

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Ramada Inn, Lakeland, Florida
Sunday, May 29, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order by Penny Green at 9:00 a.m.
2. The Invocation was given by Bill Reid.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dennis Taylor.
4. The roll was called by Elsa Huddleston. There was a quorum.
5. Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Joann & Ken Helton, Ed & Lynda Willis, Bill Chestnut, Louis & Angie McClure, Earl & Carol Collins, Patti Wilkerson, Susan Snider, Lloyd and Ruth McKenrick, and Jim & Jan McConnaha.

Louis McClure, Chairman of 2021 National Convention in Atlanta, said the Atlanta area is getting new dancers, classes are continuing and clubs are growing resulting in their ability to host a national convention. He thanked everyone for their support and hospitality.

7. Minutes of February 27, 2016 – Elsa announced a small correction to the visitor list on the Minutes of November 22, 2015. Don Slocum moved minutes be accepted as corrected. Motion carried.
8. Financial Report

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers
TREASURERS REPORT
January 31, 2016 - May 20, 2016**

Beginning Balances - All Accounts (1/31/2016)

Wells Fargo Checking Account
Wells Fargo Business Savings Account
Wells Fargo CD 2 (Renewal Date 9/18/2016)
Insurance

Total all accounts as of 1/31/2016

Wells Fargo Checking Account

Beginning Balance - (As of 02/26/2016)

Receipts

Interest (February-April)
62nd FSSRDC-Reimburse Website

Total Receipts

Disbursements

Check #1586-R. Huddleston (Secretary Expense)
Check #1587-D. Taylor (V.President-Delegate Books)
Check #1588-Whirl & Twirl (Federation Benefit Dance)
Check #1589-Patty Ping (Delegate Badges)
Check #1590-D. Taylor (Reimburse Corporation Fee)
Check #1591-Patty Ping (Delegate Badges)

Total Disbursements

Wells Fargo Checking Account Balance

Wells Fargo Savings Account

Beginning Balance - (As of 1/31/2016)

Receipts

Interest (February-April)

Total Receipts

Wells Fargo Savings Account (As of 4/30/2016)

Wells Fargo CD 2 (Renewal Date 9/18/2016)

Beginning Balance - (As of 02/26/2016)

Interest

Total Receipts

Wells Fargo CD 2 (As of 5/16/2016)

Ending Balance - All Accounts

Wells Fargo Checking Account (As of 5/20/2016)

**Florida Federation of Square Dancers Convention Fund
TREASURERS REPORT
February 26, 2016 - May 20, 2016**

Beginning Balance February 26, 2016

Convention Fund Checking Account

Receipts

62nd Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention

Total Receipts

Disbursements

Total

Disbursements

Convention Fund Checking Account Balance

Other assets as of 5/20/2016

63rd Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention Loan(Seed Money)

Total other assets

Total all assets as of 5/20/2016

Liabilities

Florida Callers Association

Round Dance Council of Florida

Florida Federation of Square Dancers

Total Liabilities

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Miller, Federation Treasurer, 2016

9. Parliamentarian – Linda Tester

The Showcase of Ideas has been updated and is ready to go to the 65th National Square Dance Convention in Des Moines. A preview of the Showcase of Ideas was on display during the SWEET 16 62nd State Square and Round Dance Convention. For the National Convention, we will have Florida maps, plastic alligators and oranges forgive-a-ways. I have made arrangements to have the Showcase of Ideas transported and set up in Des Moines as I will not be able to attend.

A special **THANK YOU** goes out to Dianne Syphard for updating our Square Dance guy doll by making his vest. Our Square Dance doll couple is now right up there with the other Square Dance Couples of the Year.

A minimal amount was spent for supplies to update the Showcase of Ideas.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Tester

10. Sunshine Report – Dennis Taylor said a sympathy card was sent to Penny and Jenny Green for the loss of their mother/grandmother, and a get well card was sent to Sherry MacGregor. Please sign a card for Ken Brown who is in the hospital.

11. Correspondence - None

12. Florida Callers Association Liaison – Bill Chesnut reported for Dave Muller and said the callers enjoyed the 2016 convention and look forward to 2017. He said the callers are very pleased with the turnout in the halls. Chris Phillips, the previous caller assistant chairman had a prior commitment for the new convention date so Bill Chesnut agreed to replace him. Bill said most classes are not completed until May so callers are going to try to speed up classes or set the mainstream bar a little lower.

13. Round Dance Council of Florida Liaison – Susan Snider

Things are going well at the Round Dance Council. I am writing this before the convention and I hope that things went well there.

Recent events surrounding the change in dates for the 2017 and beyond State Conventions make me feel the need to make a statement. Important issues will need to be considered over the next few months and it is my sincere hope that we can work together as a team allowing all the groups to be heard and have a chance to participate in the decision-making process. I realize that there has to be a mechanism for breaking a tie but letting 2 of the 3 groups decide and informing the other group of the decision is certainly a slippery slope. As square and round dancing currently stands we must work together.

Susan also said she is proud of the Round Dance Council with an excellent turnout of teachers and dancers. There is a major concern about date change since the RDC had no input.

Every effort should be made to come to a consensus where everyone can have a say in what goes on. Since this was a slippery slope, she said everyone should come together to express their concern and input.

Other major concerns were that the round dance floors were terrible. They were so slick and/or sticky that dancing was difficult. This issue needs to be addressed in the future. Next year's Lakeland Center renovation is a strong concern. Round dancers will not dance on carpeted floors.

14. Association Reports:

A. Central – Ailene Picheco

What a "SWEET" 2016 Convention! Thank you Kathy, Dianne and Linda. And all the people who worked so hard to make it a success.

As most of you know, the Shamrock Swing has been discontinued. We have replaced it with Party Weekend. (Which is already scheduled for next year.) This is a great opportunity for square dancers to get together, relax and have fun in a casual atmosphere. We square dance, play bingo for "fabulous prizes", eat more food than we should, Play board games, outdoor games, wander around the woods looking out for bears, and move from one spot to another hoping for cell phone reception. So, bring your families. Even if you don't dance, there is fun for everyone.

Our April 5th Saturday dance was held in Ormond Beach.

A big Thank You to the Granada Squares – Denim and Lace club for the fantastic food selection. And a sherbet punch.

The Yellow Rock Squares from Daytona Beach were our special guests. They did a demo tip for us and enjoyed dancing in our squares all evening.

CFA donated a generous amount to their club, and we also passed the hat, so their members could attend the National Handicapable Convention this year in Tampa.

The A-Stars in Port Orange have started an Advance class. There were more than a square of new dancers and also some dancers coming back to refresh their skills.

Bob Stern had a C1 class in Belleview over the winter, and will continue that dance when the snowbirds return in the fall. His Advance dance will continue all summer, except for a couple short breaks.

And he is starting a new Advance class in the fall.

Other clubs in the Ocala-Leesburg area are holding on. Several clubs will close over the summer with the hope that they can get new dancer classes started in the fall.

Granada Squares has several new dancers, and the Space Trackers class is starting the Plus moves.

Canaveral Squares has a Cued Ballroom Class/Dance every Wednesday in Rockledge. There are about 8 couples at this time. The club also plans on starting a new Square Dance Class in August.

Our next 5th Saturday Dance is planned for July 30th at the American Legion hall in Pine Castle, south of Orlando. This will be our President's Ball and the new board will be installed.

Have a great summer and Keep Dancin'
Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco

B. Northeast – Jack & Kathy McKinney

We in Northeast Florida have been celebrating many club graduations! This is one of the best ways to regain your enthusiasm. If you have felt a little tired out, new dancers will rejuvenate you immediately! I hope they all went to the state convention to enjoy the dancing they have persevered to learn!

I am sure you have put your feet up for a little while to rest after such a FUN FILLED State Convention. THANK YOU to our staff for putting on such a GREAT Convention! Words cannot express just how appreciative we are for ALL the support we received.....especially from our dancers in the Northeast!

Speaking of an awesome amount of support...we want to thank the Officers of the Northeast Florida Square and Round Dance Association! I am sure most clubs saw a LOT of M&M's and Black & White visits these past several months! These Board Members went over and above to spread the welcoming to the clubs in NEFSARDA! Whenever you see one of the officers, PLEASE tell them Thank You for their dedication to our Association! Jack and I personally want to extend a warm THANK YOU to the Officers!

Don't rest too long. Because I just know you are hunkering to travel to the Nationals and we hope you do! Remember to spread your Square Dance enthusiasm all along your way! Personal contact is proven to be the best way to enlighten others of our blessed activity! Once you get to the Nationals...you will surely be delighted with an overwhelming amount of Square Dance FUN! Bring back your experiences to your club members. Maybe next year they will join ya!

After returning from the Nationals, vacations, or just your regular dancing routines....please mark your calendar for July 29th and 30th ! The Northwest Association's Round Up will be taking place in Tallahassee this year instead of Valparaiso, which is half the distance for us! And better yet.... Our own Susan Snider is cueing!!! Elmer Sheffield is calling along with a Live Band! You DO NOT want to miss this one!!!

Enough about out of town dances.... One of the very BEST is right here in our own association. The Fall Festival! This year it is a Bountiful Barn Dance, chaired by Don & Sherry

Macgregor! It will be at the same location, Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach, Nov 18 & 19, 2016. Caller, Ted Kennedy, Cuer Sandy Sturgis. You really don't want to miss this one...BUY your tickets NOW!

IN CLOSING.....An extended THANK YOU one last time from,
Kathy McKinney, Dianne Syphard, and Linda Tester
for all the support from the Northeast Association for a "Sweet" Convention!

C. Northwest – Alec & Kay Schmidt

EXCITING NEWS...Many of the Clubs and their Callers located in NW Florida are conducting Basic & Mainstream Square Dance Classes right now! The Cuers in NW Florida are also conducting various Round Dance classes at several different locations in the Panhandle. We are all working hard to increase the awareness and recruit new dancers to our Clubs. We all know what a fun activity Square & Round Dancing is and we want to continue to share it with others. We are always thrilled to have new dancers complete their classes and join our ranks. We need to encourage them to dance regularly and also become Angels for our new classes.

There are many FUN DANCES coming up in the Panhandle during the next quarter. The Dancing Dolphins held their 4th Anniversary Dance on Saturday afternoon May 21, 2016 from 2 PM to 5:30 PM at St Simons Episcopal Church in Ft Walton Beach. Roy Bernier & Berlon Graham will be the Callers. We all enjoyed the 62nd Florida State Convention, "SWEET 16", over the Memorial Day weekend. There will be a Billy Bowlegs Pirate Dance at PASARDA Hall in Ft Walton Beach on Saturday, June 4th, 2016 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Miriam Merriwether will be the Caller/Cuer. Miriam said to wear your Pirate garb if you dare!

Looking ahead to July, there will be a Jamboree on July 16th at Ragon Hall in Pensacola. Rob Baird is the Caller & Fran Keller is the Cuer. The NW Association will be holding their 42nd Roundup on July 29 & 30 at the Tallahassee Senior Center in our Capitol City of Tallahassee. Elmer Sheffield of ESP Records and Dave Mueller will be the Callers and Susan Snider & Mark Fetzer will be the Cuers. We hope you will join us and help celebrate our 42nd Roundup! The Flyer can be viewed on the Florida Federation web site, floridasquaredance.com.

On a more serious note, the Northwest Association is facing a crisis later this year. There are three board members, President, Vice President & Treasurer, who will be vacating their positions at the end of 2016. Our President has agreed to stay on the Board and run for Treasurer to replace Dave Henn who will be stepping down after 14 consecutive years of yeoman work on our Board. Our current Secretary has agreed to stay on the Board in the same capacity. That leaves us in search of President & Vice-President. Our nominating committee has been diligently canvassing the NW Association membership but to date have found no willing candidates.

As usual, one or more of the Northwest Clubs dance almost 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!!!!

Alec & Kay Schmidt, President
Northwest Association

D. Southeast – Steve Adler

For the most part this report will be about what's to be rather than what has been. You can refer to recent issues of the Bow & Swing for what has been – and it has been a fun year.

To be – actually recently started – is a new advanced club – the A-Jacks by Ilene and Jack Lewis. This club is the outgrowth of Jack's now-completed advanced workshop and meets Monday afternoons at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. Marlene and Scotty Sharrer held the graduation for their "Club 50" workshop at the end of March. Several of the participants are continuing to attend Marlene and Scotty's mainstream leading into plus workshop. This workshop meets Monday evenings and is followed by a Happy Squares plus dance. Since both the workshop and dance meet at the Boynton Civic Center Monday evenings, we have the opportunity to work on advanced calls in the afternoon and be angels in the evening.

Mainly due to the flight of the snowbirds, Briny Breezes and the Sailfish have ceased dancing for the season. However, as far as I know, all our other square dance clubs will be meeting throughout the summer – except, possibly, when our callers and cuers take some much-needed vacation time.

On the round dance side – Zail Greenbain will continue to conduct her round dance classes Wednesday evenings in Delray Beach throughout most of the summer. Joanne and Ken Helton will not be holding their round dance lessons during the summer. Their lessons will resume in November at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. If anyone is interested, they are offering the opportunity for private or semi-private lessons throughout the summer. They will also be traveling to other venues to enhance their skills and learn new dances for when their lessons resume.

We have several notable events scheduled starting in September. The Southeast's first dance of the season, its Membership Dance and Ice Cream Social, will be Sunday afternoon, September 18th, in the Briny Breezes Auditorium. All the Southeast dances will again be at Briny Breezes and hosted by the Briny Breezes Square and Round Dance Club. Come December, we will have two New Year's Eve dances. One will be held at the River Walk Center in Fort Pierce featuring callers Scotty Sharrer, Gib Mattson, and Mike Doughty. Mary and Chuck Ryall will be on rounds. The other will be at Briny Breezes with caller Jack Lewis and Joanne and Ken Helton on rounds. The last dance that I would like to bring attention to is the Southeast's "Snowflake Frolic." In the past it has been a benefit dance for the Southeast Association. This time it will be a benefit dance for the 2017 Convention. Jack and Scotty will be the host callers; Joanne and Ken the host Cuers.

Finally, a plug for my local club. Briny will open its 69th season the first week in January. We meet Wednesday evenings in the Briny Auditorium with Jack calling and cueing. There will be both plus and advanced tips as well as higher level early rounds.

Steve Adler, President
Southeast Association

E. West Coast – Flo Ormsbee

All of the club dances and functions that we have been to since the last Federation meeting have been very successful. I only have one person who faithfully sends a weekly report after every single dance to let me know how the dances go; she also does email announcements for other clubs within her own report. I have asked other club representatives to keep me advised but that has not happened yet. I cannot visit all the clubs all the time due to other activities but Bob and I make every effort we can to show up where we can

The Promenade Squares Club where Bob is the club caller recently graduated 4 people and the graduation was quite a nice affair. They were present at the Beginner's Ball that was held on March 19, 2016 and had a fun time. The Promenade Squares Club will be closed down during the summer a few times for floor repair, etc. but their President Donna Huard and her Executive Board have plans of banner raiding every club they can during the time they will be unable to use their own facility. The club picnic they had on April 9, 2016 was a huge success and a silent brown bag type auction was held during the picnic which netted the club approximately \$115-\$120 for their treasury. A great time was had by all. We have been unable to go to Sun City Center due to Bob's working hours until at least mid-May which should slow down then. All the clubs have had classes and more are in the works for the summer months at Strawberry Square in Plant City to begin in early June, 2016.

The WC provided an indoor picnic for the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association which was held at Strawberry Square on April 17, 2016. We had a good turnout and the food was catered by Sonny's in Plant City. Since that particular picnic is usually held closer to Mother's Day and this year was held a month earlier the caller's wives and the cuers were each given a beautiful potted plant which is perennial which means that they should keep blooming from year to year.

Secondly the WC Association awarded the \$1,000.00 square dance scholarship this year to Anna Brown who has joined the West Coast Association and has met all the requirements for the scholarship. We are planning a presentation at the State Convention to award her scholarship in May, 2016.

By the time this gets printed the Trail End Dance will be part of 2016 history and we will be going to "ice country" for the 2017 Penguin Convention. Can't wait to see everyone again at the convention. New blind couple very active members.

Remember to **LIVE LIVELY AND SQUARE DANCE....**

Flo and Bob Ormsbee
WC Presidents 2016

Square Dance Campers – Don McGregor

We had our annual meeting recently. We would appreciate Don Slocum expressing our concern over the camping facilities on the convention site. About 100 campers come to the convention, but there are no reasonable priced camping facilities on site. Snowbirds take up all the campground facilities in the area. We would like to take a section of the convention parking lot, but facility wants \$40, and right now we are paying \$20 at a different facility. There are approximately 20 or 30 rigs which means about 100 people. Don Slocum will attempt to negotiate a lower fee on the convention facility. Camper sites are about 8 – 10 miles from convention center. Campers are probably willing to drive about 30 minutes.

All camp once a month and enjoyed it immensely. The annual camporee will be a Medieval theme.

15. Publication Reports

A. Bow & Swing – Bill Boyd – No report

B. Grapevine (NE) – Bill Morgan – No report

C. Keepin' Posted (C) – Ailene Picheco

Most members get their copy by email. Many request a printed copy be mailed to them.

All club copies are mailed. I try to make each issue interesting. When I took over, I started an article each quarter called "Blast from the Past." The articles are taken from the beginning issues in the 1980's that are posted on line. They have been very interesting. Many articles written then are the same concerns we have today.

How to get dancers. How to retain dancers. Nothing seems to have changed.

I am still looking for club articles, ads and any interesting information to put in the magazine.

Next issue is due out July 1st.

Respectfully submitted,
Ailene Picheco
Editor / Publisher

D. Panhandle Press (NW) – Tim & Terri Wilaby – No report

E. West Coast Dancer – Ed Henning

The WC Dancer started posting its newsletter to its Web site on October 2013 as a quarterly issue. The only major change has been the reduction of Ad fees. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage more participation from our dancers. We could use more pictures of club activities, more club news and of course more Ads. Last, but of concern to me, is observance of the Deadline. So often items come in that have missed the time when I could have squeezed in a new piece of information but the issue had gone to posting.

Some dancers have been printing copies of the whole Dancer or just the pages that are of immediate interest. If you have a printer capable of printing two sides of a sheet this is no problem. One click to Print and you should get it all. But, if you have a one side printer, this takes a little time and effort. I have a system that works for me and ends up giving me a book with all sheet printed on both sides. If anyone is having this problem, they can contact me and perhaps my method is adequate for you.

Thank you, Ed Henning, Editor

16. Convention Reports

A. 2016 – Kathy McKinney, Diane Syphard, Linda Tester

2016 Florida Federation Square & Round Dancers Convention Report – May 29, 2016



DONE!

Jack Hoffman requested bills send as soon as possible.

B. 2017 – Ray & Elsa Huddleston

The dictionary describes the word, JINX as a type of curse placed on a person or event that makes them prey to many minor misfortunes and other forms of bad luck. I wrote that before our kickoff last night!!! Obviously, things are much much better!!!! But, hey, we've learned over the last few months not to sweat the small stuff. Is the date change "small stuff"? But when we've needed help the most, you've all been there for us! And that means a lot!

With the date change, we really had to scramble! And handling Federation Secretarial responsibilities at the same time was a double whammy! So many things had to be replaced with the new dates and logo. And then because of the date change, we lost our Assistant Caller Chairman. Chris Phillips had to honor a prior commitment he had in March. We were very fortunate and grateful that Bill Chesnut stepped in quickly to fill the position of our Assistant Caller Chairman.

The date on the T-shirt logo could not be changed! But, as someone said, and I quote in part "...When coins are misprinted they become very expensive collectors' items. You can bill your shirts that way."

We're not sure what's going to happen regarding the hotel rooms since there will be baseball tournaments during the March 24-25 weekend and the room rates are very high, but hey, we will all do the best we can to make the 63rd convention a success!

As we go forward this year, we have a major hurdle already behind us...the kickoff! That's been our focus for the last few weeks and things went fine and I think everyone enjoyed it!

Now I just have to get my head wrapped around the fund-raisers and which ones we can sell raffle tickets for and when they will be drawn and what more flyers need to be made.. The first one was drawn last night, and a caller won the \$200. The next one is the framed penguin pictures which will be drawn at the West Coast Fall Fun Fest in November. Our third raffle will be \$500 cash.

The Southeast has volunteered to donate their entire profits from their Snowflake Frolic to the 2017 convention! What a great gesture of support! We hope to see all of you at this dance on January 28, 2017. The callers are Jack Lewis and Scotty Sharrer, and the cuer is Joanne Helton. Please come and help support the 2017 convention! I have flyers here for all of you. Thanked Wassermans for mural and recording which will be on the Floridasquaredance.com website.

And now we enter the world of penguins as we **DANCE TO THE BEAT WITH HAPPY FEET!**

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
2017 Convention Chairmen

C. 2018 – Lewis & Linda Wasserman

Lewis and I went down to the Lakeland Center and spoke with Brenda. The center is very flexible and is willing to work with us. With advance notice we could change our convention to when the snow-bird are here with no problem. As Randy already told the group, hotels are at least 30-50 dollars more during the snow-bird season and some hotels would not have as many rooms available.

When we were down to talk to Brenda she did not tell us about the carpet. (She did say that the exhibit hall may not be available the whole weekend because they are doing graduations.) This is a problem.

I am ordering 10 pairs of special shoe covers for dancers to try out on carpet. I suggest that we have some trial square in the future. It is not the same as dancing all day on carpet but our round dancers and square dancers can hopefully tell us what they think. This brings us to if our dancers want a hard floor, Daytona's convention center, and Kissimmee have space that could be rented, and the fairgrounds have buildings that can be rented all which have a hard floor.. The prices were about the same as Lakeland, nothing cheaper and Lewis and I stopped looking, because there are many reasons to stay in Lakeland if we can't get cheaper space. In 2014, 54 people came from zip codes in Lakeland, it is centrally located, the event space is nice, and the area is safe. The hotels are cheap and local businesses have supported us. And as everybody has said, the convention center has been very supportive and has worked with our community. Renting wood floors is expensive. I did not do a full investigation. It is around 1.25 dollars a square foot for a wedding. We probably could get the 9000 square feet we need for dance floor, for between 1- 2 dollars a square foot, not counting set up. This may be optimistic.

We did go to a hotel in Orlando that has enough carpeted space. I am not saying we should leave Lakeland I just want to know our options. The hotel is near Universal, they have a free shuttle to Universal and slightly discounted tickets. So guests at the hotel could come in a day early or stay late and go to Universal or Citywalk. Memorial day weekend Friday – Saturday hotel rooms would be 129 dollars with tax, Saturday -Sunday if we change to the weekend would be 119 dollars a night plus tax. Guests of the hotel have in and out parking for \$10 a day. Parking for non-guests is 12 dollars a day, but it is not in and out parking. There are many places to eat in walking distance. They would allow us to use the convention space with enough rooms for all events for 8,000 dollars. They will give us the space free with 100 rooms, but we must cater in 8,000 worth of food. Hotel food is more expensive but we could give tickets for two catered lunches for the people who take hotel rooms to offset the price. March (Snowbird time) the rooms are 159 dollars, but same deal.

We only looked one place and did not go into details so there may be more cost. So that brings us to the survey. What do the square dancers want? How much are they willing to pay? Currently, admission tickets don't even cover the hall costs. The committee has made minor adjustments, and we can continue to do that until the convention does not have the events people come for-advanced round dance, advanced square dance because we have to cut down on rooms. (Other possible adjustments- no decorations, paper wrist bands and no ribbons, no after party, no dangle dances, or just less dance time, only one day.) Each of these are nibbles. The biggest fund raiser is selling old dance clothes on the internet- which over the next few years will decrease- people are dancing casual at most clubs. Four to five hundred people getting together is still a good number of people. Everybody has their opinion. Our plan

is to survey people who come to the dance and see what the people who make the commitment each to come to the dance think. Then try to get as many dancers to do the survey, with on line access, Bow & Swing, and personally bringing surveys to dancers. We will try to get the opinions of all the square dancers. Decisions will have to be made before our dance. But before we sign another contract with the convention center, we should have the opinions of all the square dancers in Florida, snowbirds and non-snow birds.

Linda and Lewis Wasserman

D. 2019 – TBD

E. 2021 (National) – Bruce & Coleen Morgan

The Florida National Convention Bid Committee has run into a brick wall.

On March 2 – 5 of this year, Randy & Carol Poole along with Colleen & I attended the 2017 National Square Dance Convention Pre-Convention Meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio. While at these meeting we learned a lot about the National Convention and what is really required to put on a National. We met with John & Dimple Williford, one of our NEC advisors and were informed that Don and Cheryl Pruitt would be our second NEC Advisor Couple. While attending the Pre-Convention Meetings, we met with Venus Kent, Manager Global Accounts of HelmsBriscoe. Venus is the Event Planner that had agreed to assist us with the planning of the National Bid. Venus was very helpful.

On April 22 – 24, 2016 the National Convention Bid Committee held our 2nd fund raising event. It was the Party Weekend at Deerhaven Resort and Conference Center in Paisley, FL. This was a full weekend event that was attended by quite a few dancers from around the State. We had a pot-luck dinner Friday night. Everybody brought food and it was a big event. Everybody loved it. We had a dance on Friday evening with Mark Fetzer calling and Susan Snider cueing. On Saturday and Sunday mornings we furnished a full breakfast. Saturday we furnished a full lunch and then a pulled pork dinner that evening. On Saturday evening we had a dance with Rod Barngrover calling and Karen McDonald cueing. All in all it was a great weekend and we raised some money for the convention bid.

After we returned home from the Pre-Convention Meetings and the Party Weekend, Venus Kent contacted every city in Florida that has any type of Convention Facilities. She also contacted several Mega Hotels that have convention facilities. Most of the facilities that we could find were either too small or too large. The only facilities that we found that were able to handle the requirements of the National, except for the Orange County Convention Center were either all carpeted or they were already booked up for 2021. The Orange County Convention Center was way too large. For all of you that were involved with the 1997 National which was held in the Orange County Convention Center, it was not good. The rooms were too large and we had to spend a lot of money building walls that just were not effective. The sound traveled from room to room which made dancing really difficult. Because of this, we have chosen not to utilize the Orange County Convention Center. Another reason why the Tampa Convention Center and the Orange County Convention Center were ruled out is that the hotel rates for both the actual Convention dates in 2021 and the Pre-Convention dates in 2020 were

way out of the rate structure that the average square dancer would want to pay. The Pre-Convention dates are would be in February or March of 2020 and that is High Season rates here in Florida, plus Spring-Break time. The hotels charge high rates during that time of year because they can. They were not willing to come down to a price that we thought the square dance community would bear.

Based upon all this we have decided to suspend our bid for the national and will not be submitting a bid for the 2021 National Square Dance Convention. Attached is a copy of the Treasurer's Report. All excess funds, after reimbursing a portion of some committee expenses, will be donated to the 2017 and/or 2018 State Convention. The details of all of this will be detailed in our November Federation Meeting report.

Colleen & I would like to thank all of our committee, Randy & Carol Poole, Jack & Barbara Hoffman, Terri Little, Cheryl Miller & Bob & Ann Poyner for all their assistance in trying to make the 2021 National Convention the thing for the square dance community of Florida.

FLORIDA NATIONAL CONVENTION BID COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2016 - May 28, 2016

<u>BEGINNING BALANCE - ALL ACCOUNTS</u>
Wells Fargo Bank Checking Account (as of 1/1/2016)
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF 1/1/2016

<u>Beginning Balance (as of 1/1/2016)</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>
Tony Oxendine Benefit Dance (January 7, 2016)
Benefit Dance Admissions
Benefit Dance Half & Half
Benefit Dance Donation
Total Benefit Dance Receipts
Party Weekend (April 22 - 24, 2016)
Party Weekend Registrations
Party Weekend Bingo
Party Weekend Saturday Night Dance
Party Weekend Half & Half
Party Weekend Meals
Party Weekend Refreshments
Party Weekend Deposit (\$350.00)
Total Party Weekend Receipts
TOTAL RECEIPTS
<u>EXPENSES</u>
Party Weekend
Party Weekend Deposit (\$350 refundable)
Party Weekend Food
Party Weekend Rent
Total Party Weekend Expenses
TOTAL EXPENSES
Checking Account Ending Balance

<u>ENDING BALANCE - ALL ACCOUNTS 02/27/2016</u>
Wells Fargo Bank Checking Account (as of 05/28/2016)
CURRENT TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS 02/27/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce & Colleen Morgan, Bid Chairman

F. Facilities – Don & Ann Slocum

Next year has created a problem as we were notified that Sykes hall would not be available due to renovations. Like most venues the Lakeland Center will be carpeted.

The Lakeland center offered two open dates, May 4 & 5 or March 24 & 25. An electronic vote was taken and the March date was the preferred date by most dancers. Dave Muller, the Caller President said the Callers would go along with what the dancers wanted, but later requested a survey.

In talking with Allison, at the Lakeland Center, about the May or March date for 2017, I ask her to hold the Memorial Day week end and the March dates for 2018 until after the Fed. Meeting. To my surprise I received an e-mail showing the 2017 & 2018 March dates confirmed. I called to ask about the May date and she said once I ask for the March date she opened the May dates to prospective users and it became booked by another group.

There have been suggestions of getting flooring to go over the carpet and so far everything that we've looked into is very expensive.

A committee is being formed with representatives from Dancers, Callers & Cuers to look for a venue for future Conventions.

If anyone has any information about a possible venue or flooring rental let us or another member know and preferably in writing.

Ad hoc committee will review locations and dates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don & Ann Slocum

17. Florida Federation Website – Bruce Morgan

The Florida Square & Round Dance Web Site is plodding along. We are getting quite a few visitors. We average about 3,200 visitors a month. The winter months are naturally higher than the summer months. But it is staying pretty consistent.

Now for the bad news. The site is not being used as it should. There are very few people that are sending in their flyers for their special dances. There are a few but not too many. How do you expect visitors to know about these dances if you don't advertise them? The callers really

should be using this feature but for some reason they are the worst. I never get anything from them. The cuers are a little better. There are a couple of cuers that send me flyers.

The listing of clubs on the map program is so far out of date it is pathetic. I have asked several times over the last few Federation Meetings for the leaders of each of the Associations to please send me a complete list of all the clubs in their areas. This list is to include the club name, location of their dance (both the name of the building and the address), the caller, the cuer, the times that they dance, their contact information (both phone and email) and their web address if they have a web site. If I could just get this information I would be more than happy to update the map. I am sure that there are clubs on the map program that are no longer dancing. This program is designed to help the visitors to our State locate a club where they might dance while they are here. All it does is make them mad when they try to contact someone and find out that the club closed 3 years ago. Or to think that there isn't a club in the area only to find out after it is too late that there actually is one close by. Come on people. And we wonder why square dancing is declining in Florida.

Bruce Morgan
floridasquaredance.com webmaster

18. Florida Hall of Fame – Bev Landwehr – Penny said not much has happened in the last year or two. She included this information and information about the Extra Mile Award presentation on Friday night since newer dancers may not be familiar with these awards.

19. History – Terri Little

History is basically on line. Please send more pictures to her or directly to Bruce. A lot of interesting history is available on line. The word needs to be spread to the dancers to read the web site.

20. USDA Central Region Vice President – Ed & Lynda Willis

Ed Willis thanked the Federation for the invitation and the great hospitality they were extended. If any flyers are sent to them, they would be distributed as they travel. USDA will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year in Iowa, and all dancers are invited. The USDA News is free at USDA.org. He recommended everyone read it. The Tennessee State Convention is the most successful within the region, and post their events frequently. Most conventions have about 400 to 600 attendees. One is held in colleges where dancers stay in dorms, and eat in cafeterias.

The Central Region hosted their fall meeting in January and had almost 100% USDA board in attendance. He also said the USDA trying to withdraw from the acronym.

He thanked the Federation delegates for having them, and they look forward to next year.

21. USDA Report – Bill & Linda Reid

As the new USDA Florida Representatives we met with the former representatives, Dennis and Nancy Taylor. They went over all of the materials on hand and guided us through the ordering process. We placed an order to replenish the pamphlets that needed to be replenished.

The 2016 State Convention committee was contacted with a request for a table to use to display the educational material. The USDA Display was set up on Friday and remained available to all dancers until the close of the Convention on Saturday evening.

We plan on taking the USDA display to Tallahassee for the Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association's 42nd Annual Round Up in July 2016.

Linda congratulated Bob Ormsbee on receiving his white badge from the Callers Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill and Linda Reid
USDA Florida Representatives

22. USDA Insurance – Carol Poole

This year I came to the end of the checks that I inherited from the previous insurance chairman. I ended up ordering 500 checks. The more you order the less it costs per check. I left off my home address and left the Federation name and Insurance Account printed on the checks. I also ordered a new stamp. The old one still had Wachovia Bank. I also ordered the business size deposit slips. The personal size I ordered in the past were not satisfactory for good record keeping. These supplies should last about five years.

This year we have had way too many careless mistakes. Hopefully, next year people filling out the forms will be more careful. We catch a lot but not all of them. We try to correct them but some things we just can't – like paying for a dancer twice. Everyone handling the insurance is a volunteer so we don't expect perfection but we would like it!!

We are up to four accident reports for this year. Two claims have been filed so far this year. Two reminders: Class member's insurance stops when the class ends. When they join the club, their names need to be sent in on the Additional Enrollment form and the insurance fee paid. Free insurance for students is still a plus for a club because you are not paying insurance for any student who may drop out of the class.

We will be leaving for Iowa for the National Convention and our annual trip around June 15 and returning July 17. Please think ahead for any insurance you will need before September and get it in the mail by June 10. We will have our laptop with us but in July we will not have phone service where we stay.

Randy & Carol Poole,
Federation Insurance Chairman

24. ARTS (Alliance of Round, Traditional and Squares – Ailene Picheco

In December 2015 Andy Allemao called a “long distance” Square Dance using a Skype (Internet) connection. Over six squares attended the dance. Andy called the dance from his home, therefore, he did not have live dancers in the room with him. However he could see the dancers, via a Skype connection. There have been many other Skype dances and more have been scheduled. The overall consensus is that dances called using a Skype connection are a new and innovative way to bring Square Dancing to remote areas or other areas where there is a lack of experienced qualified callers. There is no reason why Round Dances, or other types of dances could not be done with a Skype connection.

There are some technical issues

1. You must have the best possible internet connection...
2. Caller camera at face level showing roughly the upper third of the caller’s body. A head shot on a 46" monitor was used.
3. To ensure complete control of the voice/music mix, caller set his MA150 up just like the caller was calling a live dance, including an 8 Ohm speaker to ensure there was plenty of impedance.
4. The rest is just using Skype,
5. Caller will need two computers one for the music and one for Skype.
6. On the dance end, a laptop hooked into a 46" HD screen was used. Laptop’s camera was set to view 4 squares... Try raising the camera higher to give the caller an even a better view.
7. An ambient “hall mic” makes the virtual experience even better on the caller end.

With callers retiring or moving, this option to have a great monthly dance is a life saver.

Skype calling seems to be a great option to replace or work along with a record based club of any dance program. As long as you have a good Internet connection you can have a great caller.

Photos and comments are posted on Face Book at:

<https://www.facebook.com/michael.streby/posts/1308599845832218>

The next ARTS meeting is Sunday, June 26, 2016 at 9:00 AM; immediately following the NSDC in Des Moines, IA. All are invited.

For more information, please contact Executive Director, Jerry Reed: DirectorARTS@aol.com

Jerry Reed
Executive Director

25. Old Business

A. Tax Status – Cheryl Miller

Changing an IRS status is very involved. Cheryl has her own personal deadline of June 15, and hopefully by our next meeting will have approval. She needs help from each Association. Because we are applying for education nonprofit status, she needs each association to send any short article that may have been written to encourage people to learn square dancing. The articles should include references to fellowship and education or an interview that includes the benefits of square dancing. If anything has been written about flash mobs, please send articles that include the above information. Cheryl's intent is to show that throughout the State of Florida we are in compliance with these requirements. She wants the package to be complete and correct when it is submitted. She does not want the IRS to have any questions. If it is a thoroughly complete package, the finalizing process can be speeded up. At the present time, Cheryl does not anticipate a problem.

B. Old Sound System – Penny Green

The new sound system working very well. Bruce will give it to someone who could use it.

C. Convention Date Change – Don Slocum

Penny said ad hoc committee has been formed with the Slocums, the Wassermans, and Susan Snider representing the Round Dance Council and Bill Chesnut and Bill Boyd representing the Callers Association with Don Slocum as Chairman because of his liaison with the Lakeland Convention Center and all contact should be through him. The committee will evaluate the current information and provide recommended solutions. Penny said she received many comments from the email vote which had been compiled on one list for use by the committee. Hopefully information will be available by the next Federation meeting.

Cheryl suggested future convention chairman be introduced to security people in the event of an accident. Signs are needed telling dancers who to contact in case of emergencies.

D. Welcome Centers – Don Slocum

It is time to renew the contract for the Fl. Welcome Stations.

This is the report I received from the State:

Here is what the centers have used. Please let me know if you need any further information.

I-95: 900

I-75: 1,000

I-10: 500

US 231: 1,400

The Capitol location is currently going through a management restructure and warehouse move, so I am unable to get an accurate count right away.

We had sent I-95- 3,000
I-75 -2,000
I-10 – 1,000
US 231 – 2,000

We will not need to print more brochures.

We recommend /motion continuing at a cost of \$870.59 for rent.

Respectfully Submitted

Don & Ann Slocum

After discussion, Don's motion was passed.

26. New Business

A. It was announced that Susan Snider received the Extra Mile Award on Friday night.

B. Working Weekend – Don & Ann Slocum – Ann Slocum made a motion to return the working weekend to two days. Motion Passed.

C. It was announced that Ed Drexel and Terry Wetherby will be the new Facilities Assistant Chairmen.

27. Announcements

A. The 2016 break-out meeting was cancelled and 2018 committee meeting will be on line.

B. Randy Poole announced that the Imperial Swan will be host hotel in March, 2017. Room rate will be \$59 plus tax.

C. Next Meeting will be during the West Coast Association's Fall Fun Fest at the Stay Inn & Suites in Bartow on Sunday, November 13. Make reservations ASAP so we are not charged for the meeting room.

D. Convention Procedures documents need to be reviewed. Penny appointed Jenny Green and Anita Taylor (Chairman), Sheila Reid and Bruce Morgan.

E. Penny said an earring and a small cable were left at the convention center.

Lewis Wasserman moved to cancel contract with convention center since carpeting is not an option. This motion was opposed until we have a new venue at which time Lewis withdrew his motion. Linda Wasserman clarified the purpose of their meeting at the convention center.

When they were scheduled for Memorial Day in 2018; not scheduled for March 2018. The convention center representative told her to cancel by September. Penny told her the committee will make the decision and a vote will be taken at that time. Don said he feels he can negotiate with them and allow us to withdraw although the Federation will wait for a report from committee.

25. Announcements

Bruce requested Susan and Joanne to take back to associations that the program book has to be completed earlier. Callers and Cuers need to be scheduled for January 1st.

Return convention badges to Don and Ann Slocum

28. Motion for adjournment made by Elsa Huddleston. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next Federation meeting is November 13, 2016 at the Stay Inn & Suites in Bartow following the West Coast Association's Fall Fun Fest.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray & Elsa Huddleston
Federation Secretary