. at the Market on Main, not too far from the Old National Events Plaza.

On Wednesday evening, opening ceremonies begin at 4 p.m. followed by Felix and Fingers dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a show at 7 p.m. Tickets are required and can be purchased at [71nsdc.org](http://71nsdc.org). That's also where you'll find more information about the upcoming convention. Hope to see you there!

### **71st National Square Dance Convention®** **Clothes Packing Considerations**



**"Convention Badges Required for Entrance to all Convention Activities; Dressy Casual Attire Allowed Until 6:00 pm. Proper Dance Attire Required After 6:00 pm for Entrance for all Dancers"**

Appropriate Dance Attire is required which means modest, neat, and clean. No shorts after 6 pm. Slacks and jeans can be worn in the evening.

Gentlemen, please wear long-sleeved shirts to cover sweaty arms.

Many things are changing in our square dance activity and one of those is dance attire. While Square Wear is admired and worn by many attendees, it's not required.

Come Explore Evansville and "DanceIndiana."





After four long years of planning, meeting, arranging, and scheduling our National Square Dance Conventions®, eventually, it will come down to the wire.

You get to the wire and, what do you find? Well, trail through and trail end dances, of course.

Trail Thru dances started years ago by dancers traveling cross country to the National Square Dance Conventions® and are dances along the way or “on the trail.”

Many Dance Councils, Federations, and Clubs enjoy hosting Trail Thru Dances and recognize dancers en route to the National Convention. It might be a Grange Hall in Iowa, a Barn Dance in Minnesota, or a Square or Round Dance Club in Florida. They all have the same invitation and the same warm welcome. The week or days before the 71st National Square Dance Convention® will be full of Trail Thru dances as people make their way to Evansville.

A Trail End, or sometimes a Trail In Dance, is a dance upon arrival to the Convention venue. The National Convention welcomes everyone with yellow rocks and smiles. It is usually a casual dance come as you are evening.

Trail End/In dances are a preview of what great times are waiting for you at the Convention. The highlight of the Trail End/In dance is that many of your favorite National Callers and Cuers are there as you beat your feet to the dance floor.



Trail Thru and Trail In/End dances will be listed on the 71st National Square Dance Convention® website [71nsdc.org](http://71nsdc.org), and in the [National Squares Online](#) and all dancers are invited to join us as we prepare to celebrate in Evansville.







**Convention Committee**

John and Carolyn Cook  
General Chairman

Dave & Patti Woods  
Asst. General Chairman

Cindy Schoen  
Secretary

Ray Owens  
Computer Coordinator

Sharon Roberts  
Legal Advisor

Ernie Stone  
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Art & Wanda Kruse  
Services Chairman

Charlotte Yencer  
Social and Special  
Events Chairman

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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[Paulaegenolf50@att.net](mailto:Paulaegenolf50@att.net)

## Get tickets for Felix and Fingers as registration continues to grow

Just 141 seats are left for the June 22 Felix and Fingers Dueling Piano show at the Bally's Evansville Riverfront Event Center. The audience may suggest the music played. Submit a music request by email at [fmosemiller@gmail.com](mailto:fmosemiller@gmail.com). The cost is \$50 per person for dinner and the show, or \$25 for each. Register at [71nsdc.org](http://71nsdc.org) and get your seats before they are gone!

Registrations keep growing with over 1,400 people, and more are signing up every day. There's still time for you to join us Down By the River and see what all the fuss is about.

As of now, the 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention® is not requiring proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or wearing of masks. The situation is dependent upon the status of Covid in June.

If you want to learn more about the Convention from General Chairman John Cook and Marty Northrup listen to Marty's Podcast at [buzzsprout.com/474541](http://buzzsprout.com/474541) and select "Evansville or Bust." The first six minutes are hard to understand, but Cook fixes his audio equipment and the rest goes smoothly. Information about the convention can also be found on our website [71nsdc.org](http://71nsdc.org).

Check out Trail Thru and Trail End Dances to the 71<sup>st</sup> NSDC at our website [71nsdc.org](http://71nsdc.org) and in the *National Squares Online* which lists Trail Thru dance flyers for free.



JOIN US DOWN BY THE RIVER



71ST NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

## ***Tuesday Night Trails End Dance***

*Tony Oxendine*



*Jet Roberts*



*Jack Paddy*



*Ted Libotta*



**June 21, 2022**  
**8-10pm**

**Old National Events Plaza - Ballroom A**  
**714 Locust Street • Evansville, IN 47708**

**\$10.00 per person**

## ***INTRODUCING SUPERTRAD***

Sam Bartlett, Eric Schedler, and Brian Lindsay are a tour de force of traditional dance music and among the Midwest's finest and most versatile trios. Though they are steeped in the subtle intricacies of the old Celtic and New England tune traditions, they play with emotion, verve, and persistence that is timeless.

Bartlett grew up in the community dance world of rural Vermont and was an early member of Wild Asparagus and the Clayfoot Strutters, two bands that reshaped the sound of contra dance music in their day. He has played contra and square dances for the past 40 years. As an Oberlin Conservatory harpsichordist, Schedler has parlayed his classical music discipline into a dazzling, virtuosic accordion style. Lindsay grew up with a fiddle under his chin and learned to play tunes and dance when most of us were learning to walk. Studying with Brian Conway, one of the greatest living traditional Irish fiddlers, Lindsay became the Mid-Atlantic Irish Fiddle Champion at age 17. Supertrad has left thousands of dancers happy and tired across the United States, from Seattle to Boston. You're going to love them!



**They Will be playing Contra Hall – Live Music  
Friday, June 24, 2022, and Saturday, June 25, 2022, from 7-10 PM  
Saturday afternoon from 1-3 PM  
DoubleTree by Marriott, Ballroom C**



**Book your Tours**  
**Any tour with less than 30 people will be canceled on May 17<sup>th</sup>**



<https://www.visitevansville.com/about-evansville>

**Visit Evansville Indiana**  
**The River Rats Mascots' Evansville Reference Website**

**Learn more about Evansville:**

Things to do  
Where to Eat and Drink  
Where to Stay  
Neighborhoods  
Events







## 71<sup>st</sup> NSDC Contra Dancing



Come experience Contra dancing – it is done to 16 beats of music, is easy to learn, and uses many square dance moves. If you square dance – you can contra dance. In the Contra Hall, we will offer many levels of Contra Dancing, Introduction to Contra Thursday and Friday mornings and Friday afternoon, Easy Contra, Intermediate Contra, and Advanced Contra. Contra dancing lends itself to different styles: Traditional Contra, Traditional Squares, English Country, and Triplets. Does this sound intriguing? Join us in the Contra Hall, located in the Doubletree, Ballroom C, from 10 AM – 10 PM Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. As an added treat, we will be offering live music all three evenings – *Critter du Jour* on Thursday and *Supertrad* on both Friday and Saturday evenings; with a bonus *Supertrad* will be playing Saturday afternoon from 1-3 PM. Live music is an awesome experience. This is an excellent opportunity to try Contra Dancing.



## **Meet Critter du Jour**

Critter du Jour has been making music for contra dances for over 30 years. The band has a fine collection of tunes that have been honed by their years of experience as musicians and dancers. They have played dances big and small all around the Midwest, weaving tunes together in the tradition of our favorite New England Contra Dance Bands. Current members include Amber Challifour (Accordion), Fred Haver (Piano), Mark Wiedenmayer (Bass), and Tom Yeiser (Violin). They all live in central Indiana-Amber and Mark (Bloomington), Tom (Spencer), and Fred (Indianapolis).



**They will be playing Live Music for The Energizer Dance  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 7 pm - 10 pm  
Old National Events Plaza Ballroom D**

**And**

**Thursday, June 23, 2022, 7 pm-10 pm  
DoubleTree by Marriott Contra Hall, Ballroom C**





We're  
**BACK!**

2022 in charming Evansville, Indiana

# Caller School

At The **71st Nationals**

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S  
**FREE!**

**FREE** for registered guests of the National Convention

Sponsored by GSI and the 71st NSDC



GRAND SQUARE  
INTERNATIONAL INC.

JOIN US DOWN BY THE RIVER

71<sup>st</sup> NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION<sup>®</sup>  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA  
June 22-25, 2022

**Caller**  
EDUCATION PROGRAM<sup>™</sup>

**Sunday, June 19th, Noon — Wednesday, June 22nd, Noon**

**Email: [Tony@TonyOxendine.com](mailto:Tony@TonyOxendine.com) to REGISTER. Do it now!**



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](http://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](mailto:sqdnfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.

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Editor: Penny T. Green      Webmaster: Cliff Reiss

#### **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