

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Quality Inn & Suites, Orlando, FL
Saturday February 28, 2015 – 9 a.m.

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by President Anita Taylor at 9:03 a.m. at the Quality Inn & Suites in Orlando, Florida.

2. Invocation: The Invocation was given by Walt Syphard.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Penny Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call: The roll call was made by Dennis Taylor. On the roll call FCA was changed to Bob Poyner. There was a quorum.

5. Introduction of Visitors & Guests: Susan Snider.

6. Minutes of October 26, 2014 Meeting: Correction, the October minutes should have had the October Financial Statements included instead of the May Financial Statement. Motion by George Knapp, *and seconded*, Don Slocum, that we accept the Minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Elsa Huddleston pointed out that her motion in the May minutes was wrong.

I would like to make a motion to amend something previously adopted. The minutes from the May 25 meeting regarding my motion to shorten the working weekend to one day were very incomplete. Currently, the minutes state as follows:

Elsa Huddleston moved that the working weekend be reduced to one day. It was decided that the working weekend will be reduced to one day. Motion made that we change the working weekend to one day which would be the last Saturday in February. Motion passed.

The motion that I made and was approved at that time is as follows:

I moved that the annual working weekend be reduced to a single day with the breakout meetings immediately following the morning meeting; then after the lunch break, the wrap up meeting would resume for the committee reports. The meeting would be held on the last Saturday in February. Motion passed.

She made a motion to correct the minutes. Seconded by Linda Tester. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer's Report: Ray Huddleston

The reports are below. Ray Huddleston said that the reports will be filed for audit.

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
TREASURERS REPORT

October 21, 2014 -January 31, 2015

BEGINNING BALANCE - ALL ACCOUNTS

Wells Fargo Checking Account (as of 10/20/2014)		\$
Insurance (as of 09/30/2014)		\$
Wells Fargo CD 2 (as of 10/20/2014)		\$
SAVINGS ACCOUNT (as of 10/20/2014)		\$
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TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF 10/20/2014 \$

WELLS FARGO CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance \$

RECEIPTS

From 60th FSSRDC	\$
2015 Dues - Northwest	\$
2015 Dues - Southeast	\$
2015 Dues - West Coast	\$
Interest	\$
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TOTAL RECEIPTS \$

DISBURSEMENTS

Penny Green Copies for Sect (check # 1562)	\$
Jenny Green Secretary Expense (check # 1563)	\$
Anita Taylor-Cards, gift, books, copies, badges (1564)	\$
Cheryl Miller - Copies (check # 1565)	\$
Bow & Swing ad (check # 1566)	\$
American Square Dance ad (check # 1567)	\$
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$

Checking Account Ending Balance \$

WELLS FARGO CD

CD 2

Beginning Balance		\$
Transactions		
Interest	\$	
Ending Balance		\$
		<hr/>

CD Ending Balance

\$ _____

WELLS FARGO SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance

\$

Transactions

Interest

\$ _____

Savings Account Ending Balance

\$ _____

ENDING BALANCE - ALL ACCOUNTS

01/31/2015

Wells Fargo Checking Account (as of
01/31/15)

\$

Insurance (as of 01/31/15)

\$

Wells Fargo CD 2 (as of 01/31/2015)

\$

Savings Account (as of 01/31/2015)

\$

CURRENT TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS

01/31/2015

\$ _____

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis & Nancy Taylor
Treasurers

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
CONVENTION FUND

TREASURERS REPORT

October 20, 2014 - January 31, 2015

BEGINNING BALANCE

Convention Fund Checking Account

\$

OTHER ASSETS AS OF 10/20/2014

61st State Convention Loan

Seed/Lakeland Dep

\$

62nd State Convention/Lakeland
Center

\$

TOTAL OTHER ASSETS

_____ \$ _____

TOTAL ALL ASSETS AS OF

05/21/14

_____ \$ _____

LIABILITIES

Florida Callers Association	\$
Round Dance Council of Florida	\$
Florida Federation of Square Dancers	\$

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ _____

CONVENTION FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 10/20/2014 \$

RECEIPTS

None \$

TOTAL RECEIPTS _____ \$

DISBURSEMENTS

None \$

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS _____ \$

CONVENTION FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE 01/31/2015 \$ _____

OTHER ASSETS AS OF 01/31/2015

61st State Convention Loan Seed/Lakeland Dep	\$
62nd State Convention/Loan/Lakeland Center Dep	\$

TOTAL OTHER ASSETS \$ _____

TOTAL ALL ASSETS AS OF 01/31/2015 \$ _____

LIABILITIES

Florida Callers Association	\$
Round Dance Council of Florida	\$
Florida Federation of Square Dancers	\$
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AS OF 01/31/2015

\$

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis & Nancy Taylor
Treasurers

8. Parliamentarian Report: Paul & Cheryl Miller

We have responded to a request from the 64th National Square Dance Convention for 1 table for our Florida display to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts on June 24-27, 2015. **A NEW EVENT** for 2015 will be “Live” booths each morning from 10 a.m. to noon. They are asking that all participants, be at your tables so the dancers have people to talk to first thing as a way of sharing our organization and information with everyone.

The best part of the Showcase is the trading of pins between the participants and the dancers who stroll through the displays. Pins, stickers, pens, pencils, are just a few of the items that are swapped between people. With the new “Live” event each morning, the supply will be at its best before the trading items are gone later in the day. We have approximately 321 Florida buttons, a lot of little alligators & oranges, Florida maps & Visit Florida magazines for our table and will not need to purchase anything this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul & Cheryl Miller

9. Sunshine Report: Penny Green

Get well cards were sent to:

Lance Baxter who fell on the pickle ball court and broke his hip. He’s home from the rehab center but still recuperating

Caller Sharon Short and her life partner, Ken Ward. Both are dealing with various health issues.

Dewey and Donna Hendricks. Dewey had hernia surgery and Donna is having some health issues.

Doug & Sharon Waldren who were involved in a serious car accident on the way to Caller Bob Ellis’s celebration of life.

An anniversary card was sent to Bob and Ann Poyner for their 50th anniversary.

Thinking of you cards were sent to Patti Wilkerson who lost her husband, Caller Dan Wilkerson, due to an apparent heart attack.

Nancy Ellis who lost her husband, Caller Bob Ellis, due to a heart attack.

Charlie and Val Newsome on the loss of their sister-in-law.

Penny announced that Caller Chuck Meyers died.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny T. Green

10. Correspondence: Anita Taylor

Thank you card was read from Frank Habersberger. He also included some pictures. All correspondence will be in the secretary's documentation.

11. Florida Caller Liaison: Dave Muller

Dennis Taylor read the following report which was received from Bob Poyner.

I just found out that Dave Muller can't make the meeting as he is in Lake Wells and can't get to the meeting that early. I'm, sorry, but we will not have anyone to represent the Florida Callers association. The only thing I would have to report would be that all of the callers that I have talked to are happy about the 30 minute spots instead of the 50 minute ones from last year. The 30 minute spot gives us a chance to use more callers and gives the dancers a chance to dance to more of the qualified callers. I for one, was very happy to see how Bill Chesnut did the programming. I look forward to calling at this years convention. I know that Bill has had a few cancellations and they were for good reasons and he got the spots filled and I have signed off on the program. I don't know of any other work that we are doing that would need to be reported at this time. We had one of our callers passed away this year. Dan Wilkerson passed away on Jan 14, 2015 and his funeral was Jan 20, 2015. You may use this as my report if you would like to.

Thanks, Bob Poyner

President, FCA

12. Florida Cuer Liaison: Tim Wilaby- No report

13. Association Reports:

Central – Ailene Picheco

With the decrease in clubs, it is difficult to find places to hold our 5th Saturday Dances. With fewer dancers, the halls are smaller and not equipped to hold many squares. Our 5th Saturday dances have been well attended though. The Central Florida Callers make it a thoroughly enjoyable dance.

I do not hear from any of the clubs to know if they are holding lessons or how many students they have. It is hard to get contact information for the clubs also.

On January 15, Dale McClary, caller for the Palm Bay Promenaders, celebrated 50 years of calling. He and his wife Carolyn called for the Wagon Wheels in St Cloud for many years. They also traveled to several places overseas during his time in the service.

They had many memories to share.

Our annual Shamrock Swing is just around the corner. It is being held at the Elks Lodge in Titusville on March 20 and 21. Mac McCall from Virginia and Jack Lewis from SE Florida will be calling. Dick Nordine is cueing. According to the chairmen, there will two full days of workshops and dancing starting at 10 am in the morning both Friday and Saturday, with three halls open.

Lunch will be served at the dance hall both days as a fundraiser for the 2015 State Convention. This leaves more time for dancing.

Our Party Weekend in April will be a relaxing fun time and also benefit the 2016 convention.

We are dancing Friday night and Saturday night, with Bingo on Saturday afternoon.

Come join us if you can.

Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco

Northeast – Pat McMillan

Northeast is busy as usual. Last time we met, October, 2014, we had to leave very soon after the meeting started due to our bus transportation driver. We sincerely regretted that that had to happen.

Northeast stays in full recruit /retention mode. We have attended three club graduations since January 1st, 2015 resulting in 14 new dancers. We are very excited with the early graduations. In 2014 we decided to offer the clubs an additional \$100.00 for a second graduation. Three clubs took us up on our offer and we graduated an additional 22 new dancers, 1 ¾ squares, bringing our 2014 new student dancers total to 87.

As of January 1, 2015 we have retained 50 dancers or 57% of those new student dancers. We are working on newer/more/different ways to retain all dancers. We have 6 of 11 clubs reporting approximately 47 student dancers currently taking lessons. Most of the clubs are on board with our recruit/retention mode. (The additional \$100.00 for a second yearly graduation may be a part of the reason). We all understand the lifeblood of square dancing is recruiting and retention.

Lamar and I embrace the fact that achievement takes purpose and diligence. For 2015 we again will strive for that magic number of “100” new student dancers. We almost met our goal of 100 dancers for 2014. We were 13 dancers short. We are very fortunate for strong leadership within the clubs. We can and do work together cheering each other on sharing ideas, planning trips, parties, and dinners.

Almost every club held a “special” dance in 2014. From “Chili cook-offs” to “The President’s Ball” ideas and themes for dances were wonderful. All special dances were well attended. We seek out the new dancer at our club dances. We speak to every person there. **Every person.** We feel this is very powerful. Words cannot express how wonderful it makes a person feel for someone to come over and say “I am so glad you came tonight. It’s so good to see you.” We also try to incorporate the new club members by inviting them to join us in club duties and functions. A couple of examples are “opening/closing” a dance or joining us at the quarterly Delegates Meeting. We have learned over the last two years of our presidency that most people will respond positively if they are asked/invited. Some actually volunteer before being asked.

Best of all we all continue smiling, eating and dancing together. This is what we truly think square dancing is all about. One for all, all for one.

Hope to see you on the dance floor.

Respectfully,

Lamar and Pat McMillan Presidents
NEFSARDA

Northwest: Kay Schmidt

Hello from Lower Alabama! All is well in Northwest Florida.

At our 1st Quarter 2015 meeting, NW Association delegates voted to approve the changes that have been proposed to the Federation Documents.

Since our last meeting there have been some really FUN DANCES in the Panhandle. Rivertown Squares held a Christmas in Dixie dance at the Altha Community Center in Altha Florida. Chris Burchfield was the featured Caller. The Annual Blue & White Ball was held in early January at Grand Square Hall in Panama City. Darryl McMillan was the featured caller and Sandy Sturgis was our Cuer for the evening. Seaside Squares held their Annual January Shine dance at Ragon Hall in Pensacola in mid January. Ted Kennedy was the featured Caller & Terri Wilaby the Cuer for the evening. The NW Callers & Cuers held their annual Sweetheart Swing at Grand Square Hall in Panama City in early February. It was a rousing success. We have such wonderful callers & cuers in NW Florida. The Canoe Squares held their 30th Anniversary on February 21, 2015 @ Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Kevin Cozad was the featured caller and Terri Wilaby was the evening's Cuer. Most of our NW Clubs are currently holding Basic, MS & various RD classes. They have some really good students and everyone seems to be having fun. It is our objective to actively promote Square, Line & Round Dancing in the Panhandle in hopes of growing our Clubs.

Our 2nd Quarter NW Association meeting will be held in early April at the Spring Fling which is being held at Grand Square Hall in Panama City.

As usual, one or more of the Northwest Clubs dances every night of the week and there are fun dances almost every Friday night at Ragon Hall in Pensacola and other sites in our area. No matter where you are this month, get out and dance!!!! If you are in the Panhandle, come see us. You can also join us on Facebook @ (Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association) if you like. See you in Lakeland at the 61st State Convention!

Alec & Kay Schmidt, President

Southeast: Steve Adler

To keep this relatively brief, I will refer to our previous report, where all the activities mentioned – dances, classes, etc. are in full swing. Attendance has been especially good at Scotty Sharrer's beginner's class and Jack Lewis's advanced class – both at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. Joanne and Ken Helton have also been running round dance classes at the same facility. Joanne and Ken must be doing a fine job as I have seen how much better some of their students are dancing!

We celebrated Al Brundage's 95th birthday at the Castoff dance on November 7th. It was indeed a fun dance. An article and photographs were in both the Bow and Swing and The Northeast Square Dancer.

We have held two SEA dances since the last report – our "Toy and Cookie" dance on November 30th in Hollywood and our annual fundraiser, the "Snowflake Frolic", on February 14th (which just happened to coincide with Valentine's Day, so we celebrated the absence of snow in a loving fashion). We collected more toys than ever at the Toy and Cookie dance. They were distributed by ChildNet, an organization that coordinates services for children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned and their caregivers in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The Snowflake Frolic was held in the auditorium at Briny Breezes and hosted by the Briny Breezes Square and Round Dance Club. Jack and Scotty were the host callers and Joanne the host cuer. As my mother and grandmother would have said: "A grand time was had by all". I would also like to note that the Briny club opened its 67th season of dancing on January 7th with Jack

calling and cueing. If that isn't a special enough treat, we (I'm a member of the club) also enjoyed ice cream and cake provided by Sally Galik. The inscription on the cake read: "Celebrating Briny's 67th Year of Dancing".

Membership in the SEA now stands at 89 – a high for recent years. I must also mention one problem that we are having with hall rentals. The communities that we have dealt with now no longer recognize a "not for profit" organization as being eligible for a 50% discount in rental rates. You must be "non-profit". This makes a typical rental financially out of reach for us. Additionally, previously many also let us pay a certain, relatively small, percentage of our gross. This, too, is no longer available to the SEA – and is probably related to our not-for-profit status.

Finally, one logistics note – Jack's Hollywood Squares Advanced Dance on Saturday nights has moved back to the Polk Street Shuffleboard Center.

Steve Adler, President

West Coast: Penny Green

Despite our lack of volunteers to fill positions in the West Coast Association, we continue to maintain our status quo. Against my better judgment, I took on my third term as president because we couldn't get anyone to fill the position. We still don't have a secretary, Sunshine Chairman, or Lee County (Ft. Myers area) Rep so I am also trying to fulfill the duties of the secretary and Sunshine Chairman. I approached the Suncoast Callers & Cuers about filling county rep positions and was able to fill two of them. Caller Ron Reardon and his wife Sue, and Caller Marty Vanwart and his wife Marian volunteered to be co-representatives for Pasco County (Zephyrhills) and Caller Mike Gormley volunteered to be a representative for Glades County.

We made several changes in an effort to garner more interest in filling positions i.e. reducing the number of meetings, going to an electronic newsletter so we don't have to get together to collate and fold the newsletter, and not requiring every officer to attend every membership dance. We were meeting twice a year but the dancers seemed to start losing focus about the West Coast Association so we are going to start meeting once a quarter. We are also going to meet at Strawberry Square prior to a Saturday night dance in the hope that more people will attend the meetings since they will be centrally located and they have an excellent dance to attend after the meeting.

Since our last meeting we have lost several callers and cuers:

Caller George Varney retired due to cancer

Caller Bob Ellis retired and then about a-month-and-a-half later died from a heart attack

Caller Sharon Short has retired

Caller Art Springer retired at the end of 2014

Cuer Karen Fisher retired at the end of 2014

Caller Dan Wilkerson died of an apparent heart attack in January

And we continue to lose clubs: Ding-a-Ling Squares in Riverview, Sun-N-Fun Squares in Sarasota, and Twilight Twirlers in Bonita Springs. Bay Area Twirlers (BATS) in Brandon have announced that after 52 years their last dance will be their Biker Bash on May 9th. Cloverleaf Leprechauns of Brooksville have notified me that they are having problems so I don't know how much longer they will be dancing.

Our last membership dance was held in Lake Wales. The Suncoast Callers & Cuers had their annual clinic led by Ross Howell the same day and location and as part of the clinic they came in and called for our dance so Ross could evaluate their calling abilities. There was a female caller there who was from Iowa but drove six hours from the Keys to attend this one-day clinic. She called a tip and joined the West Coast Association that afternoon!

For the past 20+ years, we have danced at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. This year we had 236 dancers and 10 callers and three cuers. This was a considerable drop in attendance as we had close to 300 dancers last year.

The Polk Senior Games will be held in Lake Wales on Monday, March 2nd. The competition is at 1:30 p.m. followed by a free dance from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Keith Stevens will be calling and Carl Rod will be cueing. We have participated in this event for over five years.

Our 41st annual Fall Fun Fest will be held in Bartow November 13th – 14th with Tim Marriner and Ross Howell calling and Jimmy and Carol Griffin cueing. I have ribbons with me if you would like to purchase yours.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny T. Green, President

14. Publication Reports:

The Grapevine (NE): Bill Morgan No report

Keepin' Posted (C): Ailene Picheco

The January issue of Keepin Posted was printed and mailed late. It did not go out until Feb 1st.

There are only 100 issues being mailed which is not enough for bulk postage. Therefore, at the last CFA board meeting it was voted on and approved, that beginning with the October 2015 issue, copies will be sent by email unless notified otherwise. If a person/couple does not have email, the books will still be printed and mailed.

Our membership is down as many use Bow & Swing for club and dance news. Keepin Posted is published primarily for the Central Florida Association clubs and contains news and information pertinent to that area that clubs and dancers may want to know about.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco
Editor, Keepin' Posted

Panhandle Press (NW): Terri Wilaby No report.

West Coast Dancer (WC): Ed Henning

Dennis Taylor read the following report from Ed Henning.

Good Morning:

The West Coast Dancer is still being published quarterly to the Web Site. Since it is a quarterly, very often we would like to print the Ads for Special dances being held for the benefit of the State Convention or any other benefit event. Many times they are received too late for the present issue or even its revision which is usually a month after the initial publication date. I try to monitor each Florida Association Web Site but most often have the same result.

I also like to print photos of Association and Club activities and welcome any that come along. Your caption or mine, no problem.

Since we are no longer restricted to black and white copy, I'd like to bring as many items as possible to their original color and have done so with club icons and some of the figures in the advertising copy. If there are any items that I didn't recolor I'd like to know.

I think that is all I wanted to mention.

Respectfully submitted - Ed Henning

Bow & Swing: Bill Boyd

Bow & Swing is alive, well and still having fun with its monthly publications. Yes, we still publish your fund raising events at no charge. However, you must send the information and ask us to do this. Several times in the past year, someone has said "I saw it in your list of events in the back but you never gave us the free ad". Did you ask? No I just thought you would do this automatically. Now to a new subject. I used to think I was preaching to the choir when I mentioned our Florida State Square and Round Dance Festival and our group participation when promoting this event. This month's editorial in Bow and Swing relates heavily on this subject and I am going to use my time to remind you of what we as a group used to do. At every dance, every festival, every square or round dance event. We would mention our state convention. We didn't even have to identify it as the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention, it was just "the convention." How long has it been since you talked about your club and how many members will be at the convention? How many clubs or associations are planning a special party after the dance or for a special lunch. Am I preaching to the choir? We are the driving force behind our own success or failures and I think that it is time we started acting like the dancers and promoters that I think we really are.

Respectively submitted and off the subject.

Bill Boyd

15. State Convention Reports:

2015 Convention: Jack and Barb Hoffman

Well our countdown is getting close and we sure don't have the number of dancers registered that we wanted, (only a little over 100 as of this writing). Everyone tells us that square dancers don't buy green bananas and to expect registration to be at the door. It is getting a little scary about now, but at least we have most of the convention rent paid.

With all that has transpired in our home over the past six months we have kind of let the ball drop. Thank goodness we have a lot of good Directors. We want to thank everyone for all the help they gave us at the many dances we were unable to attend plus the ones we did get to attend. We are now almost back in full swing and trying to get caught up. If anyone knows of anything we have not done that should be taken care of please let us know.

We are still selling chances on the Quilt. If you haven't gotten yours yet (or need more) be sure to see Barbara or one of our Ways and Means Directors. It is a beautiful quilt which any square dancer will be proud to own.

There is still a good supply of shirts. So please help us make them disappear by buying one.

We have flyers available for the Trail End Dance. Make sure when you are talking to people about the convention you tell them about the Thursday night dance at Strawberry Squares. This year we are asking people to come as their favorite movie star or character. They don't have to, but we thought it would be fun to have some of Hollywood attending the dance. There will be a special prize for the best man and lady.

Bruce is getting the program book put together so if anyone is wanting a meeting during the convention or has anything that needs to go into the book please get with us sometime today.

I think our Party Director has something she wants to give each of you, so make sure you see Jenny Green before you leave. Ailene our Program Book Advertising Director is collecting any ads or personal ads that you have to go into the book.

In closing we want to ask each of you to get out there and beat the bushes and get those dancers up and headed to Lakeland and The Hollywood Scene May 21st to the 24th. We want to have a great Production but we need the dancers.

PS Barbara says thanks for all the get well cards, phone calls, and face book messages.

Respectfully Submitted
Jack & Barbara Hoffman
Producers 2015 Convention

2016 Convention: Kathy McKinney, Linda Tester, & Diane Syphard

Since the last Federation meeting, we have been preparing for the Benefit Dance this weekend. The Northeast Ways and Means Asst. Chairman, Joan Amarino has ordered and received our convention shirts. Joan has also ordered and received our buttons to sell this weekend. Now all we need are BUYERS!

We met with our Caller Chairman, Charlie and Sarah Beth Pergrossi on January 31, 2015. We finalized our plans for our Kick-Off. We need a representative from each association to make sure their association is aware of our plans. Each association is requested to design a "Station" representing their Theme. It will be used in the Kick Off and as a main decoration for the room they are decorating. To review these themes and rooms they are as follows:

Northwest – Gingerbread – Mainstream Hall

Northeast – Peppermint – General Hall

Central – Chocolate – DBD Hall

West Coast – Bubble Gum – Advance

Southeast – Lollipop – Rounds

At the Winter Fest, we met with Randy and Carol Poole and they presented us with 3 AWESOME Cupcakes to use for the Kick Off and the Plus Hall decorations. It was a lot of work and we appreciate it more than we can say!

We met with a committee, chaired by Ray & Elsa Huddleston, to discuss the pros and cons of having a 2 day convention. We as Chairmen, highly desire this option be tried in 2016 & 2017.

Our next pursuit is to ask everyone to support the Party Weekend that the Central Association has planned in April. Details are on the Federation website and we have flyers to be distributed.

Respectively Submitted,
Jack & Kathy McKinney
Walt & Dianne Syphard
Linda Tester

2017 Convention: Ray and Elsa Huddleston

We are really thrilled over the positive comments we've been getting for our theme and logo: Dance to the Beat with Happy Feet! And of course the logo will be a penguin.

We have some good ideas for the kickoff and have started collecting snack-type recipes for the booklet to be sold as a fund raiser. Please email either to me or to Terri Little, the cook book chairman. Some of your snack recipes, such as cookies, cakes, dips, etc. are needed.

We are pleased that we have chairmen for all the committees, and just recently we had someone from the Southeast express interest in the Vendor Chairman slot.

We have not had a meeting yet, but I plan to schedule one for next month during the Shamrock Swing.

We have had several major roadblocks regarding opening a bank account. We went to six or seven different banks, and all have basically the same requirements. In order for us to open an account under the Federation umbrella, the entire board must sign authorizations at their respective Wells Fargo banks. When that has been completed we will then open the convention account. Therefore, at this time we are requesting the \$3,500 seed money.

Ray and I will not be able to attend the convention this year. It is the first one we will miss in over 20 years, but our grandson is getting married that Saturday night in Georgia.

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
2017 Convention Chairmen

2018 Convention no chairman TBA

16. Facilities: Don Slocum

Contract for this year's Convention is set. I will need the room layout by April 24th to give to the Lakeland Center. Future contracts are pending the decision on 2 or 3 day Conventions. This will be discussed later today.

Respectfully Submitted

Don & Ann Slocum, Facilities Chairman

17. Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame Bev Landwehr Nothing new to report.

18. Historian Records: Terri Little

Shortly after our last meeting, I sent the pictures from the installation of the Federation officers taken in Niceville in October to Bruce Morgan to be put on the Federation website.

I still have received no pictures from any other Florida organizations.

Pictures can be sent to me at islandmom74@att.net or directly to Bruce at brucemorgan@embarqmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Little

19. USDA Report: Paul and Cheryl Miller

The USDA held their winter meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia on January 24-25. As of that date they have not received the required six applications for submission for the 501(c)(3) Group Non-Profit Exemption Program. As the USDA has committed to the \$3000.00 one-time IRS fee for application, it is in their best interest to make the application with at least six organizations. Currently, Florida, Minnesota and Colorado, have begun making the necessary changes to their governing documents, with several other organizations expressing an interest in the program.

Should the USDA be unable to obtain the required six organization; they have researched the following options for organizations to be able to obtain the 501(c)(3) Group Non-Profit Exemption Program: The Country Dance and Song Society, Inc. (CDSS) based in Easthampton, Massachusetts, currently operates a Non-Profit Group Exemption program – which is one of the programs that the USDA is currently trying to operate. The basics of the CDSS program require that the group (which could be a USDA Affiliate) be a member of the CDSS with an annual group membership fee of \$85. Membership in the Country Dance and Song Society requires that members “...*subscribes to the general purposes of The Country Dance and Song Society, Inc.*” In addition, to participate in their Group Exemption – members must pay a \$125 non-profit group exemption application fee and pay a \$75 annual non-profit group exemption fee in addition to the \$85 annual CDSS membership fee.

I believe that it is in our best interest to submit our application with our revised documents to the USDA and look for an update at the upcoming USDA meeting to be held in June 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul & Cheryl Miller

20. USDA Insurance: Carol Poole

The Webmaster, Bruce Morgan, & I completed the updating of the forms on the website. The Association Presidents emailed me the formal name of their association and I checked on the Federation's proper name. I am asking everyone to use the forms now on the website so we can be uniform on the names. Once they are downloaded and copied, we shouldn't have any problems. If you find any errors, please let me know so they can be corrected. The clubs should be sending in their roster on the proper form and signing it. We are still getting blank forms signed and "see attachment" on the form. The Association Chairman has been retyping the roster but the signature is still on the blank form. I've been cutting and taping the signature on the form then copying it to send to the USDA Insurance Director. I don't feel comfortable doing this. The roster does not have to be typed. Handwritten is fine but must be legible. No address is needed only the name.

There are several things we need to correct. This year nearly everyone was slow including me. We went to Atlanta for twelve days over Christmas. Only two clubs came in during that time! There were only 14 clubs renewed before we left. The insurance expires on December 31. Twenty-one clubs renewed in January & five the first week in February. When there is a New Year's Eve dance, the club needs to get their renewal in several weeks before. Several clubs had to be held waiting on other clubs to enroll because they did not pay for all of their dancers. They were listed on the Insured Through Another Club Form which requires the club name, city and state if the club is not in Florida. This year the USDA Director held some of these clubs until she could verify all of the dancers. I hold the clubs and send them in at the same time whenever possible. But, sometimes the club enrollment has already been mailed. The insurance company was very slow in getting the certificates back to us and some required retyping because of errors. Many clubs are forgetting to add their Additional Insured information. If a hall or school requires it one year, they want it the next year, too. When a club needs a certificate in January or even early February, they need to enroll just as soon as they have eight people. Additional dancers can be added later on the Additional Enrollment Form.

I've sent this report to the five association insurance chairmen and I'm hoping everyone in this room will pass this information to their club insurance person.

The Insurance Financial Report is on the next page.

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Insurance Report February 28, 2015

Beginning Balance	September 30, 2014		\$
Income			
	Central	\$	
	Northeast	\$	
	Northwest		
	Southeast		
	West Coast	\$	
Total Income		\$	\$
Expenses			
	USDA Insurance	\$	
Total Expense		\$	
Ending Balance	January 31, 2015		\$

As of February 10, 2015		CLUBS		DANCERS
	Central	11		468
	Northeast	14		350
	Northwest	1&9		231
	Southeast	1		70
	West Coast	8		238
Total for 2014	2 Associations	42 Clubs		1357

Submitted by Randy & Carol Poole
Federation Insurance Chairman

21. ASCAP/BMI: Bob and Maria Spence

The 2015 **ASCAP** bill of \$123.00 was paid by Bob & Maria Spence on January 20, 2015.

The 2015 **BMI** bill of \$155.00 was paid by Bob & Maria Spence on January 27, 2015.

The bills have been forwarded to Dennis Taylor for reimbursement from the 2015 Convention Treasurer.

Squarely yours,

Bob & Maria Spence

ASCAP/BMI Chairs for the

Florida Federation of Square Dancers

flspence@earthlink.net

22. ARTS: Ailene Picheco

ARTS is promoting a new logo



and slogan.

“ Live Lively - Square Dance ”

The image was designed by Zackery Turner, an artist in Medford, OK. It portrays an updated and modernized image of dancers. It has the square and circle in the background and the dancers shown could be square dancers, round dancers, or contra dancers. Also, various color schemes could be used. The Square Dance community is encouraged to use this slogan and logo on all Square Dance publications, flyers and ads.

There is more information on the ARTS web site: www.arts-dance.org

The next ARTS meeting will be Sunday, June 28, at 9:00 am in Springfield, MA. immediately after the 64th National Square Dance Convention.

Submitted by Ailene Picheco

for Jerry Reed, Executive Director, ARTS

23. Old Business:

Revision to Federation Documents -

We presented the necessary changes required to assist with our application for the USDA 501(c)(3) Group Non-Profit Exemption Program. The Federation Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution required that each Association present these changes to their membership for approval. I would like to ask the Federation President to query each of the Associations for result of their voting at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul & Cheryl Miller, Parliamentarian

Bid for 2021 National Convention –

At the October 24, 2014 Federation meeting, President Anita Taylor appointed an exploratory committee to continue researching the possible location for a National Convention to be held in Florida in June 2021. Our committee was invited to meet with Brittany Callahan (Visit Tampa) and Marissa Hoffman of the Tampa Convention Center on February 6, 2015. We were very impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism we received from these individuals. Due to the time restrictions of our working day meeting, we would like to request 30 minutes at the upcoming Federation meeting to be held in Lakeland on May 24, 2015 to re-present our presentation on the possibility of Florida hosting the 70th National Square Dance Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul & Cheryl Miller, Committee Chairman

24. New Business:**Special Exploratory Committee 2 Day Convention –**

The convention exploratory committee met on Saturday, February 7, 2015, with the following present: Linda Testor, the McKinneys, the Hoffmans, the Slocums, the Millers, the Syphards, and the Huddlestons. The purpose was to discuss the pros and cons of reducing the number of convention days from three to two and to make a recommendation to the Federation.

I received only two responses to the email sent by Anita Taylor to all association presidents requesting them to poll their dancers for comments regarding this issue. I verbally summarized both responses. The majority of the dancers polled were in favor of reducing the number of days to two. Although I did not receive a response from Central, the Hoffmans said most dancers were in favor of keeping the convention at three days. The Slocums said the West Coast was in favor of two days. We discussed these comments and other important factors relating to dropping a day.

After much discussion, it was the agreement of the committee to recommend that the Federation consider reducing the convention to the Friday and Saturday prior to the Memorial Day holiday with the trail-in dance on Thursday. It is also recommended that this change be considered a trial basis for 2016 and 2017. It is recommended that we all pay close attention to the dancer comments regarding this change.

Although our charge as a committee was completed as above, other factors were also discussed, and I am including them here for information purposes only.

1. Opening ceremonies, introduction and awards would be held on Friday night.
2. The kickoff for the upcoming year would be held on Saturday night.
3. Eliminate the Grand March.
4. Discount or discontinue free ribbons to workers.
5. Programmed callers be given 10 ribbons each to sell at pre-registration prices.
6. The possibility of a free hotel stay be considered for the caller selling the most ribbons.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray & Elsa Huddleston

Linder Testor made a motion that for the next 2 years the Florida State Convention will be for 2 days only. Don Slocum seconded.

There was considerable discussion concerning this matter. The results of the voting were 14 votes for a 2 day convention and 13 ½ votes for a 3 day convention.

Contract with FCA & RDC

The FCA sent out a survey to 66 members with 36 responses being received. The response was 35 for a 2 day convention and 1 negative. The RDC reported that they would go which every way the dancers wanted.

25. Committee Assignments and time and meeting locations were announced. Everyone was encouraged to attend one of the committee meeting. Committees are to bring back a report after lunch. We are to reconvene at 3 PM.

Break for Committee Assignments & Lunch

Afternoon wrap up Committee Reports

1 .Call to Order: Anita & Bud Taylor

2. Committee Reports

a. Association Presidents & Square Dance Insurance Penny Green/Carol Poole

In Attendance:

Penny Green, Presidents Chairman

Randy & Carol Poole, Insurance Chairman

Lamar & Pat McMillan (Northeast)

Ailene Picheco (Central)

The committee met in the lobby of the Quality Inn.

Northeast was asked to share the things they are doing to recruit all the new dancers. The following ideas were shared:

Pat created a chart(s) with the all the club members and how many people they anticipate recruiting for the class. At graduation the chart comes back out showing how many actual dancers they recruited. This gives each dancer goal of how many people to recruit for the class.

Upon graduation of a class, NEFSARDA pays the sponsoring club \$100 with no minimum of how many are graduated.

First two weeks of the class are free and on the third night they have a potluck dinner.

When the new dancers graduate, they are given a free pass to the next 5th Saturday dance

Some other ideas that were discussed were:

If a club brings two squares to the Florida convention, they get \$100 to the club for recruiting new dancers

One caller in Central is giving 12 weeks of free classes. At the end of the 12 weeks, they start paying.

Penny Green

Presidents Chairman

Then the Insurance Chairman reviewed a list of points.

Chairman: Randy & Carol Poole, Central

Attendees: Central: Ailene Picheco

Northeast: Lamar & Pat McMillan, Wayne & Debbie Miller

West Coast: Penny Green

Other than getting new dancers, the club insurance is the most important thing a club can have. Very few club presidents or dancers ever attended the insurance breakout meeting. Since the insurance is now combined with the presidents we changed our format. We started by asking for questions. The main topic was club accident reports and claims. These were discussed in detail. Clubs are responsible for the initial reporting. Club leaders should carry an accident report with them. An insured club member that is injured while visiting a club that is not insured needs to notify their club

of the accident as soon as possible. The club accident report is sent to the association insurance chairman. From there it goes to the Federation Insurance Chairman who sends a claim form to the injured dancer.

We passed out the following hand out with a dozen insurance items we reviewed and answered questions as needed.

We need to use the appropriate USDA forms. These forms are found on the Floridasquaredance.com website and have the heading for each association.

Class Roster must have a beginning and ending date. The class is for new dancers and is insured for not more than nine months.

Every form sent in should have the complete Federation name, Association name, and club name. No abbreviations.

Any form mailed to us should be sent in triplet because we must forward two copies to the USDA Insurance Director.

If it does not require money, it can be emailed. Please use a format that I can correct should I see an error.

The club roster must be signed by a club officer that he/she verifies that every club member is insured.

Clubs should check with the hall for the correct information on the insurance certificate. Check to see if they want to be named on the certificate.

Please proof read your work.

Checks should be made out to the Florida Federation NOT to USDA or Carol Poole.

Encourage your clubs to enroll sooner rather than later.

Handwritten forms must be legible. An injured dancer does not want a problem because we sent his name in as Dan when it is Don.

Make sure the dancers names are spelled correctly. We have paid for several people twice this year.

Mostly, because the name is spelled differently or they use a middle name and a first name at two different clubs.

The financial records were audited by: Pat McMillan, Debbie Miller, Lamar Mc Millan and Wayne Miller. A small problem with reading my twos and sevens!! (possibly, their eyesight!) The records were correct.

Randy & Carol Poole,

Florida Federation Insurance Chairman

b. Finance: Ray Huddleston

Ray Huddleston presented the following Proposed Budget for 2015.

PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS

	2014 Actual Expense	2015 Pro Budget
INCOME		
Association Dues (5 @ \$50 each)		
State Convention Profit – 2015		
Internet Reimbursement from 2015		
Grand Square Inc. (GSI) from Winter Festival		
Interest		
TOTAL PROPOSED INCOME	\$	\$
EXPENSES		
President		
Vice President		
Secretary		
Treasurer		
Parliamentarian		
USDA		
Corporate Tax		
Honorariums		
Historian		
Badges		
Miscellaneous		
New Dancer Promotion (GSI Funds)		
Back up Disks		
Welcome Station Brochures		
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENSES	\$	\$
TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT)	\$	\$

c. Public Awareness, Publicity, SD Preservation, History & Education Cheryl Miller

Cheryl Miller-NW, Chairman
 Shirley Knapp, Central
 Don Seay, NE
 Jenny Green, WC

Dr. Linda Wasserman, Central
 Julie Franciskato, NE
 Betty Smith, NE

Judy Anderson, Central
 Shirley White, NE
 Ann Slocum, WC

This committee came up with some great ideas, suggestions and enthusiasm covering our committee topic.

Newspapers: Utilize the calendar events for dance event, classes, special dances, benefit dances. With the benefit dance for a charity, invite the “human resource editors” to the event, everyone likes a humanity article and you would be publicizing “Square Dancing” and when these people see your “Classes being offered” it could encourage people to come to your classes.

Facebook, Twitter; Utilize these Social Media to keep Square & Round dancing in the conversations. Bruce Morgan suggested that every club should have a Facebook page. Post positive comments; had a great time with my friends, looking forward to our new class. Class enjoyed our ice cream social, etc. Link your Facebook page with the Florida Federation of Square Dancers Facebook page. We need to get the word out what fun square & round dance is.

Empty Nesters, sponsor a High School or Middle School event to attract future “Empty Nesters” to have something to look forward to keep them busy after the kids go off to college.

Non Square Dance Groups or Churches, encourage groups you may be in to come to attend a class. Have a square dance caller & dancers to attend a group function and assist with entertainment. Let the audience participate and show them what fun it is to dance in a square with friends.

After School programs; Purchase instructional videos that square dancers can teach kids to square dance, explain to the program manager that this is a fun way to get kids to exercise. Parents may become involved with their children, but this could also lead to a “Youth Club”. Host a special dance for the “School Program children” invite their parents & siblings.

Our final discussion was in regards to the Florida Federation purchasing “business cards” utilizing the new ARTS-Dance logo. These cards would be provided to each of the Associations to give to their clubs; a design that would advertise the Federation website along with each of the 5 Associations contact information. I would like to pursue this designing and present a sample at a future Federation meeting. We believe that by producing these business card advertisements, dancers could be at any location and be able to direct people to learning to Square dance.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Miller, Committee Chairman

d. Showcase Of Ideas Cheryl Miller

Cheryl Miller-NW, Chairman
Dr. Linda Wasserman, Central
Ann Slocum, WC

Debbie Miller, NE
Judy Anderson, Central
Jenny Green, WC

The Committee reviewed their Association’s panels (section of the State Display). Each Association panel has: 8x10 “Tourist Attractions for their area”; 4x10 “Community Services”, the Association participates in; 4x6 photo album to display pictures of members, dancers, special dances, etc.; and an 8x10 flyer advertisement for their upcoming Association dance. Each of the Associations were sent home with their photo album to update and must bring the album back, along with any update or changes to their “Tourist Attractions, Community Services”, etc. to be updated on Friday

afternoon, May 23, 2015 at the upcoming State Convention. The display panels will then travel to the 64th National Convention for display.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Miller, Showcase of Ideas Chairman

e. State Convention Procedures: Jack & Barbara Hoffman

The Convention Procedures Committee met at the Quality Inn at 1:30 PM in the meeting room. The following were in attendance:

Jack & Barbara Hoffman (C) (Chairmen)
Jack & Kathy McKinney (NE)
Bruce & Colleen Morgan (C)
Charlie Newsom (NE)
Elsa Huddleston (SE)
Paul Miller (NW)
Walt & Diane Syphard (NE)

After some discussion, it is recommended that the Convention Procedures not be modified until after the 2017 convention when the decision to either continue the two day convention or go back to a three day convention is made. In the meantime everyone should be reviewing them for possible changes due to that change. Do this keeping in mind that the procedures are “guidelines”, not “rules”.

At the same time we recommend that sometime in the near future, if the two day format is retained, we consider swapping the working weekend and the convention dates, but not have the working weekend on the Memorial Day weekend, but some other weekend in May or maybe even June.

We also recommend we continue calling it the “Working Weekend” due to the fact it is held on Saturday which is a weekend day.

Respectfully Submitted.
Jack & Barbara Hoffman

3. Announcements

Next meeting at the Lakeland Center, on Sunday morning, May 24, 2015 at 9a.m.
Barbara Hoffman gave directions to dance this evening.

4. Motion to Adjourn – Elsa Huddleston

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy & Dennis Taylor
Secretary