

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS  
Lakeland Convention Center, Lakeland, Florida  
Sunday, May 29, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. The Call to Order was given by Charles Newsome.
2. Invocation was given by Judy Frye.
3. Pledge of Allegiance lead by Bob Spence.
4. Roll Call was performed by Barbara Hoffman
5. Visitors and guests introduced were Dick and Sarah Lee, Central, and Maurice Ritter and Virginia Grenier, SE. Val welcomed Jim and Jan McConnaha, Sue Brown and Joy Vaccari back after long absences.
6. Jack & Barbara Hoffman presented the minutes of the Working Weekend meetings. Don Slocum moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ray Huddleston, and the motion passed.
7. Treasurer's Report by Cheryl Miller  
The report was accepted and filed for audit.
8. Sunshine Report  
Val reported that since the last meeting, the Federation has sent sympathy cards to the families of Pete Shankle, Betty Lee Talmadge, Jerry Viola, Joe Vaccari and Ilene Lewis' father. We now need to send cards for Ida Trott and Madeline Lovelace. Val requested address information for the last 2.

Since last meeting, Pat Hagan was in an accident, Patty Ping had surgery, Shirley Nihart is currently hospitalized, Penny Green had surgery, George Knapp is having back problems, Chuck Myers is hospitalized, Walt Syphert left the convention and is hospitalized, Ginny Henning had a fall, Carol Hutcheson was injured by falling furniture, and Sam Dunn is in the hospital.

Jim McConnaha thanked everyone for their prayers and good wishes, which he attributed to his recovery.

9. Correspondence  
Joy Vaccari sent a thank you card for the donation sent to St. Jude's in memory of Joe, a letter from 60<sup>th</sup> NSDC informing us about the Showcase and publications, a thank-you note from Florida Winter Fest with a check for our share of the profits.
10. Florida Caller Liaison  
Thank you for asking the opinion of the Florida Callers Association regarding a change in the funding of the state convention. The FCA has received your proposal and it will be brought up for consideration by the membership at the meeting of the Florida Callers Association Sunday morning of convention weekend.

The Florida Callers Association has received the summary of the February working weekend at which the proposal was drafted. While there is much in the proposal that seems to be a reasonable reaction to the reality of the convention attendance and costs I

find your proposal to include some thoughtless statements that will not serve you well.

Let me be particular. I quote from the February document: "...Biggest advantage of this (profit sharing proposal) is that it would "force" financial participation from both the callers and cuers...AND the federation and associations (who already participate financially, physically, personally, spiritually and any other way you can imagine!)"

At the least that statement is a very large public relations faux pas at worst shows a considerable lack of understanding or lack of observation of convention details. This statement suggests that you believe the callers and cuers have no financial participation in the convention and do not participate physically, personally, spiritually. I suggest to you that each of the callers and cuers who come to call here forfeit at least two days of possible income and there can be no reasonable denying that they participate physically, personally and spiritually at the same level as anyone else who contributes to the convention.

1. The average caller who participates in the convention spends two nights in Lakeland hotels @ \$100 per night with taxes and tips;
2. Meals for the caller and spouse will average another \$100 for two days;
3. Callers must drive to Lakeland, some from as many as 200 miles away and thus have transportation expenses of \$224. That figures is based on the American Automobile Club current cost for owning and operating an automobile;
4. Each of the callers loses at least one day of caller fees income which I'll estimate at \$100 for a day and that assumes income from only a regular dance, not a weekend or special dance;
5. Other callers participate in trail in dances for which he or she have another day or more of lodging, food, and transportation and they still call for free; I won't even include that in their costs, but we can all see that it is additional;
6. And I'm not counting the personal money contributions callers and cuers make to the many fund raising schemes and gimmicks that go on for every convention;

Each of the callers and cuers who participate in the convention has a personal financial participation of more than \$600. Let us assume there are 35 callers and cuers who come to the convention. That represents a financial contribution of \$21,000 to the convention. We object strongly to your suggestion that callers and cuers have no financial participation in this convention.

I hope that your words didn't accurately reflect your true feelings about the participation of callers and cuers at this convention. The association is sure there was no malice intended. When you send out words we can't include the intentions and the spirit with which those words were written. We can only see what you wrote and sent to us. There

is no malice...you have not started a fight between organizations. We think, in the future, it might be wise to consider the words that you send to other organizations. We love you, we want to participate and you will be getting a positive report from us within about 45 minutes. Thank you very much.

11. Florida Cuer Liaison – No report
12. Association Reports

- Northeast – Sam & Mary Starling

The northeast is having another great year. There were several graduations in April & May and the NEFSARDA were there to welcome them into the Square Dancing community. A lot of them are really trying to get to other clubs to dance, and meet all the other members. Our Graduation Ball was a success and the new dancers had a great time. There are several that have come down for their first state convention and I know they will enjoy it.

We tried something new this year by inviting the new dancers to go on banner raids and inviting them to all the big dances, there were announced dances for the new dancers. This way they got a chance to see what square dancing is all about, and they enjoyed being there. I think this encouraged a lot of them to get square dance clothes and dress the part of a square dancer. Some of them said when they are all in their petticoats and square dancing outfits it made them feel good and the men are wearing their square dancing shirts and ties and loving it.

Upcoming dancers are all listed in the Grapevine and this encourages everyone to plan ahead for the different theme dances. There is charity dance coming up Christmas in July in Key Stone Heights. Other dances are Hawaiian Luau and the Roll-w-ways, Ice Cream Social in June at Moose Promenaders, Anniversary Dance in June at Silver Fox, Pink Cadillac dance in July, Moose Promenaders, 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday dance put on the NEFSARDA in July at Jax Hts Elementary to list a few. Info can be found on the internet <http://www.pergrossi.com>.

Hope to see some of you at the Nationals in Detroit. There are several members from the North East going.

Hope to see you in a square soon. Take care and HAPPY DANCING.

- West Coast – Penny Green

Things are pretty slow in the West Coast area right now; just about every dance south of Highway 60 has closed for the summer due to the “migration” of the snowbirds. The dances will start opening up in October and November, and then another group will start up in January. We have a lot of clubs in the southern part of our area as well as Zephyrhills that only dance three months out of the year.

We currently have 568 members in the West Coast Association.

Our second annual Scholarship Dance was held in January and we raised approximately \$1,400. A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Jenny Green. She is

attending Keiser University in Lakeland where she is majoring in Health Services Administration.

Our membership dances have been well attended with anywhere from 10 – 15 squares at each dance. The members of the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association volunteer their time to call and/or cue at our membership dances. The arrangement we have worked out with the callers and cuers is that the West Coast association schedules the dates, books the venue, selects an emcee for each dance, prepares the flyers, and promotes the dances. The emcee is responsible for arranging for the callers and cuers for the afternoon. Some of the callers prefer to schedule the callers and cuers in advance, and others like to use any callers or cuers that enter the door. We pay the emcee \$40 for providing the equipment and arranging the callers and cuers. We usually have three or four callers and three or four cuers. We've had several new callers and cuers move into our area – cuers Karen and Dick Fisher from Texas, caller Kip Moulton and his wife, Linda who is a cuer and they are from Maine, cuers Jack and Nell Jenkins have started cueing again, caller Bob Ellis from Pennsylvania, caller Mac McCall has been calling in Naples, caller Ben Rubright, and caller Mike Gormley who just moved from Key West.

Cuer Pat Hagen was in a serious accident back in March returning from one of our membership dances in Sarasota. She had a blackout, veered off the highway and hit one of the concrete barriers. She has suffered with serious back problems for years and wears a brace. She was in the hospital for several weeks undergoing therapy and then had more therapy after she returned home. Everyone was great about filling in for her at the dances. I received an email from Pat yesterday afternoon that she is ready to start back to work and will be cueing again at Sun City Swingers on Friday, June 3.

Buttons and Bows of Lakeland and Hampton Promenaders of Auburndale have officially merged. They will retain the Buttons & Bows name because of the 58 year history of this club. The dances will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Magnolia Building in Lakeland. Other details will be worked out when the winter people return in the fall. We had two clubs that were dealing with a drop in membership and low attendance at the dances. We felt this would be the best way to save the two groups. When we build up our membership and attendance, we will negotiate with the City of Lakeland to become a weekly club. Between the merger and the new dancers from the class, we have had 22 new members in the past two or three months. This was the first class we've had in Lakeland for many years. A square of the new dancers has been going with us on banner raids and retrievals and they are here this weekend. The rest of the class has gone north but said they will be back in the fall. They are very enthusiastic and they will be great additions to our club.

The president of the West Coast Association is an honorary member of the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association. They held their annual meeting in May where they elected their new officers: President – Carl Rod; Vice President – Mike Gormley;

Secretary: George Varney; and Treasurer: Patricia Fuller-Gardner. West Coast provided the meat for their luncheon as a thank you for the time they volunteer for our dances.

Strawberry Square has several special weekends scheduled for the next season with Jimmy Lee, Ben Rubright, Ross Howell, Jerry Biggerstaff, Jack Lewis, and Todd Fellegly. The annual Paul Place Benefit Dance will be held at Strawberry Square in 2012 along with a Day of Plus with Sam Dunn.

Our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fun Fest will be held November 11 and 12, 2011 at the Bartow Civic Center. Our staff will include The Blues Brothers (aka Jack Pladdys of Ohio and Sam Dunn) and Charlie and Leona Lovelace. Advance ribbons are \$18 per person; \$20 at the door. We have ribbons with us today.

If you want information on any dances in our area, just check my website at [www.dancergram.com](http://www.dancergram.com). The site is updated on a weekly basis.

- Central – Randy Poole  
Central Florida like all other square dance originations is getting smaller each year and harder to get dancers to fill leadership positions.

Our past Shamrock Swing was well attended but smaller than in the past. It is a great square dance weekend with 2 hall all the time and 3 halls on Sat afternoon. Our workshop dances on Sat afternoon are well attended and fun dances. The next Shamrock Swing is March 16 and 17 2012 in the Villages. The callers will be Tim Marriner and Ron Libby with Jimmy and Carol Griffin doing the rounds.

This year's Party weekend was poorly supported with 4 squares on the floor, but today we will present the 2012 convention with a check for \$1,125.00 from that small crowd. We fell that they got their monies worth for the cost of the weekend. As with most fund raisers everybody pays to participate. We are going to try again next year but we are going to change the format. We have heard that campers like to dance more so we are going to dance Fri night and have bingo on Sat afternoon and dance again Sat night. Fri night dance should be a fun night. There may be a convention meeting Sat morning.

Our next 5th Sat dance is 30 July 2011 at the Whirl and Twirl Hall in Orlando. All CFA callers attending will share the Stage. Joanne Helton will cue the rounds.

- Northwest – Cheryl Miller  
On April 2, Northwest members attended a benefit dance for our square dance friends in "Japan" at PASARDA Hall in Fort Walton Beach, Callers Chris Burchfield & Ted Kennedy and Cuer; Terri Wilaby hosted the dance which raised \$1140.00! The money was sent to GSI to be included in the worldwide fundraisers being held for our Japanese friends.  
April 15-16, was the annual "Spring Fling" dance held at Ragon Hall in Pensacola this dance is always a high energy dance!

May's calendar we begin our month with the annual "Panama City Beach Ball" on May 5-7. On May 14<sup>th</sup> several dancers travelled to Theodore, Alabama for a Benefit Spaghetti Dinner & Dance to raise funds for the Azalea Hall. Our neighbors support our Benefit Dances and we enjoy returning the support.

Agape Squares in Niceville graduated their class of 6 (1 of these graduates was a 12 yr old boy Hurray!)

Our Northwest clubs continue to dance throughout the summer so if you find yourself in our area stop by and enjoy some great dancing!

Since we are so close to June 4<sup>th</sup>, we invite anyone traveling thru our area to attend our "2012 State Convention Benefit Ice Cream Social" to be held in Fort Walton Beach at PASARDA Hall. Northwest will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Association meeting after this dance. June 11, Pensacola Twirlers will hold their annual "Fiesta Dance" with a visit from King DeLuna & Court. July 15-16, Ragon Hall will host their "July Jamboree". Tallahassee Capital Twirlers will host a special dance on July 25 with Caller Ken Bower. August 19 – 20 will be Seaside Squares 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance to be held at Ragon Hall, Pensacola. On September 17 we will be holding another; "2012 State Convention Benefit Dance" on at Ragon Hall, in Pensacola.

Leaving the best for last; Northwest Association "37<sup>th</sup> Annual Round Up" to be held in DeFuniak Springs on October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> will be the dance to remember. Since it was scheduled so close to Halloween, we will have our Costume Contest on Friday evening. We have flyers for anyone interested.

If you are traveling through our area, we hope to see you at one of these dances.

- Southeast – No report
- FASSRD – Judy Frye

Our Singles Association is really pushing hard to make everyone aware of our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Single-Rama Dance* planned for this coming October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> weekend in Sebring, Florida. We always stay at the wonderfully historic and newly renovated Kenilworth Lodge where each room has either 2 queen beds or a king bed and each room also has a TV, microwave and refrig - where you can keep your "goodies" for the great after parties we are famous for. The Kenilworth also has cottages that have 2 standard beds with a kitchen and a dinette area plus a screened porch to relax on. There are also efficiency's. The cottages and the efficiency's surround their beautiful pool area. All are reasonably priced.

One nice thing about staying in the Kenilworth and once you have settled in, you can just walk down their lovely hallway to the dining area where they offer a nice free continental breakfast every morning, then venturing further down the hall you will come to their quaint ballroom with a great wood floor. You do not have to leave the Lodge to go to our dance. There are several eateries within walking distance too.

I know you have already seen our flyers so you already know we have Dee Dee Dougherty (Lottie) calling for us. She is looking forward to returning to Florida to start her Winter adventures of calling in the South. And when I mentioned our famous “After Parties” she was delighted to be included. She thought they sounded like great fun to just relax and enjoy and not be “on stage” so to speak. And this speaks for our cuers too, Charlie & Leona Lovelace. Now they have really been busily working hard promoting this dance, passing out our flyers and they to have ribbons to sell.

As I have stressed many times before that this is NOT a dance for just the single contingent, but it is THE money maker for our Singles Association so that we can continue these great fun weekends. Our prices reflect this also. It is \$25.00 per single person for the weekend, this includes a \$5.00 membership fee in the Singles Association. Married couples pay \$40.00 for the weekend, same price.

If any of you would like ribbons for this dance I do have a few remaining and I’m sure that Penny Green or Ailene Picheco will also be able to help you. And please, pick up some flyers to take to all the different clubs where you dance. Help us promote this great weekend. Let’s make this a really big show.

### 13. Publication Reports

- Bow & Swing – Bill Boyd  
Bow & Swing is alive, well and the owners are having a ball at this convention.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the callers and cuers who came out to Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Club to help with the subscription dance last month. All of the dancers had a ball and many took advantage of the offer of reduced subscription renewals and we had 24 new subscribers. If you ever are in Central Florida or have a chance, visit Whirl & Twirl. I love their wood floor and Whit Brown calls a great dance. Of course, I wouldn’t mind if you visited the Garden Patch or Heel & Toe.

Bow & Swing is still mailing about 1200 magazines monthly. The figure varies from month to month depending on expirations and renewals. Even with all of the postage increases, we will continue our same prices, \$15.00 for one year and \$25 for two years. Our where-to-dance listing will continue to be \$15 per year and other advertising rates will not change. Bow & Swing will continue to publish your benefit and annual association dances with no charge and will list all of your up-coming events in our calendar section. As a crass commercial announcement we also accept advertising. We continually ask for your photographs, but I notice many of you are now including your own captions. Keep dancing and having fun and we will see you in a square.

- The Grapevine – Sarah Beth Pergrossi  
*The Grapevine* is alive but feeling under the weather lately and the reason is clear – our subscription numbers are shrinking. This condition has been looming for a number of years, and reflects the similar downward trend we see in all of our activities. Since our magazine is a subscription based publication, we rely on new

and renewing subscriptions, and our advertisers, to fund the printing and mailing of each issue. The decline in the number of dancers, which directly impacts our subscription base, has created new challenges to keep the number of magazines we mail above the lower limits of the Postal Service without increasing our postage rates. You all know, a hard copy in hand is always better than reading an electronic copy online. We invite suggestions from all our readership on ideas as to how we can continue to reach you cost effectively.

Production has begun for the upcoming July issue. We will spotlight our recent graduation celebrations with photos and a listing of the 60+ grads from 9 of our Northeast clubs. This issue will also offer our readers the opportunity to send out Holiday Greetings to the dance community for the low cost of \$4.00. Where else can you reach your friends across the state with holiday greetings for such a low price? We'll help you design your ad or we can use your own ideas. You don't have to reside in the northeast to participate, we have greetings from across the region, the state and beyond. Charlie & Val Newsome began this program many years ago and it continues to be well received by our dancers. Check out the July issue or our web site for all the details, but hurry the deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

As we enter into this period of transition from the 2011 State and National Conventions to the 2012 Conventions, *The Grapevine* will continue to print the publicity releases we receive, keeping our readers informed and encouraging their attendance. Many of our annual Association festivals are in the final planning stages as well. The Northeast is grateful to our fellow publications for printing our Fall Festival flyer, and *The Grapevine* will continue to reciprocate by publishing our fellow Associations' flyers.

Last month we began our 5<sup>th</sup> year as Editors of *The Grapevine*. When we took on this responsibility it was our goal to promote the Square Dance activity, not only in our Association's area, but wherever our publication went, and to provide our dancing readers with up-to-date, informative as well as interesting, reading. From comments we have received, we believe we are achieving that goal and it continues to be our goal for the future. We invite contributions to *The Grapevine* at any time.

- West Coast Dancer – Ed & Ginny Henning  
Good morning.

It's not new I know, but I have sad news and good news. The sad news is that the West Coast area has had 5 Club or dance closings that I'm aware of. The good news is that despite these closings and during these off season summer months the West Coast Dancer has 5 pages of club and dance listings including square, round and line dancing.

I thought I'd take this time to mention how some physical changes have occurred related to the West Coast Dancer booklet. Up until a few years ago we had to print a sample copy of each issue, take it to the Print Shop where it was photo copied it and printed from that. We use a commercial printing company because 1500 to 3000

copies are too much for home printers. Office printers were prohibitively expensive for printing those quantities for free distribution.

We thought the resulting copies looked pretty good although photos did not reproduce well unless a half tone plate was used adding to the expense. Then along came higher brilliance white paper, as compared to just 96 grade white. Also home computers now included the ability to record CD and DVD disks. The Print shop copies from the disk using the new paper. No sample printing needed and we think these changes result in a much better looking product.

Thank you for listening.

- Keepin' Posted – Jess & Fay Baker – No report
- Panhandle Press – Tim & Terri Wilaby – No report

#### 14. State Convention Reports

- Appointment of 2014 Chairman – Val Newsome announced that Jenny Green and Penny Green agreed to be the Co-Chairmen of the 2014 Convention.
- 2011 – Terri Little & Ailene Picheco

For those of you who have been getting my “Countdown” e-mails...it has been 2 days, 14 hours, 59 minutes and 56 seconds (give or take) since this weekend started at the Trail End dance at Strawberry Square.

We'd like to thank everyone involved...Crew, Callers, Cuers, Federation and Dancers...for all the support and assistance we've gotten throughout this entire effort. We could NOT have done this without everyone's help and input.

This report will not be very long...our final report will be given at the next Federation meeting. However...there are a couple of items I'd like to pass on now.

Our attendance has been pretty good. We had over 500 dancers on Friday and over 600 on Saturday. I realize the count is not as high as it's been in the past and will probably go down today, but this is pretty good considering just a few weeks ago we only had about 250 ribbons sold!

We have been concerned about our VISA card sales. Just before we left for Lakeland, we had JUST collected enough money to pay for the card. I am pleased to report that profit on the VISA card is now over 100%. Cheryl Miller's Pirate Ship was broken open the other night and I'm happy to report that she shanghaied about \$66 dollars in change out of various pants pockets over the past year.

If you did not attend the After Party, you missed a good time. Attendance was low, but laughs and silliness was HIGH. We had enough food and fun for over 100 folks and only had about 50 in attendance. Don & Ann did a great job and have brought the leftover sandwiches and cookies to the meeting this morning, so eat up!!! (I promise...none of THESE cookies were on the floor!) Bob Poyner and his crew did a wonderful job with the skits. Low attendance could possibly be attributed to the change of location (word may not have gotten around to everyone). The fact that it

was NOT held at the host hotel also probably affected attendance. We had changed location due to concerns about having enough room for 100+ attendees.

We are having a wrap-up meeting this afternoon at 1:30 in this room. If you are on the 57<sup>th</sup> board, please attend this meeting. No written reports will be required. We'll just go over what comes next. It should not last more than 1 hour.

Now for the most important part...thanks to everyone's efforts, we're going to make a profit! The final figures won't be available for a while yet, but it will definitely be a profit! At this time, the 57<sup>th</sup> FSDC would like to repay the Federation the seed money that we received a couple of years ago.

- 2012 – Garland & Carole McKenzie

First we would like to say a job well done to Terri, Ailene and their committees. This will be a hard act to follow.

We had a good Kickoff practice this morning. We feel we are ready for the Mardi Gras to begin.

We met with the Caller and Cuer Associations already this weekend to present a proposal we are implementing in an attempt to get more publicity for the convention. (pass out the proposal info). We need the Association leaders to inform the clubs in their areas of this proposal (it will also be in the publicity for July). As a club, Association or special dance leader it will be your responsibility (or someone you designate) to listen for the callers and cuers to promote the convention from the stage. When you get home we need you to go onto the convention website and go to the caller/cuer survey and enter the requested information. If there is more than one caller or cuer promoting the convention at your dance you need to make an entry for each one. Next May we will determine the winner. That person will have their hotel bill paid for by the convention. The caller or cuer does not have to be programmed to be a winner. (Carole handed out information for this program.)

To enter the survey information go to: [www.floridasquaredance.com/convention](http://www.floridasquaredance.com/convention).

Tonight we will be giving away a \$300 CASH prize. We still have plenty of tickets to sell. Tickets are one for \$1.00 or 10 for \$5.00.

We have started a raffle for a Kendel 3G reader to be given away on November 19 at the Northeast Association "Fall Festival". This item will make a great Christmas present for someone. We will be limiting the tickets on this item to 300 tickets. Tickets will be \$5.00 each.

By now most of you have been to the pre-registration table and know what we have for sale at ways and means. But if you just have been too busy to get there, we have polo shirts for \$25, Tote bags for \$15 and buttons for \$1.00. We also have packets of buttons for each association. There are 20 buttons in each packet and we request you

send a check in the amount of \$20 to Ray Huddleston and as you sell the buttons you can replenish your treasury. We thank you for your support.

Hope to see everyone this evening for the Kickoff to Mardi Gras Fun in the Sun.

Randy Poole reported that 2012 Host Hotel will be Lakeland Conference Center (old Holiday Inn). The rooms are \$65 with free breakfast.

- 2013 – Paul & Cheryl Miller  
There is a change in the line-up for the Working Weekend dance. Once everything is finalized, new flyers will be sent out. If you have the old flyers already, the dates and times are correct. One of the callers had a previous engagement.

2013 is excited to welcome Penny and Jenny Green as our Assistant Chairmen. We held our first meeting with our many chairmen from around the state of Florida. Cheryl got really excited. It was amazing to see our group finally coming together. Plans & information on our 2013 kick-off was handed out at this meeting so this convention has now become very real to me. Cheryl says just follow Terri, Ailene, Garland and Carole around as much as you can. Well, Terri & Ailene you did such a wonderful job that our convention will be a piece of cake with ice cream for me. Our convention is coming along and we are continuing to build our team. We have just a few vacancies left. Our wages are competitive with the other conventions, vacation pay, holidays, special occasions; you've got a great boss, unlimited advancement potential within the organization, so please feel free to volunteer. A few of the Chairman positions not yet filled are Advertising, Camper, Photographer/Historian, Entertainment and Grand March. This week we filled our Vendor and Hospitality/Security chairmen. We welcome everyone and anyone to our committees. No applications to fill out. No job history needed and, best of all, we don't turn anyone away because we're an Equal Opportunity organization.

- 2014 – Jenny & Penny Green  
We haven't come up with a theme yet, but we're discussing a couple of ideas. We already have three positions filled and names penciled in for several other positions. We will be in a learning mode as we work with the Millers on the 2013 convention.
- Convention Facilities – Don & Ann Slocum  
We completed the arrangements at the Lakeland Center for this year's Fl. St. Convention by presenting the final layout and a check to the Lakeland Center event coordinator, Brenda Townson, for \$10,250.00 (they also have a \$3,000 deposit on this account).

All future chairmen please make note that the final configuration of the halls and tables is required 4 weeks prior to each Convention.

The \$3,000.00 deposit for 2012 was sent to us by the Federation Treasurer and presented to Ms. Townson also.

We have reserved the Lakeland Center for the St. Convention on Memorial Day week-end thru 2017, with the option of making changes if necessary.

A new configuration has been given to the Center (starting in 2013) based on not using the East Exhibition Hall as agreed to at the Convention committee meeting on the 2011 Working Week End. Ms. Townson is working out the cost and we will present those numbers at the Fall Federation meeting.

Ms. Townson is very happy with the Facilities Chairmen arrangement to deal with the Center which started with Jim & Jan McConnaha and now continuing with us. She states that this has made her job much easier, in that she doesn't have to deal with multiple people at a time concerning many different Conventions.

We feel that we have a good working relationship with Ms. Townson now and would hope if anyone has a problem with The Lakeland Center that they would present it to us and let us work on a solution.

Lance and Rita Baxter were asked by Val Newsome if they would be co-chairs and they agreed. We will be happy to be working with them.

- Ann added that by not using the East Exhibition Hall, it save approximately \$2500.
15. Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame – Penny Green  
The Hall of Fame Committee met yesterday, Saturday, May 27. Those in attendance were Bill and Mary Chesnut, Dewey and Donna Hendricks and me. Bev Landwehr was absent due to surgery.

Recommendations were made as to new members to solicit for the Board and the Selection Committee. Each of us will contact these people over the next few weeks to ascertain if they would be willing to serve.

We also reviewed the by-laws and added some verbiage to clarify the nomination procedure and how many votes are required to accept a nomination.

As you know, two new inductees were introduced last night – Jim and Jan McConnaha and Bruce and Colleen Morgan. They each received a plaque and a small replica of the plaque will be hung at Strawberry Square.

16. The Hall of Fame pamphlet has been updated and the website will be updated this week.  
Historian – Judy Frye  
As you all remember at the last meeting, in February, it was decided that the Federation needed an Historian to keep a pictorial record of events that should be on our Federation Website. Events such as awards given to our dancers at special occasions and dances. No scrapbooks would be kept as in the past but a pictorial preview only on the Federation Website.

A digital camera was purchased especially for the historian position and will stay with the Federation permanently. I'm not in the "digital world" completely just yet but I am

slowly learning the how-to's. So far I am enjoying it and am anxious to conquer it completely; I do have a great teacher helping me.

Since acquiring this position I have emailed a letter to the each President of the five Associations which requested that this information be passed along to their Historian/Photographer and to have them contact me so I would know who I would be working with within each area. So far only two have responded so I am guessing there are questions regarding this. I am requesting now that if there are any questions about this new adventure, please bring them up while we are all here to clarify and get this off to a good start.

If any of you would like a copy of the guidelines for the "Chairman of the History Committee" there are some here. Let's discuss this now.

Judy also stated that she got a name from the Northwest this past week. Penny Green reported that Ken and Sandy Brasfield will be the representative for the West Coast. Val Newsome reported that Elsa Huddleston will fill this position for Southeast until someone permanent is appointed.

Judy will submit Federation history pictures ONLY to Bruce Morgan for posting on the website. Any pictures that the Associations/Clubs want on the website will have to be submitted by the Association/Club to Bruce. The Association and club pictures will be put into a Photo Album and removed periodically. If any pictures are submitted to Judy that are NOT Federation pictures, she will inform the person who submitted them that they will have to submit the photos to Bruce.

17. USDA Report – Ray & Elsa Huddleston

Once again we must sadly report the passing of two very special Florida USDA representatives. Tom James passed away on February 16, and Joe Vacari passed away two months later on April 16, 2011. Among other responsibilities, Tom and his wife Miriam were Chairman of the Handicapable Dancers. They also earned the USDA Traveler badge for square dancing in all 50 states. Joe was instrumental in the forming of the Northwest Association, the Panhandle Press and the forming of the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) over 30years ago.

The first meeting to form the USDA was in June, 1980 in Memphis, Tennessee at which time the organization was called the National Square Dance Organization. This is the only national organization that welcomes only dancers to its membership. In celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they will host a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary plus after party and a youth after party at the national convention.

As reported previously, the discount prescription cards are still available. USDA gets \$.25 for each prescription filled, and the funds generated are applied to a variety of educational and other USDA programs that support the dancers.

The ARTS Travel, the dancer's online travel web site, is another benefit. Dancers get the same rates offered by other travel web sites while helping to raise funds for ARTS.

About the 60<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Detroit:

There will be 15 halls, and most of the dancing will begin at 10:00 AM and continue without interruption until 10:00 PM with After Parties following until 11:30 PM. In addition to round dancing in the Mainstream and Plus halls, there will be three additional halls available with three different round dance levels.

There will be contra dancing including high energy contras. Two live and dynamic bands will be available on Friday and Saturday nights.

Various clinics will be offered in every aspect of the dance program. Clinics are sessions where the leader will explain what will be offered during the time slot, and then the participants will be given time to enjoy the concept. Clinic sessions can be fun and different from normal dancing activity. Whatever your interests, there will be a clinic that will enable you to try something that you have wanted but didn't feel comfortable in the non-clinic environment. Attend one of the clinics and join in the fun.

Again this year, there will be competition dancing and a hall will also be available in the evenings for handicapable dancing.

Ken Ritucci will be a keynote speaker on Friday, June 24. Ken is a Callerlab member and serves on the Board of Governors. He has established his own caller schools in both Manchester, New Hampshire and San Jose, California. He has trained hundreds of callers and is recognized for his leadership and teaching/training skills.

18. USDA Insurance – Carol Poole  
Report was given and filed for audit.
19. ASCAP/BMI – Bob & Maria Spence  
There were no bills from either corporation since the February Federation meeting. We will be filing the figures from the State Convention to ASCAP as soon as the 2011 Convention ends. This will be paid from Convention funds.
20. ARTS – Ailene Picheco  
The web site [www.You2candance.org](http://www.You2candance.org) is designed as a way for non-dancers to learn about square, round, & contra dancing. Make sure your club website is listed.

The ARTS Email Tree is designed and intended to provide an electronic communication capability to contact all square, round, and traditional dancers in the USA within a week or so of sending a message. The tree currently covers over 30 states and we are working on expanding.

The ARTS Travel Site: <http://www.ytbtravel.com/artsdance> provides the same travel discount service as other electronic travel sites. The difference is that with the ARTS Travel Site, a portion of the travel money is returned to support square/round dancing. The users still get discounted travel costs.

The ARTS Grant program which is designed and intended to provide financial support to

associations, federations, and other groups who sponsor and host educational events, conferences, or other gatherings. The only requirement is that the sponsoring group include an hour or more presentation providing information about the ARTS and its goals and mission

21. Old Business

- Showcase of Ideas – Anita Taylor announced that she and Bud are taking the showcase to Detroit and have buttons and publications to hand out. If any of the associations want to send publications, please get with Anita. There is also a Parade of States on Saturday that everyone should participate in.
- Document Review – The change to the Articles was approved by all the Associations. Elsa Huddleston made a motion to approve the Articles of Incorporation as amended and approved by all the Associations. Ann Slocum seconded. Motion carried.
- Val stated that in the near future, most correspondence will be electronic and Federation members will be expected to go to the website and print their own copies of minutes and other documentation as needed. It is critical to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in e-mail address.
- Convention Procedures – Paul Miller  
Those in attendance were Tim Wilaby (Cuers), Keith & Margo Stevens (Caller), Don & Ann Slocum, Ray & Elsa Huddleston, Charlie & Val Newsome, Bud & Anita Taylor, Jack & Barbara Hoffman, Randy Poole, Penny Green and Paul & Cheryl Miller. The meeting was called to order and Val Newsome gave the invocation. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the 20% rollover of funds to be used as additional funds for next year's Florida state convention. There was much discussion regarding the way the funds would be calculated for the 20% rollover and the creation of the motion that would be presented to the Caller Association, Round Dance Council and Florida Federation of Square Dancers. The agreed upon motion is as follows: The motion is to include a standing expense of rollover items to go to the out-year convention of 20% of the gross profit beginning in 2011, if approved in time. The motion was made by Paul Miller and seconded by Ann Slocum.

**Therefore, I would like to make a motion to include a standing expense of rollover items to go to the out-year convention of 20% of the gross profit beginning in 2011, if approved in time. The motion was seconded by Ray Huddleston. The motion carried.** Carole McKenzie was asked by the Caller association to announce that they have approved this motion. This change will take effect with the 2011 convention.

22. New Business

- GSI – Florida Winter Festival – Val Newsome reported that the Federation received a letter from GSI telling us how much they were sending and why. They had to pay extra for the hall and attendance was down last year. She then asked the Treasurer to give the Association checks to the Secretary for mailing to the Association Presidents. Each Association President must get a report back to the Secretary by September 15 reporting how the money was spent. Flyers and ribbons for next year's Winter Fest were passed out to each Federation Board member for selling in their areas.
- Appointment of Nominating Committee – Val Newsome announced that Ray Huddleston agreed to be Chairman of the Nominating Committee. He will be

- working with Ken Brasfield (WC) and Dewey Hendricks (Central).
- Barbara Hoffman made an announcement that the Proclamation from the Governor making September Square Dance Month was received and is available for all the publications. Joy Vaccari then spoke about the efforts made several years ago in an effort to get Square Dancing named as the Official National Folk Dance.
  - Carole McKenzie reported that the Callers asked for a flyer for the convention rather than the registration form. This was just a note of information for future Convention Chairmen to consider. Also consider “I’m Programmed” ribbons for the Callers and Cuers.
  - Charlie Pergrossi announced that the Caller Association has made an amendment to their standing rules regarding the Programming Meeting held in October limiting the Federation to only 1 person. The name (typically the next year’s Convention Chairman) must be submitted prior to the meeting.
  - Val Newsome asked that all the Associations look around and make some nominations for next year’s Extra Mile Awards. Past recipients are listed on the Federation website.
23. Announcements
- Next meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn at Jacksonville Beach on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am, following the Northeast Fall Festival on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, which will also be held at Jacksonville Beach at St. Paul’s Catholic Church.
24. Motion to Adjourn – So moved!

Respectfully submitted,

Jack & Barbara Hoffman  
 FL Federation Secretaries - 2011