

DANCERgram

December 2022



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

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West Coast Association

West Coast Association President's Message



December 4, 2022 is a very important date for the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association. This is not only the date of our next Membership Dance, but is also when we will have an Association meeting to decide the future of our Association.

No one wants to be an officer in the Association, so there is nothing else we can do but fold the Association. If you want a say in this decision, please be at the meeting to give your input. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting but only the Board members can vote.

I have been president of this Association three times over the years and this term I've been president for two years. I've represented the West Coast on the Federation Board and on State Convention committees numerous times. My health prevents me from continuing in all these roles.

Jenny Green is the vice president and she moved to Longwood (north of Orlando) two or three years ago. Longwood isn't part of the West Coast Association; it's part of the Central Association, She has joined Central and now represents them on the Federation Board.

This has been a hard decision for me to make. For the past 35-40 years, square and round dancing has been my whole social life. I haven't been able to dance for the past three years due to my physical limitations.

I hope square dancing will make a comeback, and I regret I won't be a part of it.

The Florida Square and Rounds Dance Convention is about two months away. Have you registered for the convention and made your hotel reservations? You can register at the convention, but I would rather do it now so I don't have to stand in that long line at the ticket counter. Ribbons are \$50 per person for the whole weekend, \$35 for the weekender¹ ribbon, and \$25 for the single day ribbon. Registrations received after January 1, 2023 and Single Day ribbons can only be picked up at the registration counter. Cancellations will be cheerfully refunded up until the first day of the Convention. Spectators must pick up a free Visitor ribbon.

Thursday night is the Trails End Dance. Rod Barngrover and Jack Lewis will be calling and Earle Collins will be cueing. Entrance fee to this dance is by donation to support the 68th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention. Early Rounds are from 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and alternating Mainstream, Plus, and Rounds from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

On Friday night, we have something new! A dinner dance will be held at 4:00 p.m. featuring the outstanding band "Cherry Down" Performing LIVE! Disco music from the 70s & 80s including songs from Dance Fever, Grease, Saturday Night Fever-----they are sure to bring back memories! You don't want to miss this fun evening---it's sure to be the highlight of this convention.

Campers, there is RV camping at the Fairgrounds and there are 90 spots available. For reservations phone: 386-734-9514 (Leave a message if no one answers the phone. It's a small office with only two people.) The rates: \$40 per day with full hookups (electric, water & sewer \$20 per day dry camping (when available in a select area of fairgrounds).

The host hotel is the Marriott's Courtyard DeLand Historic District at 308 N. Woodland Boulevard, DeLand, Florida 32720. Please call Christine direct at 386-507-2930. As of a few days ago, there are 14 rooms available at the special square dance rate. If you can't get a reservation at the Courtyard, go to <http://floridasquaredance.com/convention/68/hotel.html> for a list of other hotels in DeLand.

¹ Friday evening and all day Saturday

Everything related to the convention will be held in the same place at the Fairgrounds and the host hotel is just minutes away! You won't want to miss this one!

Penny Green
President

Florida Callers Association Announces New Officers

The Florida Callers Association (FCA) held their annual meeting during their annual clinic in October. As part of the meeting, they held their annual elections with the following results:

President: Mark Fetzer (Jacksonville)
Vice President: Rod Barngrover (Pierson)
Secretary: Keith Stevens (Lake Wales)
Treasurer: Mike Gormley (Sebring)
Parliamentarian: Bill Chesnut (Melrose)

Update on Jack Lewis' Cruise

We have great news about our December, 2023 cruise on the Celebrity Equinox. Seth has been hard at work (as he always is) trying to find special perks to improve our already great deal on the cruise. Celebrity is now offering "Black Friday" deals and Seth is getting everyone in our group a \$400 per cabin onboard credit, rather than \$150 per cabin. He has been busy all day today and yesterday making the changes to your booking.

If any of you have not yet booked the cruise and are thinking about it, now is the time. If you book now, you can still take advantage of the Black Friday deal and get this credit.

You can reach Seth at 786-200-4912.

Jack & Ilene Lewis

New President of American Callers Association Announced

It was just discovered that our own Bill Chesnut (Florida) is the president of the American Callers Association. ACA is another caller's organization that wants to bring the fun back to square dancing.

Congratulations, Bill!

Florida Federation Installs New Officers

The Florida Federation held their Fall meeting in Bartow the same weekend of the Fall Fun Fest. Since the West Coast Association was unable to put someone on the Board, the Central Association was next in line to nominate someone from their association.

The new officers are:

President: Terri Little (Central)

Vice-President/Parliamentarian: Cal and Ann Maki (Southeast)

Secretary: Linda Tester

Treasurer: Jenny Green (Central)

Another Club Bites the Dust!

After 36 years as a club, Crystal Lake Squares' membership has dropped over three couples, in spite of offering new beginner classes each year.

We have decided to close the doors effective immediately.

The remaining part of our treasury will be donated to Crystal Lake Village's recreation committee.

Thanks to all the dancers who have attended our dances in the past.

Signed:

Crystal Lake Squares Board
Wauchula, Florida

FINAL



WEST COAST ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

CALLER:
ROBERT
ARIAS

ADMISSION:
FREE FOR EVERYONE

PALACE PROMENADERS
3263 US HWY 17
ARCADIA, FL 34266

CUER:
SUSAN
WOLFORD

EARLY ROUNDS (PHASES 2 – 4) 1:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
ALTERNATING MAINSTREAM & PLUS WITH ROUNDS 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS APPRECIATED

QUESTIONS? PENNY GREEN – 863-224-3393 – SQDNCFAN@GMAIL.COM
SPONSORED BY THE WEST COAST SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS' ASSOCIATION



IAGSDC Memorial Panels Pay Tribute to Dancers Lost

There is a unique aspect to the IAGSDC's – International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs – Annual Convention ... a special room set aside to display the Memorial Banners which hold the badges of members of the organization who have passed away. The banners were the brainchild of Freeman Stamper, an early pioneer of the Gay Square Dancers' organization.

Freeman, who danced with Western Star Dancers of San Francisco beginning in 1983 and attended his 30th IAGSDC Convention in Minneapolis, came up with the idea for the panel a week before the 1994 IAGSDC Convention in Washington, D.C. He answered the growing dilemma of what to do with the badges of our deceased dancers with his keen logic: "Why don't we collect them all? We'll create a little square dance Heaven here on Earth."

Modeled in part after the NAMES Memorial Quilt panels, the IAGSDC banners measure 6' x 3' and began with one canvas panel designed from Freeman's vision and brought to reality by Gene Boemer, an artist living in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, at that time. The focus of the panel is not on the basic supplies used in its creation or the sophisticated symbolism, but the badges it was designed to carry — the badges of square dancers, callers and cuers who have passed away due to AIDS or other illnesses.

Badges are simply pinned to the panel in a random location. There is no geographic or club structure designated, merely wherever they want to pin the badge. As of the 39th IAGSDC Convention held in Minneapolis, MN, over the Memorial weekend, the number of panels has grown to include a new blank banner unveiled at the convention. By the end of the convention there were several new additions.



The original panel created by Freeman Stamper and Gene Boemer, filled with many badges.

During each Convention, a special room is dedicated to display the banners and hold pinning ceremonies. Badges can be pinned by individuals, family members or during a group gathering in the room where club members and friends share memories of the deceased. A database is kept to identify every badge pinned, including the full name, club(s) and date of death, as well as the location of their badge on it's designated panel. A preference is to place the deceased's actual badge, but if that is not available the club often purchases a replica badge to be pinned.



The newest panel unveiled in Minneapolis. After a 3-year hiatus of In-person dancing, there were a lot of new badges pinned during the 2022 Convention. This is the fifth panel created for this purpose.

Information for this article was gathered from the IAGSDC History Project. For more information visit the IAGSDC website at www.IAGSDC.org.

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 sqdnfcfan@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