

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
Homewood Suites, 165 Bill France Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL
Saturday, May 22, 2021

Call to Order (Linda Tester):

Linda Tester called the meeting to order at 9 am.

Pledge of Allegiance (Linda Tester):

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Invocation (Walt Syphard):

Walt Syphard offered the invocation.

Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors and Guests (Terri Little/Linda Tester):

Terri Little called roll and determined that we have a quorum. Linda Tester introduced Stephen Bigelow from the Northeast, new editor of Grapevine. She also said Ann and Don Slocum have withdrawn from the Federation. Terri will move their names to the inactive list.

Correspondence (Terri Little):

Terri Little reported that the Federation sent a letter to the Convention Center in August of 2020 requesting to cancel the convention in February and to hold the deposit for 2022. The Federation also received an e-mail from Ann Slocum regarding Don's stroke and their wish to be removed from all Federation activities.

Minutes of November 2019 Meeting (Terri Little):

The minutes from the February 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Terri asked that any changes to the roster be submitted to her prior to the next meeting in November so she can update the roster as needed. ***Barbara Hoffman made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Brian McDonald seconded. The motion carried.***

Financial Report (Cal & Ann Maki):

Cal provided copies of the Financial Report. The financial reports are attached separately. The financial reports will be filed for audit.

Parliamentarian Report (Barbara McDonald):

I would like to say that 2020 was a most difficult year for Florida square dancers. COVID affected all of our lives, put us in isolation so we could not dance, attend church or go out and socialize. Clubs folded and dances were canceled. We had to learn how to wear masks and use hand sanitizers. We learned how to have Zoom meetings so now we meet to work on our State Convention for 2022.

I have been in contact with the Showcase chairman for the 70th National convention. We have a table and I will receive more information on setting it up. We will not be able to have any

display using electricity. I cleaned off the spots on the big blue Florida banner to hang at National.

I was looking at last year's report. We have Florida maps, little plastic oranges, Florida business cards with web sites and I would like to put out some candy on the table. I was thinking that each Association could give me a booklet or poster with information on still-active clubs in their area and update their picture book if they have pictures. I believe that in 2019 dancers from Florida were wearing Mickey Mouse ears and maybe the Federation could buy some for the dancers attending National. We could pass those out at our table. That is also something we could wear at our State Convention. I will attend the meeting this afternoon to work on the Showcase and will set up the table at National with a little help. In my job description I am suppose to organize people with state outfits for the Parade of States. Do we line up by dress or association?

We need to continue to pray for the National square dancers and our local dancers for good health and to continue supporting square dancing in our state.

Sunshine Report (Ed Drexel/Terry Wetherby):

Terry reported that she sent out more cards than can be imagined. We had to purchase additional sympathy cards. She will have a card for Don Slocum for everyone to sign tomorrow. Linda asked that she be informed anytime there is someone who needs a card so she can inform Terry.

Florida Callers Association (Bill Chesnut):

Linda Tester read this report from Bill Chesnut:

Greetings to the Florida Federation of Square dancers from the FL Callers Association

It is fantastic that the Federation has finally had the opportunity to meet in person again. We wish you well this weekend and hope all goes as planned.

During this shutdown of dancing it seems we have lost so many of our dancers and callers to that great dance in the sky. We join you all in mourning the loss of some very active members. In addition to passing on, we have had callers decide to retire from the activity and we know some dancers that never plan to return to dancing. We hope the losses are minimal and now we need to work together to try and recruit some new dancers to kick start our activity again.

We are looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces in Daytona at the Ocean Center March 17, 18 and 19, 2022 for the state convention. Caller Chair Bob Ormsbee has started the caller profile and availability to call for you.

The Florida Caller's Association next event is our annual meeting and fall clinic in October. FAC Vice President Duane Rodgers has continued to work hard to make this year's clinic another super event for the FCA. We are bringing Bill Harrison from Maryland in for the clinic and

dance. The clinic will be held at the Comfort Suites the Villages, 1202 Avenida Central, The Villages, FL 32159, Phone: 352-259-6578. Room rate is \$82 plus taxes per night. The square and round dance on Saturday night is open to all dancers and we encourage you to come join us at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The weekend wraps up with our annual meeting and elections on Sunday and the programming of the state convention dance halls after our meeting concludes.

We are extremely pleased to see dancing restarted in most places and more clubs starting back almost every week. We encourage continued caution as we get back to dancing. Remember to dance when you can but if you feel bad stay home.

See you all in Daytona.

Round Dance Council of Florida (Susan Snider):

The Round Dance Council is doing very well. We have Earl and Carol Collins who are the Secretaries. Our new presidents are Tom and Cindy Bunn (cue at Strawberry Squares). We had a weekend in February put on by the Round Dance Council that Earl and Carol Collins programmed. It was an excellent weekend with nice teaches and dancing. The first weekend in November will be a clinic at Strawberry Squares. The clinicians who are currently scheduled are the Blackfords. As some of you may know, Barbara was recently very ill with COVID. She is still recovering and if they cannot attend, the Round Dance Council cuers will run this clinic.

Florida Square Dance Campers (Don MacGregor):

No report.

Association Reports

Southeast (Steve Adler): Dawn DeWitt reported for Steve Adler: At long last we have dancing resuming in the Southeast. Jack Lewis has a dance on Monday afternoon Advanced with a C-1 tip at the beginning. He has a Plus dance every Friday evening. They are meeting in the beautifully refurbished Boynton Beach High School, which is now the Boynton Beach Cultural Center. Chris Phillips has a dance on Tuesday evening which combines Advance and C-1 class. On Thursday nights alternating Plus and Advanced with C-1 for the first hour with Mainstream and Plus after that. They are held at the Manor House in the Richardson Historic Park in Wilton Manors. The Rollaways with Chuck and Mary Ryall have lost their hall in Ft. Pierce and they are seeking a new location for their Sunday afternoon round dances and classes. They have an arrangement where they can hold an occasional dance at Riverwalk Center in Ft. Pierce and they have also been cuing for the Roadrunner Squares. Caller Scotty and Marlene Sharrer have moved to Seminole resulting in closing 2 of the groups that he had in south Florida, Scotty Dog Squares and his Thursday evening class at 408. We have lost, but the West Coast has gained. We are looking forward to more dancing opportunities in the fall when the snowbirds come back to south Florida. We are considering having additional classes to increase the number of people who are dancing. I would also like

to thank Briny Breezes club and their board of directors for their support of dancing in the Southeast.

Central (Richard & Carol Douget): Central Florida is finally getting back to dancing. We have several clubs that are starting in June. Earle and Carol Collins have been doing round dancing on Saturdays in Geneva and Sundays in Melbourne. The Space Trackers start-up date is June 3, Hoedowners will start on August 8 when Rod Barngrover returns from his trip, and Palm Bay Promenaders will start on June 17.

Northeast (Linda Tester):Northeast Florida Square Dancing is alive! We survived the pandemic. Our dancers were ready to start dancing long before most venues were willing to open their doors to us.

The first clubs to start dancing were Bill Chesnut's Moose Promenaders (Thursdays) in Jacksonville and the Dixie Dancers (Tuesdays) in Lake City. And of course, Bill's Square Wheels (3rd weekend) camping club are dancing once a month. Our one Round Dance club, Susan Snider's First Coast Rounds (Sundays) is back, to the joy of our round dancers. Next, we have the Rollaways Square Dance Club (Tuesdays) dancing to the calling of Mark Fetzer and Cueing of Susan Snider, Salty Bobbers (Tuesday) dancing in Steinhatchee, caller Charlie Pergrossi and finally the Seabreeze Singles (Tuesday) caller Jim Cosman. Unfortunately, the Mandarin Marauders (Tuesdays) caller Shane Perez have not started dancing yet. Their venue is still closed and no other location is available. The Grand Squares and the Clover Squares of Levy County are currently not dancing. A much kinder and gentler Bobby Keefe has started up the QuarterMores Advanced Club on Wednesdays.

The Northeast has the great honor to have not just one but two Youth Callers. They both are members of the Rollaways with their mentor being Mark Fetzer. Emily Jones (age 11) is the granddaughter of Patrick and Joan Amarino and Gideon Sharkey (age 10) is the son of Daniel and Bethany Sharkey and the grandson of Bill and Jane Dando. If you haven't danced to our Youth Callers, you've missed out on a treat. Emily called at the 2019 National Convention in Atlanta and both Emily and Gideon called at the 2020 Florida State Convention in Daytona Beach.

Our Association's dance STAR SPANGLED DANCE will be held again at Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach on November 5-6, 2021. Co-Chairs Marilyn Scott, Sherry MacGregor and Pat Herscha have worked hard to "change up" a few things. There will be Mainstream, Plus, Advance and Round dancing. This will be the first of the five Associations' dances. Come dance with us and see what's going on in the Northeast!

Northwest (Brian & Barbara McDonald):It has been a challenging year for Northwest square dancers and clubs due to COVID. We have about 80 members and hope to add a few more as the year goes on. Our first club that started back dancing was Seaside Squares in Pensacola; their dances started the end of June 2020. They celebrated their first weekend dance in August for their 57th Anniversary! Swinging Squares in Panama City started in September with Bob Poyner as their caller on Friday nights. The other

clubs remained dark because schools and churches were closed. Bob Poyner's Gulf Coast A's started back in September 2020. We learned how to have Zoom meetings and canceled our July Roundup in Tallahassee. There were no holiday dances. Agape Squares had Zoom socializing Monday nights thanks to Joe and Susan Shearer. We were sorry to see them move the middle of April and they will be greatly missed. Dancing Dolphins and Canoe Squares folded because they still could not dance in the school or church and their membership had declined. Sand Spurs in Ft Walton Beach did not have support to keep up PASARDA Hall and had to let the city take over the building in April 2021. Sand Spurs did not renew their membership in the association but they may be dancing at a different location. Capital Twirlers were able to start dancing in the Tallahassee Senior Center May 3, so we are excited for them!

Starting 2021 Seaside Squares continue dancing on Friday nights along with Gulf Coast A's on Thursdays. Agape Squares did dance some in the fall of 2020 and had to stop a few times but they are back dancing Monday nights. They are continuing to teach their class of students (8) and are having guest callers come help Berlon Graham. On April 26 Chris Burchfield called for them and they had 7 squares so there are still dancers out there. Miriam Merriwether and Larry Belcher were other guest callers. Berlon Graham is retiring and a retirement dance is planned at the end of August. He has been calling for about 50 years. TNT rounds are no longer dancing at Ragon Hall. They have found another location and hope to be dancing in the next several months.

We are struggling as an Association with the need for volunteers. Our Vice President resigned in March and we're unable to have our roundup at Ragon Hall so Seaside Squares took on the job with help from our board. Barbara took on the job of publishing the Panhandle press. We are presidents again and can't even get a nominating chairman for next year's officers. Barbara will end her term as Parliamentarian at the end of this year. I am sure some of you have had these problems so if you have solutions we would like to hear them. We hope that this past year has not been too hard on all of you and that you are healthy.

West Coast (Penny Green): Well, here we are in the middle of 2021 and we are working hard to get things back on track. We've had a few groups dancing during the past few months.

Strawberry Square (Mainstream Easy/Plus dance, Fun Plus dance, Advanced workshop/dance, Challenge classes, Round Dancing, and the Saturday night Social Dance). Shortly before the start of the pandemic, Strawberry Square took at their square dance shop and made it into another dance hall. The room still has the big window looking out to the main hall, but they added a nice dance floor. The room is called Strawberry Hall. It can be rented for rehearsals with the Bunns. The Grand Square International Winter Fest will be held here in February 2022, with Advanced dancing in Strawberry Hall and Plus dancing in the main hall.

Temple Twirlers in Tampawas a year-round weekly dance. They re-started several months ago meeting on the second and fourth Monday through June to see how it goes. They are extending that schedule through the end of the year and will re-evaluate at that time.

Allen Snell started his classes and dances but they have closed for the summer.

Suncoast Squares has held Zoom meetings once a week and implemented some new things to keep everyone connected. They started hula hoop square dancing at the park, they meet at a park once a week and take a walk, and they have a splash party (pool party) once a month at a member's house.

Dave Magee was the only caller in the southwest area this season and he held a couple of his dances.

Earlier this month, Shufflin' Squares in Lake Wales started their Advanced dance/workshops on Sundays and their Plus/Advanced dance on Thursday nights.

Live Lively Squares in St. Pete had two or three months of dancing.

Promenade Squares in St. Pete had a meeting on the 10th to discuss if they want to continue as a club and start a class. As of today, I haven't received information on the outcome of the meeting.

Arcadia's Palace Promenaders lost their hall for several months as it was sold with no notice to the club. They have since been able to work out a deal with the new owner but they had to change their dance night to Friday. For as long as I can remember, they have danced on Saturday night. Their cuer, Judy Barnhill, started having Rounds on Friday nights. After a few weeks, she stopped having them to return to Tennessee for a family medical crisis. They are planning to re-start in the Fall.

Buttons & Bows of Lakeland is planning to start in September.

We have a new caller in our area. Charles (and he goes by Charles, not Chuck) Bridges moved here from southern California in December. He's a caller and cuer. His calling is highly recommended by Keith Stevens. He lives in Solavita, which is one of those projects where one part of it is in one county and the other part is in another county. According to the Internet, it's in Osceola County which is part of Central. Charles says he is living in Polk. He wants to start a class there but has to talk to management about it. When I talked to him earlier this week, he was in California on vacation. As soon as he returns, he will be working on getting a class started.

During this upheaval, chaos, or whatever you want to call it, dancers forgot to renew their West Coast membership! Right now, we currently have six paid members!

The Executive Board met on May 8 and one of the discussions was about how to get re-started and build up our membership. We have come up with a membership campaign. We will be offering free membership for 2021 and 2022 and free attendance to all the membership dances through the end of 2021. Money isn't our problem; lack of workers is the big problem!

Traditionally, we have an annual President's Ball at Strawberry Square, which will be on September 12th this year; however, we will be calling it a Reunion Dance and it will also be our official kick-off of returning to dancing. Scotty Sharrer will be calling and Jimmy and Carol Griffin will be cueing. We have Early Rounds from 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. and alternate Mainstream, Plus, and Rounds from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Come join us! We can get around 30 – 35 squares in that hall! By the way, Scotty Sharrer lives in St. Pete now and he's already joined the Suncoast Caller and Cuers Association. Overnight camping is available at Strawberry Square if you're interested.

The 46th Annual Fall Fun Fest will be held in Bartow at the Carver Rec Center on November 12 – 13, 2021. Tom Miller from Pennsylvania and Keith Stevens will call and Jimmy and Carol Griffin will cue. We will have two halls – alternating Mainstream and Plus with Rounds in the large hall which has a nice wood floor. The second hall will be for Advanced dancing with computer squares. There will be Advanced dancing for the entire weekend. Ribbons are \$22 per person in advance; at the door, \$25 per person; Friday night or Saturday night only \$12 per person; and all day on Saturday is \$20 per person. Jenny Green is the chairman.

There will be a New Year's Eve Dance at Strawberry Square with Sam Rowan calling and Tom Bunn cueing. The theme is the Swiss Alps and there will be a clogging demonstration and yodeling. The dance is from 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight and there will be snacks, water, and coffee provided. Ribbons are \$20 per person in advance and \$25 per person after December 1, 2021. Don't forget the overnight camping!

If you are ever in the West Coast area, be sure to check out www.dancergram.com for the dance schedules or call me if you have any questions.

Publication Reports

Web Site (Bruce Morgan): As most of you know I've been telling you I'm going to turn the website over to someone else but it hasn't happened yet. Stephen Bigalow has volunteered to take over the website, but it will probably be a long migration. No one is sending me anything. I'll still put things out on the website, but the only thing I've gotten is a flyer from the Round Dance Council, flyers from Moose Promenaders and not much else. The location of the clubs needs to be updated, the map program is out of date, callers and cuers for the clubs are out of date. I get e-mails from people all the time from all over the country saying the information is not right. This is free advertising, please take advantage of it.

Bow & Swing (Susan Elaine Packer):

No report.

Keepin' Posted (Ailene Picheco): Because there was not much news from the Central Clubs and all memberships expired in October, I skipped sending out the January issue of *Keepin' Posted*. The current issue will be sent to clubs electronically and I would like them to send me any information on their status. The next issue is due to go out July 1.

Panhandle Press (Tim & Terri Wilaby): I would like to thank Terri and Tim Wilaby for all the time and years they have supported Northwest in publishing the Panhandle Press. Their last issue was December 2020 at which time there were no volunteers. The Hot Mail email address is no longer working. Terri also closed out the checking account and donated \$1541 back to Northwest. I took on the job. I started this with no experience in publishing a booklet, picked up the printer, supplies and went home to figure out how to do it. I tried Print Artist and then asked for help from my daughter-in-law Colleen who lives in Land O Lakes. I published the first issue for January 2021. I got myself an editor for the second one published in April and now I am working on the July issue. It is a learning curve for me and there will be changes but I hope to keep members of Northwest informed of dances. Our distribution list is about 70 and I print extras for the halls. I just hope I can do as good a job as Terri and Tim. Please use the following email for Panhandle press: barbaramcdonald310@gmail.com. If you want my attention fast you can always use Brian's email bjd9@cox.net.

Grapevine (Stephen Bigelow): My name is Stephen F Bigelow and I started publishing the grapevine in November 2020. The Grapevine is a free email publication from the Northeast Florida Square and Round Dance Association (NEFSARDA). It is published entirely online on the first of each month. The current distribution is 372 copies. That includes the National Square dance organizations, callers and cuers of Florida and other associations. The grapevine is an informational publication for all people interested in the activity of Square Dancing. This includes the clubs that are currently dancing, Camping clubs, Special Dances in the state of Florida and, dances of note outside the state. We strive to keep people informed of all things: news from the state, callers, and unfortunately those who have passed to the big square dance in Heaven.

Since this is an online publication, we strive to include lots of pictures in color of the clubs and the flyers of upcoming dances. If you have any news for the grapevine never hesitate to contact me at either Grapevine@sfbigelow.com or squaredancejax@gmail.com. Addition – Quartermores are reopening and starting lessons.

DANCERgram/West Coast Dancer (Penny Green): In early 2000, I started a little newsletter for my home club, Buttons & Bows of Lakeland. Then I became president of the West Coast Association. I continued writing a newsletter, but it was for all of the West Coast area. It was at this point that it became the DANCERgram ...for current dance information on the west coast of Florida.

Over the years, the DANCERgram kept growing and growing. It suddenly became a 45-50 page document! During this time I was building relationships with the other Florida editors, with club representatives, callers, and cuers, as well as with Grand Square

International, Single Square Dancers USA (SSDUSA), the editor of USDA News, Alliance of Rounds, Traditional and Squares (ARTS), the Florida Callers Association (FCA), the Round Dance Council of Florida, and the webmasters of the FCA and floridasquaredancing.com.

Several people are very good about letting me know what's going on – schedule changes, health, and sympathy of dancers, etc. I am on the distribution list of just about every club in the west coast area so that when they send notices to their members about various things, I also receive a copy. That way they don't have to remember to send me another email with the same information. I am also on the distribution list to receive communications from each national convention.

Several members of the FCA have heard about the DANCERgram and have asked to be included on the distribution list.

From my work on the DANCERgram, other responsibilities have evolved. I created a chart of all the publications we should be utilizing for advertising with their due dates and contact information. Then I decided this information would be helpful to convention chairpeople, publicity chairpeople, the other Florida editors, and the Federation officers. So, each time I update the table, I forward a copy to all these people.

I work with the FCA webmaster, the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association (SCCA) webmaster, the floridadancing.com webmaster, and I try to work with the Round Dance Council webmaster, in providing headshots, bios, etc. to keep their sites updated. I work with the editor of the *American Square Dance* and *Bow & Swing* magazines providing information and updates.

I maintain a file of headshots and bios of callers, cuers, past presidents, etc. I also assist the manager of the Florida Hall of Fame in keeping the plaques up to date and locating headshots.

In 2009, the West Coast Association's newsletter, the *West Coast Dancer*, was without an editor and no one wanted to be. The DANCERgram was voted in as the official publication of the West Coast Association.

During our downtime in 2019 – 2020, I decided to re-design the DANCERgram; It was getting too large to handle. I decided to split the newsletter into four different magazines. My thinking was that some of the information was time-sensitive or only needed to be sent once in a while. Hence, the start of the

- *Planner* which is sent once a week and I try to send it on Saturday. It contains all the information having to do with scheduling; dances, classes, deadlines, meetings, and travel for the upcoming seven days. At the very end of this magazine, there is a list of events in the future. All of the clubs send me their entire schedule for the year or season and add the information to my Master

Calendar. This calendar contains all those dates, holidays, conventions and festivals, West Coast membership dances, etc. If I notice a conflict when I enter these dates, I notify the affected parties in case someone wants to re-schedule their event.

- *This & That* which is a monthly publication that contains square dance news. I include article reprints, articles that I write, notices, new officers of the various state-level organizations, etc. I know when each organization has elections, and I contact them to get the new dates. Of course, none of them think to just send me the information! LOL.
- *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* which is published as needed. This contains information on west coast dancers, Florida callers and cuers, national and international callers and cuers that come to Florida. I sometimes send this publication two or three times a week.
- *Directory* is published as needed. It contains a list of Dance Shoe Sources, West Coast Dances by Day, West Coast Dances by County, Officers of the Florida Callers Association, Officers of the Florida Federation, Links, Publication Deadlines, Officers of the Round Dance Council of Florida, Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association Membership List, and West Coast Key Contacts.

All of these magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. All of the above information can also be found on my website, www.dancergram.com, as well as archived issues of all the publications chronological lists of dances by year until 2025. There are also numerous flyers on the site. We have also added a section, “What is Square Dancing?” for new people looking for information on how to get started. There is so much information on the website that I can’t tell you all of it. My webmaster is Clif Reiss of Temple Twirlers in Tampa.

Before the pandemic shut down, my distribution list was around 1,000. Some people forward the emails to their distribution lists so I don’t know the exact number. I have had quite a few people unsubscribe during the past few months. Some of them give a reason and others just say unsubscribe. The reasons have been no longer dancing, moved out of the area, etc. Since January 2021, we have had almost 29,000 hits on the website. The annual January – April is down from 2019 – about one-half of what it used to be.

Florida E-mail Tree (Penny Green):About three years ago, Jim Maszko of the USDA, contacted our president at the time, about starting an email tree for Florida. An email tree is a small group of people who send an email message to their individual distribution lists and those recipients forward it onto their lists, and so forth, eventually covering the entire state (we hope).

I was asked to be the coordinator, so I got a representative from each of the Florida associations. I had originally planned for it to be the editors, but it hasn’t ended up that way! I am the coordinator for the West Coast Association. When I send the email to the association contacts, I also send it to my DANCERgram distribution lists. I asked each

coordinator to add me to their distribution lists so that I know that the messages are being forwarded. If anyone has a message that needs to go to the entire state i.e. convention information, illness or passing of well-known callers and cuers, Florida Festival information, etc., they can send it to me and I will start the distribution. You can write the message or just send me the facts and I can write it. The messages have to be sent to me (the top of the tree) so that it is filtered down and we don't miss any levels.

During the past three years, I have never received a message from the USDA that is to be sent out to the state! I finally had time to read their brochure about the email tree. At the very end, it said when you establish a tree, to let the USDA and ARTS webmasters know and give the contact information. When I established Florida's tree, I notified Jim Mazsko who asked us to establish one. Silly me to think he would pass it on to others that would need to know! LOL! I have now notified both of these webmasters. Now we'll see what happens!

Convention Reports

2020 (The FIRM: Little, Miller, Reid, Green & Reid): Terri Little reported that everything has been completed: the checking account is closed out, all money has been distributed, etc. We do not yet have our final report completed, but it will be available at the next Federation meeting in November.

2022 (Richard & Carol Douget):The 67th Florida State Convention was originally scheduled to be held in 2021. However, due to COVID, it was rescheduled to 2022. Several committee members met last night and manually changed the dates on the ribbons to the new March 2022 dates so we wouldn't have to purchase new ribbons. They are now ready to be distributed. The 67th Florida State Convention will be held March 18-19, 2022, at the Ocean Center in Daytona. Our theme was carried over from 2021 so it remains "Lighting the Way to Friendship and Fun" (dropping the reference to 2021). The decor is still lighthouses and the colors are still red & white. Our logo was designed by Shannon Reid and Carol Douget. Our benefit dance held May 18, 2019 provided \$1,512 income. We are having a second benefit dance tonight at Sunnyland Park, 825 Washington Street, Daytona Beach. Early rounds with Earle and Carol Collins are 6:30 to 7 pm. Squares with Rod Barngrover will be from 7 to 9:30 pm. There are no COVID restrictions. We have raffles ongoing:

1. A lighthouse quilt sewn by Terri Little and quilted by Peggy Huston to be drawn at the convention. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.
2. Two lighthouse structures by Richard Douget and Tom Leaf to be drawn at the convention. Tickets are 1 for \$2.00 or 6 for \$10.00. One of them will be on display at the dance tonight.
3. We will also have a 50/50 raffle each night at the convention.
4. Our polo shirts are \$25 each or 2 for \$45 and the buttons are \$1 each. The buttons we have are NOT updated. We will be getting updated buttons at some point.

We have recruited some committee members but are in need of more volunteers. Our current committee consists of:

General Chairperson - Carol & Richard Douget
Secretary – Penny Green
Treasurer - Terri Little & Sheila Reid
Program Book & Advertising - Ailene Picheco
Cuer Coordinator - Earle & Carol Collins
Caller Coordinator - Bob Ormsbee
Assistant Caller Coordinator – Bill Chesnut
Web Master - Bruce & Colleen Morgan
Housing - Randy & Carol Poole
Décor - Keith & Angie Olds
Registration - Linda & Bill Reid
Asst. Registration – Jenny Green
Hospitality& Publicity - Judy Anderson
50/50 Raffle - Jack & Barbara Hoffman
Facilities – Randy Poole
Photographer – Jack McKinney
After Party – Linda Tester
Camping - Paul & Marilyn Scott
Ways and Means:

Chairman- Jenny Green
Southeast- Steve Alder
Central – RoryAnn Martin

Vendor – Larry Zuckerman

Still Need:

Ways & Means – Northeast
Ways & means – Northwest
Ways & Means – West Coast
Dangle Dances Chairperson
Flooring Chairperson

Please consider volunteering for a committee position and helping out with Hospitality. If anyone has suggestions to help make this convention a success, please do not hesitate to tell us. We need all the help we can get!

2023 (TBD) (Keith & Angie Olds): We've never done one of these before and until about 4 weeks ago we thought we'd have an extra year because all of the conventions would shift a year. But I found out this weekend that the convention being planned by the Federation will not happen, so that puts us in 2023 instead of 2024. That puts us a bit behind the power curve. My immediate plea is for committee volunteers...if anyone is willing to continue the job they have for 2022 or will volunteer it would be greatly appreciated. Currently our committee chairman list consists of Angie and me.

Facilities (Randy Poole):A contract was signed with The Ocean Center on April 21, 2021. I emailed a copy to the Federation President and the Convention Chairman. There are a lot of rules and regulations which the next convention needed to be made aware.

Between a busy Ocean Center, races at the Speedway and other complications, we finally arrived at dates for the 2022 State Convention March 18 & 19. Reading through the first contract we found the dates were the last weekend for Bike Week, we needed automobile insurance, and workman's comp. Our contacts(Patrick, Tim & Jen) at The Ocean Center were extremely busy with other county tasks and out of town workshops. Our calls were never returned. In the previous years, automobile insurance was waived but no longer. We phoned all the major auto insurance companies. They all wanted us to have an automobile!In desperation one day we typed in Special Event Insurance. Lo and behold there was a list of places to phone. Most of them still wanted an automobile but we found one that did not. We do have to buy Commercial General Liability to get the Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability. The cost is \$492.90. We must pay by credit card, which we can do. The quote is good for one year so we thought the end of November would be soon enough to pay for it.We already have Commercial General Liability from our USDA Insurance at no charge, but the company will not sell us auto insurancewithout it. Patrick at the convention center took down the name of the insurance company to pass along to other events. The Ocean Center had already lost about three events because of the auto insurance requirement.I signed many forms that the Florida Federation has no employees which took care of the Workman's comp. So, quit telling people you work for the Federation. Regarding the pandemic, the Ocean Center is following the state recommendations for people now. Next year, they will follow the restrictions in place at the time of room rental. The Ocean Center has not added any more flooring since the 2020 convention. They have about 50' x'50' flooring. Parking at the garage or lots will be \$10.00 with no in and out. Maybe closer we can work on the exhibitor angle. We did mention that at the meeting. Also, the Ocean Center Facility Use Agreement Addendum "states no outside food or beverage will be permitted in the Ocean Center, to include bottled water".On checking on dates for the 2023 convention, two weekends are available in the time frame we prefer. The first is January 27 & 28 for the ballroom and second floor meeting rooms. No first-floor rooms are available. The second is April 21 & 22 for the area we now rent. Both dates are on hold for us. Our research shows that the last weekend in January is the Rolex 24-hour race. A phone call to the Speedway said they do not have the dates for the Rolex-24 in 2023. Now, might be a good time to start a search for another facility. There are a lot of annual events in Daytona on the weekends.

After some discussion, it was suggested that a committee be formed to research alternate locations to consider as a venue for any future conventions. Linda Tester asked Susan Snider (Cuer representative), Angie and Keith Olds (Convention representative), Randy Poole (Facilities representative) and possibly Bill Chesnut (Caller representative). Suggestions were made about location (Cocoa Beach has plans for a new convention center) and relaxing the existing criteria (currently 50 miles either side of the I-4 corridor), which would take a by-laws change. Bruce will double-check the bylaws to see how they currently read. Lakeland will be one of the locations checked. Colleges, high schools and churches are also good locations to check.

Housing (Randy Poole): We have a verbal contract with Homewood Suites for the 2022 convention. Unfortunately for us, March is the height of the tourist season and prices are quite a bit higher than last year and we are limited to 60 rooms: standard king \$129, 2 double bed

suites \$149, 2 bedroom suites \$169. These are the figures authorized by the home office. We plan on using the Home 2 Suites for the overflow. After the convention last year, the Hilton would not renew our contract due to lack of participation. We also heard several complaints from the dancers who stayed there. Regardless, Randy made several phone calls in an attempt to talk to their group event person. We discovered that our contact is no longer employed there. He left messages starting in January and no one has ever returned any of his calls. We drove to the Hilton to try to talk to someone but no one was available. Patrick at the Ocean Center recommended the newly renovated Comfort Inn & Suites located about 2 blocks from the Ocean Center next to the pier. We dropped in on them. The event coordinator had another appointment but spoke with us briefly, showed us the first floor, took our information and e-mailed the following rates in a few days: 2 queen beds with no view \$159, 2 queen beds with ocean view \$169, direct oceanfront \$179. They have a small meeting room that could be used for the Caller's meeting Sunday morning. Their prices are higher than what we had from the Hilton last year. Yesterday, we received an Addendum to the pricing...all of which were higher. There are also taxes and parking, but would waive the resort fees like the Hilton did. We are still trying get another hotel on the beach.

Hall of Fame (Ailene Picheco): The Hall of Fame is financed through funds derived from the state convention. Our account is maintained at \$1500. We have not received any nominations this year.

History (Penny Green):No report.

USDA Report (Flo Ormsbee): No report.

USDA Insurance (Carol Poole):We currently have three associations using the portal and two sending their information directly to me. It is going quite well. Two forms that are not on the portal are the class roster & demo forms.They are on the Florida & USDA website. They should be emailed to me. Once the association insurance chairman enrolls a club on the portal, the USDA Insurance Director, Elizabeth Sanders, receives a roster. She emails me a copy to send in payment. No one is insured until she receives my payment. The insurance company's plan is for the Federation to pay and then we collect from the association. In the past I always had the check and forms before sending it in. I have never had a club's check bounce. However, I feel uneasy using the Federation's money without making you aware.It is usually just a few days but sometimes it is longer. Does anyone see a problem with this?

I have not insured the Federation for this year.I was waiting on the updated roster. I did check the June 2020 roster for currently insured dancers. With so many clubs not dancing or carrying the insurance, we will not get by with the minimum fee of \$45.00. It would be closer to \$100.The 2021 Convention is insured and has a certificate for the dance tonight.

The Ocean Center is enforcing some of their old rules such as automobile insurance and workmen's comp.Markel does event insurance for the Allstate Insurance Company, but Markel does not write auto insurance policies. When I saw they were partners, I was hoping we could

get auto added to our USDA policy for the Ocean Center. No such luck. There is more on that in the convention facilities report.

The Insurance Financial Report is on the next page.

We had four accident reports for 2020 (3 from the State Convention). We have three accident reports for 2021. No claims were filed either year.

ASCAP/BMI (Richard & Carol Douget):The 2021 ASCAP bill was paid by Richard & Carol Douget. However, I received an e-mail from ASCAP on May 3, 2021, saying that they had waived our 2021 fee. When I paid the bill I requested that the fee be waived since we didn't have our convention. The 2021 BMI bill was paid by Richard & Carol Douget and I requested that fee be waived as well. We have not yet heard back regarding the BMI fee. Once I hear from BMI, I will submit the bill for reimbursement if necessary.

ARTS (Ailene Picheco): The ARTS will be participating in the Education program at the 70th NSDC in Jackson, MS. CALLERLAB has agreed to sell our Live Lively products from their booth at the convention.

The 2021 ARTS meeting will be held Sunday, June 27. All interested dancers are invited to attend. If there are items you would like to be discussed, please send Jerry Reed your thoughts at executivedirector@arts-dance.org.

Old Business

USDA Tax Status:Terri Little reported that we got the letter from USDA in December 2019 saying that we are officially under their umbrella. As long as we continue to meet the paperwork and yearly fee requirements, we will continue to benefit under 501.3.c rules.

Disaster Relief Fund: The last time the Federation had a Working Weekend, the Public Awareness, Publicity, Square Dance Preservation, History & Education (APPHE)Committee was tasked with discussing the feasibility of establishing a disaster relief fund. This came about due to the situation at the old Whirl & Twirl Hall in Orlando and the Palace Promenaders Hall in Arcadia. The Committee proposed to the Board and an ad-hoc committee was established. The committee was comprised of Bruce Morgan, Jenny Green, and me. Bruce resigned from the committee so that leaves Jenny and me. This is what we have come up with (see next page).

Are there any questions or suggestions?

The Committee moves that a Florida Dance Hall Relief Fund be established based on the guidelines presented effective July 1, 2021. Brian McDonald seconded. The motion carried.

Florida Federation of Square Dancers
Florida Dance Hall Relief Fund
February 23, 2020

PURPOSE: The Florida Federation of Square Dancers will establish the **Florida Dance Hall Relief Fund** to financially assist caller, cuer, dancer, or vendor-owned dance halls with significant repair and maintenance or installation of equipment at their facility that is not covered by insurance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- The dance hall must be owned and operated by a Florida caller, cuer, dancer, or vendor.
- Only dance halls can make requests; no clubs or individuals can make a request.
- Requests are only for damage repair resulting from natural disasters, significant maintenance type work, i.e., massive leaks, air-conditioning/heating, and sinkholes that are not covered by insurance.
- The maximum amount to be paid is \$1,000 per incident per year.

PROCEDURE:

- The hall requesting assistance should complete a request form and submit it to the president of their association, stating the reason for the request. Copies of the estimate and receipt(s), if applicable, should be attached to the request form.
- The association president (or the designee) shall sign the request, indicate if they will contribute funds, and how much.
- Forward the application to the president of the Florida Federation for their discussion and approval. For this Relief Fund only, the Executive Board is authorized to approve disbursements up to \$1,000 without a vote.
- The Federation president (or the designee) signs the application, indicates if the request is approved, and the amount.
- Instruct the Federation treasurer to mail the check.

Application on next page.

Application for Assistance from the
Florida Federation Dance Hall Relief Fund

REQUEST DATE: _____ AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____

NAME OF REQUESTING HALL: _____

ADDRESS OF FACILITY: (street address, city, zip code, county)

REPAIRS OR INSTALLATIONS TO BE COMPLETED:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: _____

MAIL TO: _____
(Street address, city, state, zip code)

APPROVED BY: _____ Association in the amount of \$ _____

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

APPROVED BY FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS:

Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

FOR FEDERATION USE ONLY

Previous payments in this calendar year? Yes No

How much? _____

Check # _____ in the amount of _____ mailed

to _____

on _____ (date)

New Dancer Handbook:As background, years ago the Florida Federation created *A Handbook for Square Dancers*. I have no idea how long ago, there's no date on it. I have square danced for close to 40 years, I just started seeing this booklet in the past 10 years!

We voted at a previous meeting to update this booklet and make it available to the dancers. At that time someone was appointed to work on this project, but I think it fell through the cracks. At the meeting on February 23, 2020, I offered to take it over.

What we have right now is a 5 ½" x 8 ½" booklet. The cover is card stock and the pages are regular sheets of paper. I have typed the entire document to update and add new items.

The current information that is included is

- A letter for square dancers. It doesn't say who wrote it
- Square Dance Code of Ethics
- Where to Dance – explains how to find dances. The problem is they list square dance shops, telephone directory, Western Wear Shop. Square dance shops and telephone directories are either almost or are extinct.
- Florida Federation
- Each area association
- USDA
- Legacy (International Assembly of the Trustees of the Square Dance Activity (questionable)
- Florida Callers Association
- CALLERLAB
- What is Round Dancing?
- International Association of Round Dance Teachers
- USDA Insurance Program
- Blood Bank Accounts – DELETE
- Square Dance Do's and Don's
- Why do we not drink alcohol, belong to a club, stay non-competitive, etc.?
- CALLERLAB basic, Mainstream, and Plus program lists
- Square Dancing in the Proper Spirit by Chuck Durant of Titusville

My plan of action

1. Make the booklet appropriate for all square and round dancers, including social square dancers. This will mean eliminating the dance program lists.
2. Update existing information
3. Add American Callers Association (ACA)
4. Identify a representative for each area to update their section, i.e. CALLERLAB, ACA, Florida associations, etc. I may be able to find the information on the CALLERLAB and ACA websites.
5. Include the logos of the various groups.
6. Add regional callers' associations
7. Delete Blood Bank info

8. Delete all the outdated clip art
9. Add ECMA
10. Add Guidelines for New Dancers
11. Add Health Benefits of Dancing
12. Add Partner, Partner....
13. Add a list of acronyms and definitions
14. Maybe add some color?

Are there any questions or comments?

As soon as I complete all of this and know how many pages we are talking about, I will be able to get quotes for printing. I plan to get quotes for color and black and white printing.

I plan to bring the completed booklet and the estimates to the Fall meeting for a vote.

Suggestions for information included contact information (not advised because of the need of constant updating), "What to Expect at the Convention" (Bruce will send to Penny). Any other suggestions should be sent to Penny. It was suggested that the clubs purchase these books, but after further discussion, it was thought that it would be best for the Federation to provide the books as needed. The Financial Committee will add a line to next year's budget to cover the printing of these pamphlets.

New Business

Virtual Square Dancing:The caller uses Zoom and hosts the dance. Virtual square dancing is typically geared to 2 couples, with some callers doing 4 couples. You can dance in your own home with "phantoms". It's a bit more difficult, but doable. You can also have a 4-couple square dancing in your living room joining a dance that is taking place in another location. If you are on Facebook, look up the Virtual Square Dance page. Denise Carbonell and Mike Duso from Maine started this in March of 2019. There's a gentleman named Dan Alex runs Square Dance Flyers and has a Google Calendar page that he updates constantly. There are up to 20 different virtual dance opportunities every day. It covers all levels of dance...mainstream through advanced. If you are familiar with how Zoom works, there are different "rooms" for different levels of dance. You can look at the schedule, see who's calling or cuing and choose which "room" you wish dance in. You don't necessarily have all the excitement of running into friends like you would at an actual convention, but you do have the opportunity for interaction within whatever room you choose to visit and dance. We cannot discount this new way of dancing and this could be a way to sustain square dancing. Penny Green said in her area Judy Barnhill does a virtual round dance twice a week. One night she does Phases 2 & 3 and the other night she does Phases 4 and 5. She gets a lot of participation. There are dozens of caller who do weekly dances. There is a potential to use this for club square dancing as well as conventions. There are also classes available (Phil Pierce). There is also round dance teaches available. Is this the future of square dancing?

Publicity: Barbara McDonald suggested that the Publicity Committee consider asking the Federation to help the associations assist local clubs with publicity for classes.

Announcements:

Linda Tester asked everyone to be sure to sign up for a committee for the afternoon meetings. Choices are Showcase of Ideas (Barbara McDonald – Breakfast room), Finance (Cal & Ann Maki – Rm 308), Association President & USDA Insurance (Carol Poole – Rm 105), State Convention Procedures (Richard & Carol Douget – Conference Room), or History, Education, Public Awareness & Preservation (HEPP) (Penny Green – Rm 122). Meetings will start at 1:30 pm. Please sign up before you leave for lunch.

Our next meeting will be the tomorrow, May 23, in this conference room at 9 am.

Don't forget to attend the dance tonight.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Little
Secretary