

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
 Comfort Inn, Jacksonville Beach, Florida
 Sunday, November 20, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. The Call to Order was given by Val Newsome.
2. Invocation was given by Jerry Robey.
3. Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob Spence.
4. Roll Call was performed by Barbara Hoffman
 - a. Barbara Hoffman reported that Zonie Taylor has not attended a meeting in over 1 year and should be placed on the inactive roll. A letter will be sent to her to that effect.
 - b. Changes to the roster were as follows: Tim Wilaby as President of the Cues' Association, Ailene Picheco's phone number was corrected, Judy Frye is returning to Judy Anderson, and Penny Green is now the Hall of Fame chairman. Any additional changes need to be forwarded to Barbara by December 15 so she can forward the updated roster.
5. Visitors and guests introduced were Don Seay (Seabreeze Singles), Virginia Bomhold (Northeast), Roland and Linda Morin (FCA President), Walt & Diane Syphard (Northeast), Linda Miller (Northeast), Jeff Kleyla (upcoming Caller), Pat & Lamar McMillan (Northeast), and Debra & Wayne Miller (Northeast).
6. Jack & Barbara Hoffman presented the minutes of the May meeting. Randy Poole stated that the following statement needs to be added to the May minutes: **Elsa made a motion that the Federation show our appreciation and gratitude to Bruce for his time and dedication in consistently maintaining the Florida Federation website by presenting him with a clock and appropriate plaque at a cost of not more than \$125, seconded by Don Slocum. Jim McConnaha made a motion, seconded by Don Slocum, to amend Elsa's motion to say "be presented at the NEFSARDA Fall Dance or November Federation meeting in Jacksonville." The purpose of this was to prevent Bruce from reading about his award when putting the minutes into history before he was presented the award. Motion carried. Randy Poole made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended; George Knapp seconded; motion carried.**
7. Treasurer's Report by Cheryl Miller
 The verbally corrected report was accepted and filed for audit. Cheryl will send the corrected report to the Secretary.

Randy Poole reported that the audit committee consisted of Carol and Randy Poole, Ken Brasfield, Bud and Anita Taylor and Cheryl Miller. The committee audited the register, bank statements and checks and found everything was correct.

8. Parliamentarian Report
 Bud and I attended the National Convention in Detroit in June, 2011. We were in charge of setting up and maintaining the *Showcase of Ideas*.

We took half of the 500 buttons that were purchased to give away at the *Showcase of Ideas*. We set the buttons out in a Treasure Chest and checked back frequently to be sure everything was stocked. We brought back about 50 buttons. One thing I noticed was that

our buttons are a little large. I would not recommend any change until all of our buttons are gone. We chose not to put the year on them so they can be used next year. When we do have to order more buttons, I would recommend that we look into purchasing a little smaller button.

We also took Publications from all the Associations and included the State Publication the Bow and Swing and American Square Dancer. To my surprise all the Publications were snapped up and we kept going back and putting out more. We even had to go down to Bill Boyd's table and *steal* more copies of the Bow and Swing and American Square Dancer to put out. Bill of course, generously gave me all the copies I needed. I do wish I had taken about 10 more of each of the Associations Publications. I would recommend about 25 of each be sent to the next Convention.

I also had contacted the State Department of Transportation for Florida maps to be given out. They sent me the requested 200 maps. I put these out and I only returned with 2 maps. I would recommend that more maps be requested next year. They were very accommodating and I am sure they would send whatever is requested. However the maps are quite heavy to carry.

We put up the Florida back drop on the curtain, but there was hardly enough room to put it up. Since it folds up really well if can be taken, but used at the discretion of the next Parliamentarian. We ordered 3 tables with 2 for us and 1 for the campers. They did not put anything out. I hope they will complete a table next year.

We also took the Florida traveling banner and marched in the Parade of States. We were joined by about 20 other dancers from Florida. We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came and help represent Florida.

Now to the banner. The banner has become yellow with age. It is hard to carry and transport. It seems that when it gets a little warm, it is hard to insert the poles for carrying. It is much easier when it is kept in a very cold place. I would like to recommend that the next Parliamentarian look into the possible replacement of the current banner. I would recommend that the new banner be made of a material much like our Florida backdrop that can be easily folded for travel and storage. We have also received a patch from USDA that is to be added to our banner. The only way it could be added to the present banner is to glue it on instead of sewing or tacking it on.

The plaques have been turned over to Strawberry Square for display and the new Parliamentarian will have to purchase a new plaque for the upcoming years.

9. Sunshine Report

Val reported that there is a card for Dewey Hendricks for everyone to sign. We have also lost several people since our last meeting, Bob Courter (Central), Cheryl Miller's (NW) grandmother, Jim McConnaha's (Central) brother, and Shirley Nihart (NE). Several people have had surgery, Art Springer, Patricia McLendon, and Dave Nihart. Penny Green and Jack McKinney have surgery in the near future. Paul Walker is also asking for everyone's prayers for his 50-year-old son who has had a very severe heart attack. George and Shirley Knapp have also lost 2 children in the last year.

10. Correspondence

We received a thank you note from Dave Nihart; Judy Frye Anderson invited the Federation to have their October meeting during the Single-Rama in Sebring, which we have agreed to; Ailene Picheco and Terri Little sent a thank you for Federation support during the convention; and a letter from Jerry and Donna Robey stating they were elected as Central Region Vice President for USDA.

11. Florida Caller Liaison

There's an oft told story of a city fella who while in the country bought a mule from a farmer. The city fella hitched up the mule to his wagon and hollered Get Up.....the mule didn't move...this went on for a while and finally the city fella asked the farmer how to get the mule moving. The farmer brought out an 8 foot two by four and whacked the mule between the eyes, hollered get up and the mule took off. The city fella asked why he had to do that. Well you just have to get the mule's attention before he'll do anything.

I think we are sort of like that mule...I say sort of because I think we've been whacked regularly for the past several years and we still haven't paid attention. I'm talking about the declining attendance and interest in the annual convention. Attendance and interest by both the staff of callers & cuers and by the dancers. Attendance and interest have been declining steadily for years and we leaders still haven't moved. We as callers and dancers leaders and organizers haven't moved to make any changes that might regenerate interest and attendance at the convention. I think it's time we starting paying attention to what dancers are telling us with their pocketbooks.

To continue a conversation that was started after the annual Florida Callers meeting in October.....maybe it's time that we seriously consider all the possible changes to the convention that might regenerate interest and attendance. Everything should be on the table for discussion: The date of the convention, who becomes the staff of the convention and how we program the staff, the location of the convention, the hours of dancing, the different types of dancing offered at the convention and every other possible consideration that might make a positive change.

We've too long said "Well we've always done it this way....." All of us have heard the old saw that the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over and expect a different outcome.....that's what we're doing with the convention. Very few modern successes can be credited to "we're doing it just like we've always done it....." McDonalds..... Their success today isn't because they are selling what they sold in the 50's and 60's. Now at McDonalds you can get Mc Griddles, McFlurry, McRibs, McSalads, McCafe in several forms including gourmet coffees. McDonalds continues to be successful because they listened to their customers....and changed with the times.

One of the Suncoast Callers with some fifty years of experience put it well, I think. He reminded us that the original idea of the convention was the expose a large audience of dancers to many different callers. That was back when there were lots of new dancers and lots of new callers. The number of new dancers and new callers today doesn't warrant that same philosophy for the convention.

Everything in the modern world has changed....except how we do the convention. Doing something differentit's at first uncomfortable....but it's almost always necessary. One convention change that could be made immediately is to find out what our customers would like. Let's ask our customers and potential customers what they would like to have changed about the convention. With computer technology and communication it would be easy to survey the dancers in Florida, both resident and visitors, and find out what changes might bring them to the convention.....and let's move to make the changes.

For years there was this thing about "there should be no competition in square dancing". Competitive dancing was a hit at the National Convention and it's been popular at the state convention over the past two years. For some of us it's still uncomfortable, but if the dancers of today are enjoying it...should we prevent that enjoyment because "we've never done that".

The Florida Callers Association is asking and urging that we not continue the insanity of doing the same old thing and expecting a different result. The Florida callers association is ready to participate in asking our customers what changes they would like...The Florida Callers association is ready to suggest for your consideration some different ideas about the programming of the convention

The Florida Callers Association asks that you and the convention leaders begin with us an open and full discussion of possible changes. Where the convention is, when it is and how it's done. The Callers Association would like to be included in those discussions and offers to help in any way it can to investigate and study the ideas brought up for discussion and most particularly and right away and to help in the preparation, distribution and collection of a dancer survey. We understand some of the possible changes will take some time to effect, but there are possible changes that can be instituted at the 2012 convention.

Doing what we've always done isn't working to increase attendance or even sustain current attendance. The Callers Association believes we've been whacked enough times with the decline of attendance and interest in the convention that we ought to begin paying attention.

12. Florida Cuer Liaison – No report

12. Association Reports

- Northeast – Sam & Mary Starling

It's that time of year again, there have been a lot of new dancers sign up and I hope we can keep most of them. Some of them are already visiting other clubs when their clubs are not dancing. We are encouraging those who have time to dance more than once a week, it helps them learn faster and retain what they have learned. It also helps when they get to dance to different caller. Our Beginner hoedown is December 3rd & is put on by the Gateway Callers Assoc at Jax. Hts. elementary school.

Several dancers from Jacksonville went to the Single-Rama in Oct & a great time was had by all. Several dancers went to the Fall Festival's in DeFuniak Springs & in Bartow. We also danced at the O'Leno hoedown in November with the camper groups, Gypsy squares & the Square Wheels. With all the holiday dancers it made for a lot of square & round dancing.

Our own fall festival has had a lot of had work done by Jack & Kathy McKinney & all there committee members. NEFSARDA---- WILD*WILD* WEST is great theme.

There are several great dancers coming up in Jan & Feb. If you are in our area look us up we have Square or Round Dancing most days. You can check us out at <http://www.pergrossi.comm/grapevine.html>

Take care & hope to see you in a square soon. Happy Dancing.

- West Coast – Penny Green

Our year started off with the President's Ball on September 18 at Strawberry Square Dance Center. All of our officers opted to remain in office for another year, but the membership has been forewarned that it won't happen again!

As of our last meeting, we have 570 members in the West Coast Association.

The 26th Annual MacDonald Dance was held in November and our dancers raised \$2,098.06 for the MacDonald Parents Group who plans special events for the clients of the MacDonald Training Center in Tampa. The Training Center is for disabled adults. Six hundred dollars of this money was raised by Sam Dunn who offered to call a free dance for any club that donated \$100 to the MacDonald Parents Group. Sam did the same thing for our Scholarship Dance back in January. One of the couples in our Brandon club had a son who was a client of the Training Center and they started the dance 26 years ago. After 20 years, they decided not to continue and another dancer took over.

Our 37th Annual Fall Fun Fest was a success with 257 registrations. The Blues Brothers (aka Sam Dunn and Jack Pladdys) kept two halls of dancers moving and Charlie Lovelace kept a huge circle of round dancers circling the floor. The 2012 Fall Fun Fest will be November 9 - 10 with Red Bates and Jack Lewis calling and Karen Fisher cueing. Karen and her husband, Dick, moved into Strawberry Square last year and she's a great cuer and a lot of fun to dance with.

We raised \$348 with our silent basket auction at the Fall Fun Fest. This money has been donated to the 2012 state convention.

Two Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the Fall Fun Fest; one to Ed and Ginny Henning, *West Coast Dancer* editors, and Mary Dow, county rep for Hardee/De Soto/Charlotte Counties.

Art Springer had triple bypass surgery a couple of months ago and he's healing nicely. I understand he showed up at the Fall Fun Fest for a while but I missed him. I've been told he's lost 30 pounds. He will start calling a little bit starting December 1st. He won't return to his C-1 and C2 workshops at Strawberry Square until after the first of the year. Art will be celebrating 50 years of calling on Sunday, December 18, at Strawberry Square. It will be a free dance and he's asking that everyone bring finger foods. Art will be calling and Charlie Lovelace will be cueing.

The third annual Scholarship Dance will be held at Strawberry Square on Sunday, February 5, 2012 with Sam Dunn and Charlie Lovelace donating their time. Scholarships are being awarded to young square dancers who reside in the West Coast Association area, are members of the West Coast Association, and are active square dancers. The scholarship is paid directly to the school. The recipient is to promote square dancing at their school and present a report to the Association about what they did. Jennifer Green received the last scholarship. We were unsuccessful in scheduling a demo due to too many other square dance activities the day they wanted to schedule it. So as an alternative, whenever she has had to write papers on a subject of her choosing she wrote about square dancing. For one of her papers she took in a complete square dance outfit, a picture of one of my plates of deviled eggs, and some finger foods. Her instructor used to be a square dancer in Australia but his wife isn't interested in dancing so he no longer dances. A couple of students expressed an interest in learning to dance.

The merger of Hampton Promenaders of Auburndale and Buttons & Bows of Lakeland has been completed. The Buttons and Bows name was retained due to the history associated with that club. Hamptons' colors were black and white and Buttons & Bows' colors were red and white so they have combined the colors of red and black. Twenty-nine new members have joined so far this year between the merger and our last class. We are expecting more as the snowbirds return to the area.

Buttons and Bows of Lakeland will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on January 24th with Art Springer calling and Charlie Lovelace cueing. This club is the oldest continuously operating square dance club in the state of Florida. Art has called for them for about 35 years and Charlie has cued for them for about 25 years.

The DANCERgram has become a popular means of communicating information to the dancers on the West Coast of Florida. It's a weekly electronic newsletter that is emailed to approximately 700 dancers. There are also a few clubs who receive it and then forward it on to their membership so I don't have a true count of who is receiving it. In addition to the regular dance schedule, I try to include educational information, color pictures from our special dances, announcements of special dances and weekends, etc. The distribution list is also used to notify dancers of health and death notices, changes in callers or cuers for club dances, holiday closings, cancellations, reminders about the West Coast membership dances, etc. There is also a website where many flyers are posted as well as archive copies of the DANCERgram, each section of the newsletter is saved as a separate document, and

copies of some of the special articles I have written or reprinted from other publications. As an “offshoot” of this newsletter, I maintain a master calendar of all the dances I am aware of and several people will contact me to check on the availability of dates before they schedule a dance or meeting. Even though we do this, it is still hard not to have an occasional conflict because there is so much going on.

We have a couple in Lakeland who has started working on their USDA Traveler badge. They danced in 26 states over the summer. They were in the Buttons & Bows class last fall and they dance at several clubs in the area.

Attendance is increasing at the dances as the snowbirds slowly return to our area. If you're ever on the West Coast of Florida please be sure to visit some of our clubs while you are there.

- Central – Randy Poole
CFA's last three 5th Saturday dances have been well attended since the Central Florida Callers Association has agreed to call our dances as an organization and all available callers call. They have their quarterly meeting the same evening as the dance and so most of the callers attend the dance. They also encourage their club members to attend. The turnout has been good. The dancers love having the variety of callers. We have canceled the next 5th Saturday dance since it falls on New Year's Eve so as not to compete with our clubs that normally have New Year's Eve dances. Attendance at a lot of our club dances has been down and we have had clubs fold or just about to. One club has contacted a retirement center and held three party nights to see if there was any interest in having a square dance club at the center. They had their first class night with 21 in attendance. Clubs are trying anything to keep their clubs alive.

Central has lost a past president and active member of the square dance community. Bob Courter, CFA's most recent past president has passed away. He and his wife Jennie were very active in the West Coast and the Central Florida Associations. CFA has authorized the purchase of 50 poly bag yard signs to advertise square dance lessons. They are to be displayed in communities just prior to starting square dance lessons, hoping that walkers and joggers will see them and inquire about the classes. Central Florida Callers Association will hold their annual benefit dance 4 February 2012 in Orlando at the Whirl & Twirl hall. This year the proceeds will go the VITAS Hospice.

The Shamrock Swing will again be held at The Villages March 16 & 17, 2012. Tim Marriner and Ron Libby will be the callers and Jimmy & Carol Griffin will do the cueing. Saturday afternoon there will be three halls of workshops and introductions.

Don't forget April 20, 21 & 22, 2012 will be the 6th Annual Party Weekend at the Deerhaven Retreat & Conference Center, Paisley, in the Ocala National Forest. You don't have to be a camper to attend there are 23 motel rooms available. This fun weekend is a fund raiser for the 2013 Florida State Square Dance Convention. Bob

Poyner and Charlie Pergrossi will be the callers and Terri Wilaby will be cueing. We will be dancing both Friday and Saturday nights and playing bingo on Saturday afternoon.

- Northwest – Cheryl Miller

We've had a splendid summer, in the Northwest. We were able to dance, dance & dance at the many dances held in our area. On June 4th, we held a "2012 State Convention Benefit Ice Cream Social" in Fort Walton Beach at PASARDA Hall, this benefit raised \$500.00. On June 11, Pensacola Twirlers held their annual "Fiesta Dance" with a visit from King DeLuna & Court. July 15-16, we enjoyed dancing at Ragon Hall for their "July Jamboree". We continued our dancing in Tallahassee for the Capital Twirlers special dance on July 25 with Caller Ken Bower. August 19 – 20 was the Seaside Squares 48th Anniversary Dance held at Ragon Hall, Pensacola. On September 17 we held another; "2012 State Convention Benefit Dance" with Recycle Clothing Sale at Ragon Hall, in Pensacola, this benefit raised \$675.00. Leaving the best for last; Northwest Association "37th Annual Round Up" was held in DeFuniak Springs on October 28th & 29th, since it was scheduled so close to "Halloween" we held a Costume Contest on Friday evening. We thank the dancers who attended from the outside Associations. All these special dances and we were still able to dance with our clubs on Monday's, Tuesday's, Thursday's & Friday's!

At our annual meeting held in DeFuniak Springs, Northwest elected our new Association Officers: President, Alec & Kay Schmidt; Vice President, Paul & Cheryl Miller; Secretary, Dave Henn; and Treasurer, Ron Corns.

Ragon Hall in Pensacola, have been repairing their hall. They held a special dance to raise money for their Air Conditioner, as well as they have a building out back they are looking at renovating into another small dance hall.

With the \$40.00 GSI Funds we received we purchased some more "Bookmarks" advertising Square Dancing. Several clubs are utilizing the "Bookmarks" placing them in libraries, doctor offices and senior activity buildings.

Fort Walton Beach held a dance in August and invited the local paper to assist with advertising and promoting Square Dancing. There were (3) perspective dancers there and they were interviewed by the Newspaper (they stated they were having fun and really enjoying square dancing)! There were 3 Callers at this dance informing of the different dates they were offering classes.

Hope to see you at the 2012 Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention next May. Cheryl has a Mardi Gras Piñata that she takes to all the dances. We are sure as she travels outside of the Northwest area, you will have an opportunity to drop some change in it (actually, she robs your pockets for the change!).

If you are traveling through our area, we hope you will stop in and dance with one of our clubs.

- Southeast – Bobie & Carol Hutcheson

We're all excited about our December 11th Cookie and Toy dance, that is the dance were ALL the calories are removed by some mystery elf and we can eat all the cookies. Okay so it's not altogether true but we eat them anyway.

The toys show up in abundance and are collected and given to needy children. What a joy to be able to participate in this yearly.

We are having election of officer and swearing in ceremony on the same day, very busy time. We will once again have a full staff, we are so fortunate everytime we think no one will step forward, it happens. So we are still going strong.

Scotty Sharrer is continuing giving beginners classes, next one start on Monday Nights and Thursday starting Jan. 9, 2012 at Boynton Beach Civic Center. Offering the first night FREE. We are so proud of him, he and Marlene work very hard to get new dancers, after completion he continues with plus and we usually gain on or two squares.

The Snowflake Frolic is scheduled for December 11, 2012 at Boynton Beach Civic Center, come on down and join in the fun.

This will be our last report as Presidents we have enjoyed working with everyone and plan to keep promoting Square Dancing. We Angel with Scotty Beginner Classes on Mondays and plan to continue to encourage new and old dancers.

- FASSRD – Judy Frye
Our *Single-Rama Dance* that was held back on October 14th & 15th in Sebring, Florida at the Kenilworth Lodge was more than a huge success for us. Many thanks to a lot of the Federation board members. I think we are finally getting the news out that our dance is not strictly for the single contingent but open to everyone though out the State.

We had a wonderful program this year with Dee Dee Dougherty calling - and yodeling, she kept us hopping with her great abilities and unique choreography. Then we had Charlie & Leona Lovelace cueing with so many great rhythms from the ever pretty waltz's to the energetic jives. A really super two evenings of dancing pleasure and fun. Dee Dee even taught us some line dances at our After Parties, even more fun.

Charlie and Leona's round dance workshop/teaches on Saturday morning were very well received by a lot of dancers. And Dee Dee's afternoon workshop was a lot of fun too. FASSRD has already been asked to have all of these entertainers back for repeat engagements. It will definitely be taken under consideration.

Our dance in 2012 will be held over the week-end of October 26th & 27th at the same location, the Kenilworth Lodge, in Sebring. The Federation has agreed to hold their Fall meeting there which will be especially exciting for us since we have an extended program being planned that week-end. We have already lined up Tim Marriner who

will share his mike with Jack Lewis from Boynton Beach. And this year we will have two halls for dancing from Mainstream/Plus through Advance/Star “C” tips.

For our round dancers we have Joanne & Ken Helton who, as everyone knows, are terrific cuers and round dance teachers. So it will be another terrific week-end. Flyer’s are here as well as ribbons. Also, be sure to pick up some flyers to take back to your associations clubs. Help us promote this dance again as so many of you did during this past year.

And we will, again, have a vendor for your shopping pleasure.

14. Publication Reports

- The Grapevine – No Report

- West Coast Dancer – Ed & Ginny Henning

Good morning. I recall not too many years ago the West Coast Dancer contained 32 pages and we would print 3000 copies during the winter season. With printing and mailing costs rising rapidly we try to conserve space and money. Our present distribution is about 1500 and the number of pages has dropped to 24 or 28 depending on the amount of copy we receive. There is still no charge for the West Coast Dancer. We limit our contents to items pertaining only to square and round dancing. You will not see unrelated articles, cooking recipes or jokes, except for an occasional one liner. Also, the August / September issue has been eliminated. This has been an unforeseen blessing to my wife and I this year because she has fractured her spine in several places. This meant many doctor and therapy appointments over the summer including an operation. She had the relatively new Balloon Kyphoplasty procedure. If you are not familiar with it, two small holes are drilled into each collapsed vertebrae, a straw like tube with a balloon on the end is inserted between the fracture. The balloon is blown up gradually to restore the vertebrae to near original shape. The balloon is then extracted and bone cement is inserted in the cavity left by the balloon. The cement dries and hopefully you have a restored vertebrae. If you are smiling in disbelief, this is gospel. It is an outpatient procedure and has relieved her of most of the pain. With time and therapy, we think things are looking up.

- Keepin’ Posted – Jess & Fay Baker – No report
- Panhandle Press – Tim & Terri Wilaby – No report
- Bow & Swing – Bill Boyd

Bow & Swing is alive, well and having fun. Our paid circulation still hovers around 1200, with free copies sent to clubs and graduating students. We print your charity special advertising for free. This does not mean that we do not accept paid advertising, oh, no, that is our lifeblood, not only ours but any of the square dance magazines in Florida. Here I must stop and say, Florida has some of the best publications related to square and round dancing in the nation. If you don’t realize just how well Florida Dancers are kept informed on all of our activities, when you visit a National Convention, visit the publications display. Our regional periodicals are better than most of the other state and multi-state magazines. Support your local publications. Speaking of support, why do we pay for a hall, hire a special caller or cuer, make sure we have plenty of refreshment, and then print a hundred flyers and hope dancers will come. Take a few extra dollars and publish your dance in the

square dance magazines. Commercial's over. We want your newsletters, pictures, with or without captions. Most of all we want you attending our Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention. See you there.

14. State Convention Reports

- 2011 – Terri Little & Ailene Picheco
Well...it's over. And it was a success! Ailene and I are glad we had the chance to work together as Co-Chairmen of this convention. We are equally glad it is over!

Ailene and I were greenhorns when we started this effort. We made the smartest decisions at the beginning when we picked our Committee Chairmen. Once this was done, our worries were pretty much over. Overall, we ran into very little rough water, to keep up the Pirate analogy. There was an issue with one of the vendors, we had one dancer fall and we lost some important components to the stage decorations. Other than that, it was pretty much smooth sailing...thanks to our Chairmen and their committees. **GOOD JOB, EVERYONE!**

The individual reports that make up our Final Report tell the story. We have added "Notes from the General Chairman" to the end of some of these reports in an attempt to add our "two-cents worth".

There are a few things that we would like to highlight:

- Fashion Show – We chose to not have a fashion show for a few reasons. First of all, we had a hard time finding anyone who was willing to take this on. We asked a few people, but didn't have any luck. Secondly, we really don't have a venue that works for a fashion show. When we had use of the Arena, a fashion show was enjoyable because the spectators were able to easily see the show. When the participants and the spectators are on the same level (as would happen in the dance halls), visibility becomes an issue and the show isn't as impressive.

A future convention might consider a "traveling" fashion show or possibly a "living mannequin" fashion show. A traveling fashion show has the models walking around with placards explaining what they are wearing. A living mannequin fashion show involves models posing on a pedestal for a certain period of time, basically acting like a mannequin. These ideas may or may not be practical for a convention, but could be explored as possibilities for bringing back the fashion show.

- Rented Trailer – When we realized how much "stuff" we had to transport to Lakeland, we looked into renting a trailer. We worked a deal with our local U-Haul and got the use of a trailer for the weekend for about \$100. We spread the word to our different committees and managed to fill the trailer. The Decorations Committee and Sew & Save took the biggest advantage of this service. Our only regret is that we did not secure the door of the trailer

after picking up the decorations and the pirate flags that Angie worked so hard on were lost somewhere on US1 between Melbourne and Cocoa.

- Puzzle Books – At the last minute...well, the last month, anyway...we got this wild idea to have an “activities” book to hand out. We found a bunch of Word Searches, Word Puzzles, Crossword Puzzles and Logic Puzzles that were Pirate-themed. We picked the best of them and put them together in a small booklet. There were also some pictures of our kick-off and some Pirate-themed cartoons. We printed about 100 of these booklets and placed them in the food area on the tables. They must have been a hit, because we only got home with about 5 of the booklets that didn’t “disappear” from the tables.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those unnamed and unknown folks who pitched in when we weren’t looking or whose names didn’t make it to one of our lists. We are well aware that none of this would have worked if it hadn’t been for you. Please accept our thanks for your hard work and our apologies for our faulty memory.

- 2012 – Garland & Carole McKenzie
The planning for 2012 Convention is continuing. We have had representation at NW Round-Up, NSDCA Camporee, O’Leno, WC Fall Fun Fest and NE Fall Festival. We have been able to sell shirts and raffle ticket at most of the dances. Ribbon sales are extremely slow at this time but people are picking up registration forms. Some are even taking several registrations back to their clubs. We do have forms with us if you need some for your club.

October 16 we traveled to Lakeland to attend the caller's meeting and the Convention Programming session that followed. The programming committee did their best to give the dancers the best programming. We also programmed the Welcome to Our World sessions. Please tell people that we will be having a program for NON-dancers on Saturday and Sunday. There will also be special pricing for these Non-dancers.

The 3G Wireless Kindle was given away last night and the winner was Karen Allen. Our next fundraiser will be a \$500 CASH prize to be given away at the Convention on Sunday. Anita has a flyer and tickets in a packet for each Association.

After the Convention in May we were considering some space changes. When we got the final figures from the Convention Center, we decided that the small savings did now warrant the reconfiguring of the vendors that would have to be done. We did not get contracts signed in May but told the vendors that there might be a location change and they would be advised when we knew the final details. All the vendors were contacted the beginning of September and most have returned their contracts and deposits. We currently have 6 vendors with 2 more prospects. One of the 2 prospects is the photographer we had in 2006. He will also do videos of the dancing and they will be for sale at the end of the convention.

We met with Ken & Sue Brown last Sunday and discussed their plans for the After Party. Sue will have the invitations ready for the working weekend in February.

The caller/cuer survey is going well. However, we are getting little or no reporting from Central, West Coast and Southeast. If you hear a caller or cuer promote the Convention at any dance, please fill out a survey form and submit it. We are able to determine duplicates by the date and club or dance name so don't be afraid to submit your survey forms.

All of the Associations have been holding fundraising events for the 2012 Convention. Since the Kickoff, Northwest held (2) Fundraiser Dances to raise funds for the Convention; in June they held an "Ice Cream Social" and in September a "Benefit Dance with Recycle Clothing Sales". Northeast held a dance with a Spaghetti dinner in October. West Coast has been doing recycle sales.

Our Assistant Chairman purchased a "Mardi Gras Piñata" to collect everyone's loose change. It traveled to various dances to collect pocket change and bills. Did she hit you up for change at a dance? We broke the Piñata open last night. \$167.50 had been collected. We thank all those who contributed to the Piñata collection and attended all the fundraising events.

Now we have a Piñata for each Association to take to the various dances in their area. Let's see if you can also collect loose change and bills to support the convention. Will the President or a representative of each Association come forward to get their Piñata.

- 2013 – Paul & Cheryl Miller

We have been busy since last May. Ribbon colors were looked at (haven't ordered them yet), but we have chosen the colors. We held a "Kick-Off" rehearsal at the 2012 Recycle Clothing & Benefit Dance in Pensacola, and everyone was excited! I gave out information to each of the Association Presidents this weekend to assist with our "Kick Off". Recycle clothing that was left over from the 2012 Benefit dance was packed up and sent to Lorraine for E-Bay sales, a big "Thank you" to Caller Mike Gormley, Rita & Lance Baxter and Don & Ann Slocum for delivering the clothing for us. We receive a small check in the mail from West Coast for Recycle Clothing. Hurray!

We continue to collect recyclable toner & ink cartridges in the Northwest and this adds a little money to the bank.

We have both our Benefit flyers out and on the Federation website. The "Federation Working Weekend" Dance, please plan on attending this dance on February 11, 2012. Also, Central Association's "Party Weekend Fundraiser for the 2013 Convention" we look forward to seeing you there on April 20-22, 2012!

We haven't received our Contract with the Lakeland Convention Center yet, but we have budgeted for \$16,000.00. We will travel to the "Winter Festival" in January to

check out what they plan to do with their Vendors, to see if we could possibly duplicate this arrangement.

Our Registration Chairman and Co-Chairman both are ill and we received their resignation. If this is a position you would like to fill and you haven't committed to any of our other Committees, please join our team. Other positions we still need to fill are: Historian/Photographer; Vendor Chairman; Entertainment & Grand March Chairman and Advertising Chairman.

We have paid half of the building rental for the February Working Weekend Benefit Dance. **I would like to make a motion that the other half of the rental fee (approximately \$143.90) be paid by the Federation as we are sharing the building with the Federation meeting. Seconded by Ray Huddleston. The motion carried.**

- 2014 – Jenny & Penny Green

The major decisions have been finalized. The theme will be Diamond Jubilee. The Diamond is the gem for the 60th Anniversary. There is a lavender thorn less rose bush called Diamond anniversary so we have selected Purple/Lavender and White as the colors. Sam Dunn and Mike Doughty will be our caller and assistant caller. We are still looking for a cuer and assistant along with Secretary, Program Advertising, Ways & Means for Central, Southeast and Northeast Associations, Publicity, Grand March, and Singles. I have a signup sheet if anyone would like to sign up.

- Convention Facilities – Don & Ann Slocum

We are waiting on Brenda to finalize the 2013 contract. They were working on some new rental rates that were supposed to be finalized in October. I anticipate it to be in the \$14K or \$14.5K range with the reduced area of the Convention Center.

16. Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame – Penny Green

The Hall of Fame Committee this year is comprised of Bill and Mary Chesnut representing the callers, Bev Landwehr representing the cuers, Dewey and Donna Hendricks, Jerry and Donna Robey and I represent the dancers. I am serving as the chairman.

The Hall of Fame is a way to recognize callers, cuers, dancers, publishers, and vendors who have made an impact on square and round dancing affecting the majority of the state of Florida. An extensive nomination resume is to be submitted to the Hall of Fame Committee through the Board of Directors of each area association by January 15 of each year.

In addition to the Hall of Fame Committee, there is a Selection Committee which is a group of dancers, callers and cuers from every area of the state and both sexes are represented. The members of this committee are known only to the Hall of Fame committee and not each other.

This past year we reviewed the Selection Committee list and eliminated the names of those who no longer dance and have replaced them with new members.

The presentation is made at the state convention in May. The recipient receives a small plaque to keep and a larger plaque is installed at Strawberry Square Dance Center for public viewing.

The Hall of Fame Committee maintains a display of plaques and other pictorial records at the Strawberry Square Dance Center in Plant City. Mary Lee Van Valkenburg is our current custodian and she ensures the Hall of Fame is updated each year.

As part of this display, there is a plaque for each of the five area associations that shows the names of the dancer of the year for each association. Please ensure that you notify Mary Lee each year when you announce new recipients so that she can update your plaques. The Federation, Florida Callers Association, and the Round Dance Council of Florida are also asked to provide a headshot of their president each year to add to the respective boards which are also a part of the Hall of Fame.

17. Historian – Judy Frye

There has been no activity for the Historian since our last meeting at the Florida State Convention back in May 2011. Pictures I had taken at the convention and submitted to Bruce were of the Hall of Fame Awards and Extra Mile Awards. No association has sent pictures, at least to me, to be forwarded onto Bruce. Sandy Brasfield did send me some award pictures this past Friday. They have not been forwarded onto Bruce – time crunch.

18. USDA Report – Bud & Anita Taylor

Bud and I had the pleasure of attending the annual USDA Board of Directors meeting as one of the delegates from Florida. This was held at the Detroit National Convention on June 22, 2011. This was the 30th anniversary of USDA. They celebrated with 2 large cakes. I missed out on the raspberry one but the other cake was delicious. The meeting was very interesting and if you've never attended one of these meetings, we urge you to attend. The meeting is much like our Florida Federation meetings. I'm just going to hit on the highlights that concerned Florida. Each state received a USDA patch that is to be added to the banners for each state. The patch cannot be added to our current banner unless it's glued on, we've already covered that. Money was given by USDA to the Youth Scholarship Fund in memory of all the USDA members who have passed away since last year's meeting in June 2010. The amount was \$950. Shirley Nihart and Tom James were honored for their years of service. Shirley and Dave Nihart served as Treasurers for USDA for many years and Tom James worked for the handicapable dancers and used to have the display with all the USDA publications that was at the state convention and various other dances. Joy & Joe Vaccari were inducted as honorary members to USDA for their 30 years of service to USDA. They were instrumental in the inception of USDA 30 years ago. Congratulations to Joy. We had the very great pleasure of nominating Jerry & Donna Robey for the office of Vice President for the Central Region. The election of all the candidates was unanimous. Congratulations to Jerry & Donna and I know they will do a great job. They are an asset to the Florida Federation. In the box of plaques I found, there was a proclamation of the states that were the charter members of USDA and Florida Federation was among one of the charter members of USDA.

Val Newsome announced that the new USDA lead delegates are Roger and Linda Minard. Don and Ann Slocum have agreed to be the alternate delegates for 2012.

USDA VP Central Region – Jerry & Donna Robey

We were excited about being elected as the Vice Presidents of the Central Region of the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) at the annual USDA meeting in Detroit, Michigan on June 22, 2011. We are grateful to the Florida Federation of Square Dancers for nominating us for this position. Bud and Anita Taylor made the nomination on behalf of the Florida Federation. Since that time, we have contacted the presidents in the 12 states of the Central Region which extends from Florida to Michigan and our goal is to attend as many of the state conventions and special dances as possible. As representatives of USDA we set up our display of educational materials and make a presentation at the Federation meetings.

We are delighted to be able to represent USDA at these Meetings and to share the wealth of educational material that is available to square dancers as well as to be available to answer questions relating to USDA and its many programs; such as the insurance program, the youth scholarship program, the handicapable program which is chaired by Miriam James, and of course the travelers program which is chaired by Joy Vaccari and is very special to us since we have danced in all 50 states. We are excited to report that a number of area couples are now participating in the travelers program.

We are proud to be able to represent Florida as officers on the National Board of USDA and to report that we will be hosting the winter meeting of the National Executive Committee in Lakeland at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center during the Winter Festival this coming January. It is humbling to know we are following in the footsteps of Vaccari's (Past Presidents of USDA), James, Niharts, Haversbergers (Past Presidents of USDA) and McClesky all of whom served on the USDA National Executive Committee.

We are excited to report that USDA is now classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization retroactive to April 25, 2011. Thank you for your confidence in us to represent Florida along with Joy Vaccari and Miriam James.

19. USDA Insurance – Carol Poole
Report was given and filed for audit. There was an issue with approved signers for the Insurance checking account, but it was straightened out. **Cheryl Miller made a motion we add the Insurance Chairman and upcoming Convention Chairmen as Directors to the State Annual Corporate Report. This would allow accounts to be opened using the Federation tax number. Ray Huddleston seconded. The motion carried.**
20. ASCAP/BMI – Bob & Maria Spence
On June 17, 2011, following the FL State Convention, a check (#1046) for \$90.00 was sent to ASCAP to cover the music used at the convention. This money is paid from the convention funds. We are paid up to date with both ASCAP and BMI.
21. ARTS – Ailene Picheco
ARTS emails out information periodically about items that may be of interest to Square, Round and Traditional dancers. One of their recent emails mentioned the Square Dance Radio Network. They are said to provide “entertaining and educational programming to

promote and maintain the square dance activity.” And “delivers shows of common interest and general support to dancers, callers, and potential dancers.” If you like Talk Radio, maybe you would like this. You can listen to these interviews on the internet at: www.SquareDanceRadioNetwork.com

ARTS also sent out a news release recently to provide information about a new book released this year called, "Folk Dancing" by Erica Nielsen. She is a dance anthropologist. Erica wrote this book to help answer such questions as:

1. Where does square dance come from?
2. Why does contra dance have similar calls?
3. What's up with those crinolines and bolo ties?
4. What on earth should I get (fill in name) for (fill in celebration) this year?

The ARTS is supported by donations and Membership Dues. They need other sources to fund their goals and mission, which 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.”

In consideration of this, the ARTS Governing Board has designated the week of February 26 thru March 3, 2012 as "ARTS Benefit Dance Week". All clubs and other associations are encouraged to sponsor Benefit Dances to raise donations for the ARTS.

Here are some ways to donate to ARTS: Make a cash donation (from your club or association), become an ARTS Member, add \$1.00 to the admission fee for a dance, festival, and weekend and set it aside for ARTS, hold an ARTS Benefit Dance, add a codicil to your last will and testament, bequeathing funds to ARTS-Dance.

The 2012 Annual ARTS meeting will be held immediately after the 62th NSDC Pre-Convention March 4, 2012 in Oklahoma City, OK. The meeting will start at 9:00 AM, Sunday, March 4, 2012. Additional information and Agenda will be posted later. Please visit their web site for more information: www.arts-dance.org

22. Old Business

- Final Document Review – Elsa Huddleston reported that the Southeast Association was fortunate to have Zale Greenbane step forward and volunteer to act as President of the Southeast Association. However, since she is a cuer, there are some wording changes that need to be made to the Federation by-laws. **Elsa Huddleston made a motion to change the Florida Federation By-Laws Article IV Section 3 to read “President or their designated representative of the area association not seated on the Florida Federation of Square Dancers Board”. Don Slocum seconded. The motion carried.** Elsa will e-mail the updated documents.
- Convention Guidelines – The guidelines were updated with the information from the last meeting with the 20% rollover and the documents were sent to the Federation Website, but are not yet posted.
- Federation Nominating Chairman – The nominating committee consisted of Donna &

Dewey Hendrickson, Ken & Sandy Brasfield and Elsa & Ray Huddleston. The committee confirmed all board members are moving up as follows: Bob & Maria Spence, President; Jack & Barbara Hoffman, Vice President; Paul & Cheryl Miller, Secretary; and Bud & Anita Taylor, Treasurer. Penny Green has agreed to go on to the board as Parliamentarian. Elsa read the highlights of Penny's resume. There were no nominations from the floor. **Don Slocum made a motion that we close the nominations and accept the board as submitted by the Nominating Committee. Donna Robey seconded. The motion carried.** Val & Charlie Newsome made an "exit speech", thanked all of their board members and gave out "thank you" gifts.

23. New Business

- Installation of 2011-2012 Officers – Ken & Sandy Brasfield conducted the Installation of Officers. Bob & Maria Spence presented Charlie & Val Newsome with a thank you gift from the Federation Board.
- Extra Mile Award – Submit nominations to Bob & Maria Spence by February 1.
- 2012 Delegates List – Each Association must get their list of new or changed delegates to Barbara Hoffman by December 15.
- USDA Delegate – Anyone who regularly attends the National Convention should seriously consider volunteering to be a USDA alternate delegate.
- Other New Business – Carol McKenzie – During this year's programming of the callers for the 2012 Convention, the committee doing the programming tried very hard to use callers who would give the dancers the most enjoyment at their particular level of dance.

After the programming was completed the committee asked us if we would ask the Federation to do a dancer/caller survey to determine why our numbers are down for both the dancers and the callers attending the convention. They thought that if the dancers had some input into the programming, maybe they would be more apt to attend. With the help of other convention chairmen past and future we developed this sample questionnaire that we thought would give us some insight to the reasons our numbers are down and asking the dancers who they would like to see programmed during the evening sessions in the hall that they predominately dance in.

We have passed out a proposed list of questions on the survey. Since we printed that out there have been a couple of additional questions about workshops or intro programs, Winter Festival attendance and do they attend dances other than their home club.

To do this we could put a link on the Federation Website so that the survey can be submitted electronically. Since we want to get as much input as possible and know that there are some dancers that do not have a computer, we would have to send the survey to the publications and ask the people to turn in their paper copy (if they do not have a computer) to the President of their association or a designated representative for forwarding to the Survey Tally person by a specified deadline.

Carole McKenzie made a motion for the Federation to approve the conduct of a Dancer/Caller Survey to facilitate the future Convention programming. Rita

Baxter seconded. Discussion followed concerning asking an impartial party to actually conduct the survey to keep it as impartial and fair as possible. The motion carried. Keith Stevens agreed to work with Carole McKenzie on this project.

24. Announcements

- Next meeting will be at the Working Weekend which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 11&12, 2012, at 9 am at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave, Bartow, FL 33830. The Federation meetings will be held in conjunction with the Benefit Dance for the 2013 Florida State Convention, which will be held on Saturday evening at Bartow Civic Center 7-10 pm. Host hotel is the Stay Inn Motor Lodge, 1035 N Broadway Ave, Bartow, FL. Call before February 1, 863-533-0711 or 800-424-7011 to make your reservations.

25. Motion to Adjourn – So moved!

Respectfully submitted,

Jack & Barbara Hoffman
FL Federation Secretaries - 2011