



# A Club Guide To Successful Lessons



**TEACH NEW DANCERS MORE ABOUT  
THE SQUARE DANCE WORLD**

Dear Club President,

As Square Dancers, we know that Square Dancing is more than just going to the club dance. The beginning dancer is not aware of this. To help the students become aware of the new world they have entered, the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA has developed a set of topics for you to use to help open the door to their Square Dance world.

We, of UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, wish you luck. Let us know how it works out for you; and if you have something you would like to see added to this booklet, send it to us.

Happy Dancing

President  
United Square Dancers of America



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See web site [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org) for Current Officers and Committee Chairs' contact information.

Materials can be printed from the web at [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org).



## How to Use this Booklet

1. This booklet is divided into 17 topics and is designed to be presented to the students during their class sessions.
2. We suggest you start off by giving the students a folder to keep their square dance information in, and explain that while they might not use the information immediately, they will probably use it sometime in their square dance lifetime.
3. Start the topics after the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> dancing lesson.
4. Give one topic each lesson night, during a break in the teaching of dancing.
5. Keep the topics on the light side. People learn and retain more if it's fun.
6. Five to ten minutes should be enough time on each topic.
7. The speeches enclosed can be used as is, or they can help you put the topic in your own words. You may have to change the topic to fit your club or area.
8. The object and outcome helps the leader to know what the student should learn from the topic for the evening.
9. Different speakers may be used for different topics. This will involve club members in the topics and the student will get more acquainted with club members.
10. The handouts included are for you to copy and give to the students.
11. Feel free to omit a subject or add your own information to a subject.



## TOPIC #1

### GET ACQUAINTED

#### OBJECT

To get the students to relax and become acquainted with those around them. Most people are not used to the friendly way of Square Dancers. This lesson will help the student to relax when treated in such a friendly way.

#### SPEECH

You will soon learn that Square Dancers are the friendliest people in the world. When you visit other clubs, most of the dancers will treat you like a long lost friend. Dancers hug each other and give you a friendly pat on the back.

Tonight, we are going to play a game to help you get acquainted with your fellow dancers. When you get your pencil and paper you will see that there are several questions for you to answer. To find the answer you must talk to each other. When you have found the best answer then write their name down, and go on to the next question. You can do this during the breaks.

We will read the answers at the end of the evening.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

For a large class play the game, for a small class ask the club to come and play the game with the students.

Pass out paper and pencil and explain to everyone that they are to talk to each other and come up with the best answer to each question. The students are to do this game during the breaks and at the end of the evening the leader will read the answers.

The leader can get the best answer before playing the game or at the time when the leader will give the answers, he can have everyone stand and then sit down when their number is passed such as: Who has the most children? The leader starts off at one and continues to count until he has only one left. The question "Who has the most unusual hobby?" can be voted on by the whole group or the leader can decide.

Make the game fun and get everyone involved.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) A folder for the beginner Square Dancer
- 2) A list of the students with their name, address and telephone numbers on it
- 3) A list of club members with their name, address and telephone numbers on it.

#### OUTCOME

The student starts to form a relationship with the other students, the club members and the caller.



## TOPIC #1

### GAME

Who has the longest last name? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the most children? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the most unusual hobby? \_\_\_\_\_

Who drives the farthest to lessons? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has been married the longest? \_\_\_\_\_

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Cut here

Who has the longest last name? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the most children? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the most unusual hobby? \_\_\_\_\_

Who drives the farthest to lessons? \_\_\_\_\_

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## TOPIC #1

### HANDOUT

#### FOR THE BEGINNER SQUARE DANCER

As a newcomer to square dancing you undoubtedly have an uneasy feeling about how you should conduct yourself at a square dance class. You possibly wonder if you are going to experience difficulty learning. Well first, please be assured you have no reason for concern. Square dancing is easy and you will not have serious difficulty learning. Everyone in the class is a beginner, starting on the same base, and you will all learn together. The following comments may make it easier for you to understand a few basics concerning the square dance activity.

1. **SQUARE DANCING IS FUN!** Your instructor will be doing his best to help you realize this from the very first night.
2. Square dancing is a casual activity. You need no formal introduction to those you have not met. There are no strangers among square dancers. Just step right up to anyone and introduce yourself. In square dancing we are all on a first name basis – it's friendlier that way. Wear your "NAME TAG."
3. Later you may wish to dress "western"; but for the classes, just dress comfortably.
4. Square dancing is a close contact sport. Please use good judgment in your choice of jewelry, belt buckles, etc. Sharp or rough edges may scratch or catch on someone's clothing.
5. On a very delicate subject — extra physical exercise or possibly the slight nervous tension of learning may cause perspiration. Use of deodorant is advisable, to avoid the embarrassment of body odors which may be offensive to others.
6. On a personal note — the use of alcoholic beverages, just prior to or during a square dance, is not permissible.
7. Gents — Remember! You have both strength and weight advantage over the ladies and you should always, even in your enthusiasm, be conscious that the ladies do not like to be handled roughly. Let them enjoy dancing too!
8. **IMPORTANT:** Listen carefully to instructions and be sincere in your efforts to follow instructions. **GOOD LISTENERS LEARN EASIER!**
9. If, during the class, you do not understand an instruction, do not hesitate to ask for an additional explanation **from the caller.**
10. There is no reason to feel shy or embarrassed - just listen **and** follow instructions. Sooner than you think, you will be dancing to the calls.
11. Square dancing is relaxing. Take it easy! You do not have to work hard at it, you have plenty of time. **ENJOY YOURSELF!**
12. Please be on time for every class and **HAVE FUN!**



## TOPIC #2

### WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SQUARE DANCING

#### OBJECT

To introduce the student to the many aspects of Square Dancing. A student usually doesn't know that Square Dancing goes beyond the lessons or the club. This topic will help the student to understand the Square Dance World beyond the club.

#### SPEECH

After you graduate, you will find that one of the enjoyable parts of square dancing is visiting clubs, meeting other dancers and hearing new callers. There are festivals, jamborees, conventions and other special dances for you to attend. These special events are usually one to three days in duration and may feature one or more callers. (The speaker may talk about a special dance in your area). Once a year the Square Dancers will meet somewhere in the United States for the National Square Dance Convention. The National Convention is a three-day event that coincides with the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in June and attracts thousands of dancers (the speaker may talk about where the National will be held that year). You can go on Square Dance cruises, special Square Dance vacations that can last from one week to a month (the speaker may talk about where the dancers go in your area).

You can Square Dance all over the world. The calls are always in English, but with the accent of the country you are visiting.

Square Dancing can mean as much as you, the dancer, want it to, because the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. **WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SQUARE DANCING.**

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Square Dance Information

#### SUGGESTION

Make copies of the Basic/Mainstream Definitions available from Callerlab ([www.callerlab.org](http://www.callerlab.org)).

#### OUTCOME

The student begins to understand the many aspects of Square Dancing and where he can fit into the picture.

## TOPIC #2

### HANDOUT

#### SQUARE DANCE INFORMATION

SQUARE DANCERS    ROUND DANCERS    CLOGGERS    CONTRA DANCERS  
CALLERS    CUERS    TEACHERS    INSTRUCTORS    PROMPTERS  
AREA ASSOCIATIONS    CALLERS ASSOCIATIONS    STATE ASSOCIATIONS  
CLUBS    TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS    SHOPS    SQUARE DANCE RESORTS  
RECORDING    ARTS    CALLERLAB    ROUNDALAB    CONTRALAB  
UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION  
HALL OF FAME    AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY  
MAGAZINES    PUBLISHERS    EQUIPMENT  
FESTIVALS    SPECIALS    COLLEGES    ATTIRE  
BADGES    BANNERS    FLAGS    CRUISES  
TOURS    CAMPING    EXHIBITIONS    SQUARE DANCE MONTH  
FLOATS    NATIONAL FOLK DANCE    NEWSLETTERS  
LLOYD SHAW FOUNDATION

*Note: Many resources related to square dancing are available online. "Google" any of the terms or phrases above with reference to square dancing (such as square dance teachers or square dance magazines).*



## TOPIC #3

### SQUARE DANCE ATTIRE

#### OBJECT

By this time in lessons the student is beginning to wonder about the costume. They will start asking what they will need and where to buy the clothes. This lesson will show the student how to dress and feel comfortable with the square dance costume.

#### SPEECH

Our Square Dance western attire is a costume and when we wear it, non-square dancers know we are Square Dancers. When we have the costume on, we should be alert to the fact that non-square dancers are judging all square dancers by the way we act. A badge is an important part of the square dance costume.

Men should wear long sleeve western-style shirts and neckwear. Women may wear a short dress or a skirt and blouse with a petticoat and pettipants, or a longer prairie skirt.

Footwear should be comfortable and of a type which will not damage the dance floor. Many men like to wear cowboy boots, but they are not required.

#### FASHION SHOW

Select club members and have them wear different outfits – three to five outfits should be enough. Ask the club members to write down what their outfit looks like so the M.C. can give a description. One can be the club outfit (if the club has one) or a special dance dress.

#### HANDOUT

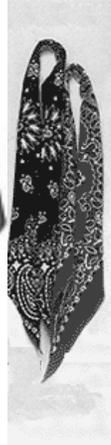
- 1) Costume for Him and Her
- 2) A list of where the student can purchase costumes.

#### OUTCOME

The student understands that the costume is a major part of square dancing. They get ideas of the kind of costumes that are available to dancers.

TOPIC #3  
HANDOUT  
COSTUMES

HIS



HERS



Style N-29





## TOPIC #4

### SQUARE DANCE COURTESY

#### OBJECT

The caller teaches the student Square Dance figures. But a lot of little things we as square dancers do are not taught — but learned as we go along. This topic will show the student some of the courtesy the square dancer uses.

#### SPEECH

Square Dancers use Common Courtesy and several other courtesies. Drinking before or during a dance is not allowed. Square Dancers should bathe and use deodorant because square dancing can work up a lather and, since there is a lot of closeness, it's best to use breath mints. We introduce ourselves to those dancers in the square that we do not know and greet those you do know. Walking through a square or walking out of a square once you are part of it is a "no, no." Let everyone enjoy dancing with you, so don't form cliques and dance in the same set all the time. Don't criticize or ridicule anyone, including the caller. Don't be rough or push and shove dancers. Don't walk off the floor until the tip is completed even though the dancers are having trouble following the caller. Just keep dancing the allemande left, grand right and left, and smile! Do the mixers, so you can meet more dancers. Do smile and indicate that you enjoyed dancing in the set. Do thank everyone in the set at the end of the tip. Do thank and compliment the caller. By following these simple courtesies you, and everyone else, can have a nice evening of dancing.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Do's and Don'ts
- 2) Ten Commandments for Square Dancers
- 3) Ten Commandments of Human Relations
- 4) Ten Commandments for Good Listening

#### OUTCOME

The student begins to understand some of the courtesy we use at a square dance.

# SMILE

## TOPIC #4

### HANDOUT #1

#### DO'S & DON'TS OF SQUARE DANCING

- DO** Smile even if you're angry with yourself for goofing. The others in the square might think you are frowning at them.
- DO** Use deodorant and breath mints.
- DO** Wear square dance clothes.
- DO** Wear name badges for all square dance activities.
- DO** Try to be on time for the first tip and square up promptly when the music starts.
- DO** Join the nearest square and introduce yourself to the others within the square.
- DO** End each dance with a flourish, applause and thank each dancer in the set after a tip - and mean it.
- DO** Fill a square as fast as possible.
- DO** Be tolerant of new dancers.
- DO** Pay attention to the speaker.
- DO** Change partners.
- DO** Keep noise down.
- DO** Participate in all activities.
- DO** Pay dues in advance.

REMEMBER good dancing ability is nice, but the greatest contribution you can make toward the enjoyment of a dance is: Friendliness, Good Humor, Cooperation and a real desire to have FUN.

- DON'T** Criticize or ridicule anyone (including the caller).
- DON'T** Have strong food or drinks before a dance.
- DON'T** Walk away from a square or walk through a square.
- DON'T** Hold a place for anyone in a square.
- DON'T** Form cliques and dance in the same set all the time.
- DON'T** Be rough or push or shove.



## TOPIC #4

### HANDOUT #2

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SQUARE DANCERS

- I. Thou shalt square dance only for the fun that thee will find in it.
- II. Thou shalt not be a snob, considering thyself too good to dance with any and all, sitting out the mixers, or leaving a square lest thou be required to dance with those whom thou deemest unworthy of thy talents, for the gods of retribution are zealous gods, and will visit their mischief upon thee, and thou will be the one to goof the square.
- III. Thou shalt not forget that thou was once a beginner.
- IV. Thou shalt be exuberant, but shalt act thy age. Do not offend others by thy high flung legs and out-flared skirts.
- V. Thou shalt go abroad and dance with other callers so that thy opinions expressed as to the merit of this one and that one are based on fact.
- VI. Thou shalt not let the stranger in thy midst sit on the sidelines and cool his heels, nor fail to speak to him.
- VII. Thou shalt bathe diligently that the sweet aroma of soap and shaving lotion may assail the nostrils of thy associates, leaving the more earthy smells to the farmyard.
- VIII. Thou shalt take care that the words of thy mouth are not scented with garlic or beer.
- IX. Thou shalt honor thy club and give it thy loyalty, for if thou canst not do this, it were better to separate thyself from it and join thyself to another whose methods, members and caller are more to thy liking.
- X. Thou shalt not kill thy club with bickering and fault-finding.

## TOPIC #4

### HANDOUT #3

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

**SPEAK TO PEOPLE:** THERE IS NOTHING AS NICE  
AS A CHEERFUL WORD OF GREETING.

**SMILE AT PEOPLE:** IT TAKES 72 MUSCLES TO FROWN -  
ONLY 14 TO SMILE.

**CALL PEOPLE BY NAME:** THE SWEETEST MUSIC TO ANYONE'S EARS  
IS THE SOUND OF HIS OWN NAME.

**BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL:**

IF YOU WOULD HAVE FRIENDS, BE FRIENDLY.

**BE CORDIAL:** SPEAK AND ACT AS IF EVERYTHING  
YOU DO WERE A GENUINE PLEASURE.

**BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PEOPLE:**

YOU CAN LIKE EVERYBODY IF YOU TRY.

**BE GENEROUS WITH PRAISE:**

CAUTIOUS WITH CRITICISM.

**BE CONSIDERATE WITH THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS:**

IT WILL BE APPRECIATED.

**BE THOUGHTFUL OF THE OPINION OF OTHERS:**

THERE ARE THREE SIDES TO A CONTROVERSY . . .  
YOURS - THE OTHER FELLOWS - AND THE RIGHT ONE.

**BE ALERT TO GIVE SERVICE:** WHAT COUNTS MOST IN LIFE,  
IS WHAT WE DO FOR OTHERS.





## TOPIC #4

### HANDOUT #4

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR GOOD LISTENING

##### **STOP TALKING!**

- You cannot listen if you are talking.
- Polonius (Hamlet): "Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice."

##### **PUT THE TALKER AT EASE**

- Act like a good listener.
- Be alert and let your face radiate interest.
- Help the speaker feel that he is free to talk.

##### **SHOW HIM THAT YOU WANT TO LISTEN**

- Look and act interested. Do not read while he talks.
- Listen to understand. Do not listen just for the sake of listening.
- Look at the speaker. Face, mouth, eyes, hands, will help the speaker communicate with you. Also helps you concentrate and shows that you are listening.
- Make the speaker feel important - applaud with nods, smiles, comments and encouragements.

##### **REMOVE DISTRACTIONS**

- Do not tap pencils, doodle, or shuffle papers.
- Close doors and turn off radios, TV or other distractions.
- Turn off or mute your electronic devices.
- Try to push your worries, fears, and problems away. They may distract you from listening well.

##### **EMPATHIZE WITH THE SPEAKER**

- Try to put yourself in the other's place so that you can see his point of view.
- Concentrate on what is being said and focus your attention on the words, the ideas, and the feelings related to the subject.

##### **BE PATIENT**

- Allow the speaker plenty of time. Do not interrupt.
- Do not start for the door, walk away or start other small tasks.

##### **HOLD YOUR TEMPER**

- An angry man gets the wrong meaning from words. Avoid hasty judgments. Listen to the whole story.

##### **GO EASY ON ARGUMENTS AND CRITICISM**

- This puts him on the defensive. He may "clam up" or get angry.
- Do not antagonize the speaker lest he conceal ideas, emotions, attitudes and facts. Adapt to the speaker. Do not argue, even if you win - you lose.

##### **ASK QUESTIONS**

- This encourages him and shows you are listening.
- It helps to develop points further.
- Ask questions for clarifications, but don't ask questions that will embarrass or "put down" the speaker.

##### **STOP TALKING!**

- This is the first and last, because all other commandments depend on it. You just cannot do a good listening job while you are talking.
- Nature gave man two ears but only one tongue, which is a gentle hint that he should listen more than he talks. You can listen faster than anyone can talk. Speech rate is about 100 to 150 words per minute; thinking is about 500 words per minute.



## TOPIC #5

### THE CLUB

#### OBJECT

This topic is to help introduce the student to the club and its operations.

#### SPEECH

The Name of the Club \_\_\_\_\_

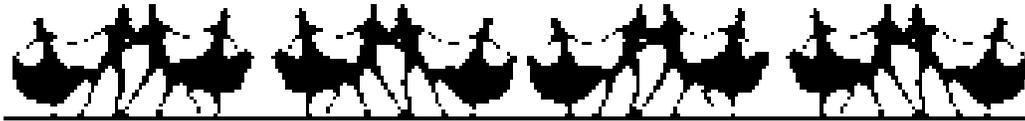
(Give a little history of the club, when formed, how many members, special requirements to belong to the club, when you dance, about visitations, what you do that is special, what organizations the club belongs to, who are the club officers, the caller, and cuer, how much are the dues, etc.)

#### HANDOUT

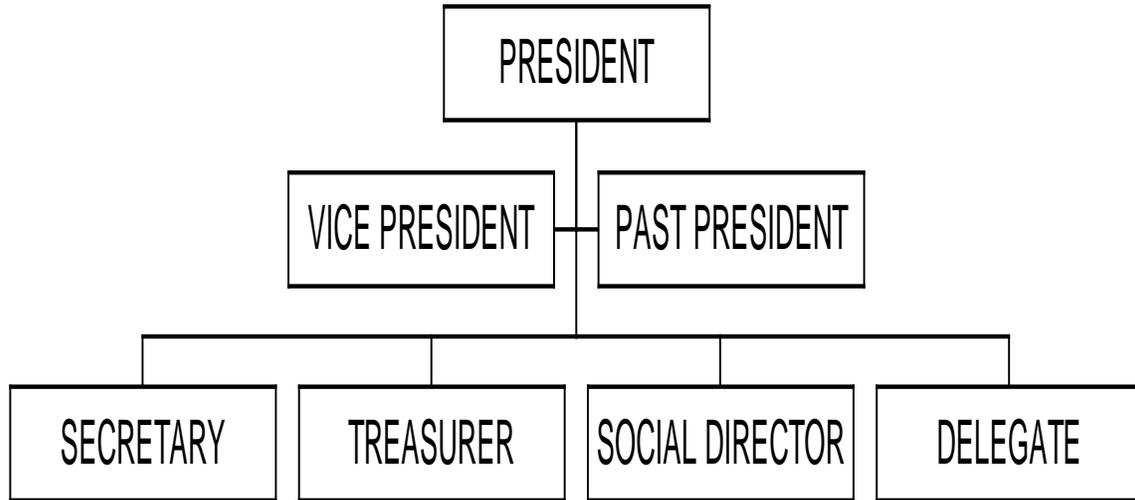
- 1) Club Constitution & By-Laws
- 2) Club Organization.

#### OUTCOME

The student begins to understand what the club is and how and why they should belong.



**TOPIC #5**  
**HANDOUT**  
**TYPICAL CLUB ORGANIZATION**



## TOPIC #6

### CLUB MEMBER

#### OBJECT

This topic is to help show the student what to do after becoming a club member.

#### SPEECH

After you join the club you will be entitled to all the privileges and responsibilities of a member. You will be asked to help out sometimes. (Tell about some of the first things a new member will be asked to do, such as serve refreshments, be a host or hostess, etc).

As a member you should arrive at the club early, ready to dance and stay for the entire dance. Pay your club dues on time without being asked. Attend all the club functions you can. Wear proper square dance attire and badge at all club functions. Introduce yourself and dance with visitors, singles, caller's law and guests. Contribute toward the enjoyment of the dance by expressing friendliness, good humor, cooperation and a real desire to have fun. Be loyal to your club and club officers. Set a good example for other club members to follow.

We want you to go with us on visitations, come to our special activities and have fun with us.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Responsibilities/duties of the club member.

#### OUTCOME

The students understand their responsibilities as a member of the club.



## TOPIC #6

### HANDOUT

#### RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES OF CLUB MEMBERS

- 1) Are socially clean, courteous and pleasant.
- 2) Arrive at the club early and are ready to dance the first tip.
- 3) Attend and participate in workshops to learn new calls and to improve dancing abilities.
- 4) Know and adhere to their dance level.
- 5) Accept help from others and are helpful to others.
- 6) Share dance time - are not exclusive - do not join cliques.
- 7) Know the club leaders and the relationship of the caller to the club.
- 8) Talk to the caller and club leaders about dance problems and desires for the club.
- 9) Volunteer to perform club functions without having to be asked.
- 10) Serve in positions of responsibility - it is their duty to help the club and serve it in the best way they can.
- 11) Recruit and assist new dancers (Angels).
- 12) Stay for the entire dance if possible - dance the last tip.
- 13) Are courteous to speakers, leaders and callers. Are good listeners. Listen attentively to club announcements.
- 14) Are financially responsible - pay club dues in advance without being asked.
- 15) Assist the leaders in the setting up and clean up of the dance hall.
- 16) Participate in all club visitations, exhibitions, charity activities and other functions.
- 17) Attend seminars and other leadership training programs.
- 18) Wear proper square dance attire and badge at all club functions.
- 19) Form squares promptly and welcome anyone who joins the set. Introduce themselves before the caller starts.
- 20) Are tolerant and polite to new dancers and senior dancers.
- 21) Dance with visitors, singles, and caller's law - allow them the pleasure of your expertise.
- 22) Never walk through a square or leave a square. Join the nearest square that is forming.



- 23) Honor their Caller and Club Officers.
- 24) Introduce themselves to visitors and guests - make them feel welcome and wanting to visit the Club again.
- 25) Guide their partner - do not shove, push or jerk.
- 26) End each tip with a flourish, applause and thanks to all in the set - and mean it.
- 27) Get acquainted with everyone at the dance whom they have never met – unknown square dancers are friends they haven't met.
- 28) Contribute toward the enjoyment of the dance by expressing friendliness, good humor, cooperation and a real desire to have fun.
- 29) Do not drink alcoholic beverages before or during the dance.
- 30) Thank everyone who made their evening out a pleasant one - the Caller, Club leaders, guests, etc. Your thanks is their "pay."
- 31) Forget about business, financial, social and family cares, and concentrate on enjoying the fun and fellowship at the dance.
- 32) Are loyal to their Club and Club officers.
- 33) Set a good example for other Club members to follow.

## TOPIC #7

### CLUB OFFICERS

#### OBJECT

This topic is to help show the students what is required of a club officer. Most of this topic you will have to prepare.

#### SPEECH

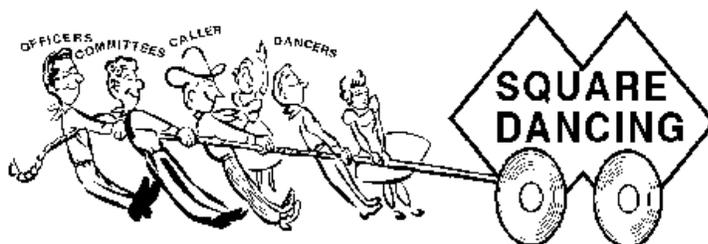
In our club we have the following officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate, Social Chairman, etc.). Explain how they are elected, when the elections are held, and how long the terms are. Explain some of their duties such as making plans, getting the hall ready, planning the visitations, etc.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Responsibilities/Duties of Club Officers

#### OUTCOME

The student will understand the operation of the club, and the duties and responsibilities of the officers.





## TOPIC #7

### HANDOUT

#### RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES OF CLUB OFFICERS

All officers support all Club activities, also area and state square dance organization, festivals, activities, and conventions. They set an example for other officers and club members. Other duties are:

##### PRESIDENT

1. Presides over all meetings.
2. Conducts the business of the Club.
3. Appoints Committees.

##### VICE PRESIDENT

1. Assumes duties of the President in the event of his absence.
2. Helps the President and all committees.

##### SECRETARY

1. Prepares Club correspondence.
2. Serves as Custodian of all Club records.
3. Prepares minutes of all meetings.

##### TREASURER

1. Receives and disburses all Club monies.
2. Prepares and presents Club financial reports.
3. Keeps all financial records of the Club.

##### PAST PRESIDENT

1. Provides continuity in Club operations by advising Club officers in the performance of their responsibilities and duties.
2. Provides guidance, counseling and training to new Club officers.

##### SOCIAL DIRECTOR

1. Responsible for planning refreshments for all Club activities.

##### CLUB DELEGATE

1. Responsible for the interchange of information between the Club and the Area Association.
2. Attend and actively participate in all Area Association and Club meetings.
3. Be thoroughly familiar with the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies, Procedures and Operations of the Club and the Association.

##### CLUB CALLER

1. Maintain Club dancing proficiency.
2. Conduct Club dances as scheduled by the Board of Directors.
3. Provide all sound equipment and records.
4. Conduct Club classes.
5. Present a professional appearance and attitude at all Club functions.
6. Participate in all Club functions.

## TOPIC #8

### AREA ASSOCIATION

#### OBJECT

This is the beginning of several topics to introduce the student to the larger world of Square Dancing.

#### SPEECH

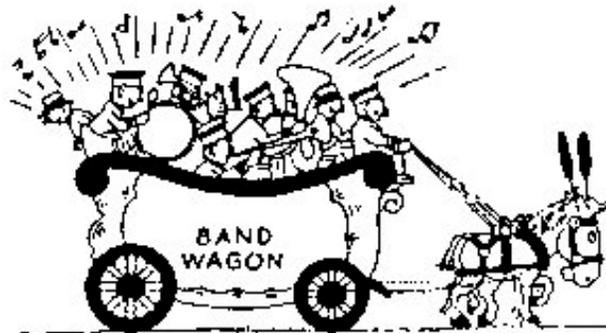
Our club belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ Association, which is an (area, region, district) association of the state. We belong to the Association so that (give the reasons, such as we can receive a newsletter, receive a calendar of other club dances, educational material, make money by selling tickets, have festivals, advertise our dances, etc.). By belonging to the association we can help other clubs and they help us. We send our delegate(s) to \_\_\_\_\_ meetings a year. They vote, set policies, make plans, etc. Area Associations are made up of clubs in an area and handles the square dance business in that area. The State Association covers the entire state and unites all the associations within the state.

#### HANDOUT

1. Why should a club belong to an Association?
2. By-Laws of the Association
3. Newsletter

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to the Association in your area. They begin to see the larger picture of the Square Dancing activity.





## TOPIC #8

### HANDOUT

#### WHY SHOULD A CLUB BELONG TO AN ASSOCIATION?

1. Because an Association will usually:
  - A. Obtain Callers for festivals and other special dancers.
  - B. Provide diplomas, posters and other promotional materials
  - C. Provide educational materials and sponsor leadership seminars.
  - D. Offer group insurance (Medical and Liability)
  - E. Send delegates to represent you at State Council meetings
  - F. Promote square & round dancing activities through combined publicity efforts. Clubs having special dances can publicize their dances and secure the cooperation of member clubs. Local associations can secure advertising publicity through State Council media. Member clubs can obtain information concerning special dances and festivals throughout the State from their local association officers and club or association delegates.
  
2. An Association may also:
  - A. Keep a blood bank account available for any member and his immediate family
  - B. Publish a newsletter.
  - C. Have large coffee and tea urns available, fans and other items for use by member clubs at their special dances.
  - D. Promote visitation with a friendship badge/banner program.
  - E. Keep a calendar of dance events to help prevent conflicts in schedules.
  - F. Make available booklets for new dancer classes.
  - G. Sponsor sewing clinics and fashion show.
  - H. Sponsor an annual "Festival Weekend."
  
3. If Clubs belong to an Association, then:
  - A. Membership in the association enables clubs to receive financial assistance by receiving a percentage of the donations for State convention "GRAND PRIZE" tickets.
  - B. Member associations of State Council also receive a percentage of the surplus of State Convention registrations.
  - C. The clubs work as a unit, which makes a stronger working association.
  - D. The association is a place where dancers can bring their problems and grievances to obtain help in solving them.
  - E. Membership in an association enables dancers to present their individual opinions and ideas, thereby benefiting clubs and dancers.
  - F. With the cooperation of clubs, local associations and the State Council, we can accomplish things together that individuals or clubs could not do alone.

**REMEMBER:** DANCERS, THROUGH THEIR CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS AND STATE COUNCILS, WORK TOGETHER TO PROMOTE SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING; THEREBY RECEIVING MORE ENJOYMENT FOR THE FINEST OF ALL RECREATIONS!

## TOPIC #9

### STATE ASSOCIATION

#### (FEDERATION) (COUNCIL)

#### OBJECT

This topic will help the student to understand the State organization and its importance to Square Dancing.

#### SPEECH

Our club belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ Association, and the association belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ State Organization. The state does (give the reasons, such as we can receive a newsletter, receive a list of other club dances, educational material, make money by selling tickets, have a festival, advertise our dances, etc.) By belonging to the State association we know what is going on in other parts of the State. The Association may send delegates to \_\_\_ meetings a year. They vote, set policies, make plans, etc. This topic may be changed to fit your area.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) By-Laws of the State Association
- 2) Newsletter

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to the State Association in your area.



## TOPIC #10

### HISTORY TO PRESENT DAY

#### OBJECT

Everyone likes to know where things came from. In this topic the student is introduced to the history of Square Dancing.

#### SPEECH

The American Folk Dance, Square Dancing, has two great ancestors — one is English and one is French. Many of our figures came from them. As the United States moved westward so did Square Dancing and the dance took on the style of each new area. Country Style Square Dancing in the late 1800's and early 1900's received a very bad name because it was danced in places where drinks were served and the dance usually became rowdy and uncontrollable. People could not dance the figures except with their own group. This was a time before microphones; therefore a caller was in each square calling the figures, or someone would call a figure such as "figure 8" and the dancers would do a number of dips, circles or whatever. The music was a fiddle or a guitar, or maybe a banjo.

Henry Ford, the maker of the first automobile, loved to Square Dance. He built a place for his employees to have a Square Dance Club. In 1926 his book "Good Morning," consisting of dance figures, was published.

In the 1920's, Dr. Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw came on the scene and brought Square Dancing out of its dark age. He traveled to dances all over America and wrote down the figures and dances. He formed the "Cheyenne Mountain Dancers" who traveled all over performing and inspiring people who wanted to learn to Square Dance.

In 1939 he published a book "Cowboy Dances." The callers learned the same dances and figures. Therefore, dancers could dance in different areas. Today we have many other organizations to unite the dancers, so that a dancer can dance in any State or Country. If a dancer travels to a foreign country to dance, he will be able to dance. The calls are in English, but maybe with an accent.

Microphones and the turntable changed Square Dancing the most. This led into the modern Square Dance era with one caller calling for a hall, using records. Now records have been mostly replaced by computers and MP3 players.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) The History of Square Dancing

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to the history of Square Dancing. They realize that Square Dancing is an old dance with lots of colorful history.

## TOPIC #10

### HANDOUT

#### THE HISTORY OF SQUARE DANCING

The American Folk Dance has two great ancestors, one is English and the other is French. From the English we receive the Morris Dance, Scotch reels, the English Country Dance, and the Longways dance among others. The French gave us the Court Ballet, the Minuet, and Quadrilles.

The Longways Dance and the Court Ballet became the Contra dance, which split and became the Appalachian Mountain Dance and the New England Country Dance. The Appalachian Mountain Dance became the Play Party, Circle Mixers, Running Set, Big Set, Contra and Western Square Dance. The New England Country Dance became Play Party, Circle Mixers, Quadrille, Contra and Eastern Square Dance. The Western and Eastern Square Dance became today's Square Dance.

Square Dancing in the late 1800's and early 1900's received a very bad name because it was danced in places where drinks were served and the dance usually became rowdy and uncontrollable. People could not dance the figures except with their own group. This was a time before microphones. Therefore, a caller was used in each square, calling the figures, or someone would call a series of figures, such as "figure 8" and the dancers would do a number of dips, circles or whatever. The music was a fiddle, or a guitar, or maybe a banjo.

Henry Ford, who put the world on wheels, is given the chief credit for introducing square dancing to Michigan. He built a hall, and all of his employees were able to participate in square dancing. He also wrote the book "Good Morning," a book of dances.

Dr. Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw came on the scene and brought Square Dancing out of its dark age. He traveled to dances all over America and wrote down the figures and dances. He formed the "Cheyenne Mountain Dancers," who traveled all over performing and thereby people became interested in learning to square dance. In 1939 he published a book "Cowboy Dances" and the "Round Dance."

The formation of Callerlab, Roundalab, United Square Dancers of America, and many other organizations helped to unite the callers and dancers. Now, dancers can dance in any country in the world.

Microphones and the turntable changed Square Dancing the most. This led to the modern Square Dance era with records and one caller for a hall. Now records have been replaced by more modern electronic devices such as computers and MP3 players.

There were twelve events that have helped to shape the future of Square Dancing:

- (1) The heritage of Lloyd Shaw, from the late 1930's into the 1950's, with his Cheyenne Mountain Dancer, spread the word about Square Dancing.
- (2) Microphones and records to make the dancing easier.
- (3) Bob Osgood's "Sets In Order" magazines started in 1948 and brought the dancers closer.
- (4) The Diamond Jubilee, Santa Monica, California, July 13, 1950, was the first truly gigantic dance, attracting 15,200 dancers and more than 35,000 spectators.
- (5) The first National Square Dance Convention was held in Riverside, California, in 1952.
- (6) The American Square Dance at the U.S.A. Pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair, July 1958.
- (7) The future Queen Elizabeth square danced at Ottawa, Canada.



- (8) The formation of Callerlab, February 1971, so that the callers could communicate with each other.
- (9) America's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party featured American Square Dancing, July 4, 1976.
- (10) The world's largest Square Dance was held in Seattle, Washington, June 27, 1981. This was featured on television.
- (11) A stamp depicting Square Dancing was honored at a special First-day-of-issue ceremony in Lincoln Center, New York.
- (12) During President Ronald Reagan's term in office, square dancing was recognized officially as the Folk Dance of America, in Washington, D.C. on June 1, 1982, on a trial basis until December 31, 1983. Prior to that President Jimmy Carter, and his wife Rosalynn, square danced and had square dances in the White House.

The United Square Dancers of America is continuing to promote the permanent designation of Square Dancing as the National Folk Dance of the United States of America. At present 31 states have made Square Dancing their State Folk Dance, and other states are continuing action for that same process.

The National Convention is held near the end of June each year and attended by thousands of dancers. It is held in different cities each year. A city bids on the National four years in advance. The National Executive committee (NEC), made up of past National Convention General Chairmen, votes on which city receives the convention, based on presentations by bidding cities. Dancers come from all over the world to dance, visit, attend Educational Panels and sightsee.

A Square Dancer can travel all over the world and dance. The calls are in English, but they may be heavily accented in the language of the country. The service men taught square dancing in many countries and because the calls do not translate, the calls were taught in English.

There are many movies that have square dancing in them. Some of them are "Giant," "Roseanna McCoy," "Copper Canyon," "Lets Dance," "East Side, West Side," "Oklahoma," "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and "Duel in the Sun." Jerry Lewis learned to call in the movie "Partners."

Many people say square dancers are the friendliest people on earth because they hold hands in a square and they are always greeting each other with a hug - "Yellow Rock." A dancer can travel many miles to a dance and he is always greeted with the same "Yellow Rock" as he receives in his own club. Many clubs visit each other and mileage doesn't matter. They will travel to the ends of the Earth for the fun of square dancing. Square Dancing today is called "Friendship Set to Music."

The Square Dance costume has changed with the times. In the beginning a lady spent many hours ironing her dress and starching her slips. In the "olden days" a lady would wear a camisole and pantlets, white ballerina slippers, grey figured cotton print dress, bonnet, neck-ribbon with a silver pin, pouch bag, chintz pinafore, several petticoats, fan, parasol, and a wool shawl. Today she wears pettipants, slippers, petticoat and a permanent press dress. The dresses of "yesteryear" were full and long. Today's dresses vary from full and short to the prairie skirt and western-style blouse. The wardrobe of Mr. Square Dancer of "by-gone days" consisted of a beige felt western hat, striped "gambler pants, hand-tooled leather belt and sterling silver buckle overlaid with gold, boot-hooks, boot-puller, western boots, western tie with leather tie-slide, embroidered gabardine shirt, and fringed chamois jacket. Today's Mr. Square Dancer wears a western shirt that may or may not match his partner's dress, slacks or jeans, boots, sometimes a tie or bolo, but no hat. Badges are worn to all square dance activities by both Mr. and Mrs. Dancer to identify themselves and what club or organization they belong to. Square dance attire has been instrumental in making square dancing what it is today — "Friendship Set to Music."

## TOPIC #11

### NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION

#### OBJECT

Many students do not know the National Square Dance Convention. This topic will be an Introduction of what a National Convention is all about.

#### SPEECH

The National Square Dance Convention was started in 1952 in Riverside, California, and has been held each year since in a different city. Thousands of square dancers come from all over the world to the National. The National has many things for square dancers to see and do. Exhibitions of all kinds of dancing are performed. There is a “Parade of States” for dancers from every state to participate in. There are Education seminars for the dancers to learn about the many aspects of square dancing. Fashion shows, sewing clinics, the Showcase of Ideas (where many organizations display their materials, ideas and information about square and round dancing in their state), and tours of the area, are among some of the things a dancer can see and do. There are vendors selling square dance items. You can dance from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and then go to many of the after parties.

When a square dance organization decides to bid on a National Convention, a group of interested square dancers will work from one to four years before it bids on sponsoring a National. They must put together a package of information about the dance site (usually a convention center), restaurants, motels, hotels, camping, dance space and many other bits of information. To have a National Convention, Square Dancers must have state/city support, and the support of the square dancers, and most of all good leadership. At the National Convention the group presents the bid package to the National Executive Committee (NEC). The NEC, which is made up of the past General Chairmen of National Conventions, votes on who is awarded the National Convention four years in advance.

#### “THE WORLD’S GREATEST SQUARE DANCE EVENT”

There is a magazine called “National Squares” that is devoted to providing all details about the National Square Dance Convention. It is available online at [www.nsdcnec.com](http://www.nsdcnec.com). .

#### HANDOUT

1. What is a National Square Dance Conventions?
2. List of National Square Dance Conventions

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to the history and operation of the National.



## TOPIC #11

### HANDOUT #1

#### WHAT IS A NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION?

The National Square Dance Convention was started in 1952 in Riverside, California. It has been held each year since in different cities.

**NEXT CONVENTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT TO DO AND SEE AT CONVENTIONS:

EXHIBITIONS: All kinds of dancing, from historical to Handicapables.

PARADE OF STATES: A parade with dancers from each state and from other countries.

EDUCATION SEMINARS: Many interesting programs to help you — from how to be a leader, forming clubs, smooth dancing, to how to become a caller

FASHION SHOWS: To see a variety of square dance wear.

SEWING CLINICS: Most of the time you can get patterns free.

VENDORS: Booths to buy square dance-related items.

SHOWCASE OF IDEAS: Organizations from all over bring displays, educational materials and handouts so that others can get ideas.

TOURS: There will be tours of places of interest around the city and the state. At some conventions, there are rodeos, barbecues, concerts and many other attractions.

**A BIT OF HISTORY:** A group of interested people work several years before the state bids on the National Convention. They must put together a package of information about their restaurants, motels, hotels, camping, dance space and many other bits of information. A General Chairman is appointed. At the National, the group presents the package to the National Executive Committee (NEC). The NEC votes on who is awarded the National. The General Chairman will receive the bid four years in advance. For the next four years the General Chairman and his committees make all the plans for thousands of dancers to come to and have a good time. They must plan for the dancers to have rooms to sleep in and plenty of food. Finding enough halls to dance in is a big problem too.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC):** The NEC is made up of past National Chairmen. They oversee each National Square Dance Convention. The only way to become a member of the National Executive Committee is to be a General Chairman of a National Convention.

Each NEC member is assigned a geographical area in the U.S., and any square dance organization wishing to host a future National must contact these members. The advisor stays in constant contact with the prospective chairman. They counsel all the way from the bid preparation to the end of the convention.

An NEC member also has an area of responsibility within the committee. At any given time, the NEC members are advising on four conventions.

## TOPIC #11

### HANDOUT #2

#### NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTIONS

NO.	YEAR	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
1	1952	Riverside, California	Approx. 6,500
2	1953	Kansas City, Missouri	Approx. 5,000
3	1954	Dallas, Texas	5,352
4	1955	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	7,644
5	1956	San Diego, California	12,253
6	1957	St. Louis, Missouri	8,437
7	1958	Louisville, Kentucky	8,027
8	1959	Denver, Colorado	8,848
9	1960	Des Moines, Iowa	12,328
10	1961	Detroit, Michigan	18,195
11	1962	Miami Beach, Florida	10,336
12	1963	St. Paul, Minnesota	10,863
13	1964	Long Beach, California	14,790
14	1965	Dallas, Texas	11,196
15	1966	Indianapolis, Indiana	14,016
16	1967	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	9,729
17	1968	Omaha, Nebraska	10,284
18	1969	Seattle, Washington	12,673
19	1970	Louisville, Kentucky	19,542
20	1971	New Orleans, Louisiana	13,636
21	1972	Des Moines, Iowa	15,823
22	1973	Salt Lake City, Utah	16,181
23	1974	San Antonio, Texas	18,052
24	1975	Kansas City, Missouri	22,052
25	1976	Anaheim, California	39,796
26	1977	Atlantic City, New Jersey	24,568
27	1978	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	23,879
28	1979	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	22,170
29	1980	Memphis, Tennessee	26,841
30	1981	Seattle, Washington	24,379
31	1982	Detroit, Michigan	18,050
32	1983	Louisville, Kentucky	30,953
33	1984	Baltimore, Maryland	20,052
34	1985	Birmingham, Alabama	17,781
35	1986	Indianapolis, Indiana	27,192
36	1987	Houston, Texas	20,164
37	1988	Anaheim, California	26,967
38	1989	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	20,572
39	1990	Memphis, Tennessee	23,651
40	1991	Salt Lake City, Utah	17,840
41	1992	Cincinnati, Ohio	20,705
42	1993	St. Louis, Missouri	18,808
43	1994	Portland, Oregon	21,770
44	1995	Birmingham, Alabama	12,719
45	1996	San Antonio, Texas	16,635
46	1997	Orlando, Florida	13,399
47	1998	Charlotte, North Carolina	13,085
48	1999	Indianapolis, Indiana	10,011
49	2000	Baltimore, Maryland	10,061
50	2001	Anaheim, California	13,020
51	2002	St. Paul, Minnesota	8,828
52	2003	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	7,732
53	2004	Denver, Colorado	8,607
54	2005	Portland, Oregon	8,136
55	2006	San Antonio, Texas	7,188
56	2007	Charlotte, North Carolina	8,021
57	2008	Wichita, Kansas	5,997
58	2009	Long Beach, California	4,912
59	2010	Louisville, Kentucky	6,295
60	2011	Detroit, Michigan	3,737
61	2012	Spokane, Washington	5,545
62	2013	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	
63	2014	Little Rock, Arkansas	
64	2015	Springfield, Massachusetts	
65	2016	Des Moines, Iowa	



## TOPIC #12

### SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATIONS

#### OBJECT

There are many organizations associated with the square dance movement. These organizations help to unite all dancers. The student is introduced to some of these organizations.

#### SPEECH

National and International organizations associated with Square Dancing are many and varied. There is Callerlab or American Callers Association for the callers, Roundalab for round dance callers, United Square Dancers of America for the dancer, National Square Dance Directory, Single Square Dancers for the Singles, National Square Dance Campers Association, Inc. for the dancers who camp, and many others for clogging, country dance, contra, etc. Your handout will explain what each is and does. (If your club belongs to a National Organization explain about it and why the club belongs to it, and if your caller belongs to Callerlab or American Callers Association, have them tell a little about it.)

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Square Dance Organizations

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to the National and International Organizations.



## TOPIC #12

### HANDOUT

## SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATIONS

### **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA** ([www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org))

An organization that serves to represent the dancer in decisions that are made relative to the development and growth of the Square Dance activity; provides a variety of programs and materials to support square dancing.

### **CALLERLAB** (<http://www.callerlab.org/>)

An association of Callers which has been established to assist the members both professionally and personally in all aspects of their involvement in the square dance activity.

### **ROUNDALAB** ([www.roundalab.org](http://www.roundalab.org))

An organization open to all who are actively teaching round dancing.

### **ARTS-DANCE** ([www.arts-dance.org](http://www.arts-dance.org))

The *Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance* which is made up of nationally recognized dance organizations.

### **LLOYD SHAW FOUNDATION** ([www.lloydshaw.org](http://www.lloydshaw.org))

It promotes all forms of American and associated folk dance and maintains an archive designed to provide access to many important and historical references.

### **SINGLE SQUARE DANCERS USA** ([www.ssdua.org](http://www.ssdua.org))

A national organization of single square dance clubs and single dancers. The objectives are to promote and stimulate square dancing among unmarried adults of all ages.

### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS** ([www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org))

An organization that supports gay and lesbian modern western square dance clubs worldwide.

### **NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.** ([www.nsdca.org](http://www.nsdca.org))

Provides an opportunity for and to encourage those interested in both modern western square dancing and camping.

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SQUARE & ROUND DANCE SUPPLIERS** ([www.nasrds.org](http://www.nasrds.org))

An organization of commercial businesses which provide apparel, equipment, records, and many other speciality items to support square and round dancing.

### **COUNTRY DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY OF AMERICA** ([www.cdss.org](http://www.cdss.org))

An organization of dancers, singers, musicians, teachers, callers, and dance historians who enjoy dancing, playing and singing English and Anglo-American dances, tunes, and songs

Just to name a few!



## TOPIC #13

### FESTIVALS

#### OBJECT

To teach the student about area and state festivals and other large dances of their area.

#### SPEECH

We have a Festival or large dance \_\_\_\_\_ times a year, at \_\_\_\_\_.  
It lasts from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. It is arranged by the (Name the leaders in charge).  
They work many hours planning and making all the arrangements for the dance. At the  
Festival, the dancers can dance, \_\_\_\_\_ (list all the events that happen at this  
Festival, such as square dance shops, fashion show, exhibitions, visit with other club's  
members, sewing clinic, educational meetings or seminars, dance different levels, etc.)

See \_\_\_\_\_ for registration information.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Festival flyer or registration form from your area

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to the Festivals or large dances in their own area.

# SQUARE DANCE JAMBOREE



## TOPIC #14

### VISITING OTHER CLUBS

#### OBJECT

This topic will introduce the student to visiting other clubs, including what to do and what to expect.

#### SPEECH

When you become a club member, you will want to join in visitations to other clubs. At first you may have difficulty understanding the new caller where you visit. Each caller has his own style. You have to listen closely, but after a tip or two you will adjust and be able to dance more comfortably. Remember that all the figures will be the same, it's just the way they are put together that may be different.

Clubs serve refreshments at different times. Some clubs have a Grand March, and at others you will just square up. Saying "Good Night" at a club is handled in different ways; some will form lines for you to pass through, some will just visit around with individuals. Visiting other clubs is fun and you will meet a lot of friendly dancers.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Provide a list of clubs in your area or your local club directory or magazine with dance listings.

#### OUTCOME

The student begins to understand visitations, and so when the time comes to visit, they will have an idea of what is going to take place.



## TOPIC #15

### SQUARE DANCE TRAVEL

#### OBJECT

In this topic the student is introduced to Square Dance vacations and dances to go to when they travel.

#### SPEECH

A Square Dancer can spend a day, week, or as long as they want in a square dance camp or institute. Many square dancers take their vacation to go to the National Convention. Since it is held in different parts of the country, they get to see this great country of ours. When you go on a vacation, take your Square Dance clothes so you can dance at a local club.

There are clubs all over the world. As we told you in previous lessons the calls are in English, so you can dance anywhere in the world.

There is a National Square Dance Directory so that you can find a dance in the area that you plan to visit. It is so much fun to visit a club in another area. You will be able to dance but the accents or the voice of a different caller may throw you for a while.

The United Square Dancers of America also offers a USA Traveler program, where you can dance in different states and earn a special badge. You can get a new bar every time you dance in 12 different states; dance in all 50 states and get free registration to a National Square Dance Convention. Learn about the USDA USA Traveler program at [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org).

Another thing to think about is if you move. One of the first things for you to do is find a dance and a club, this way you will get acquainted sooner and not feel so alone.

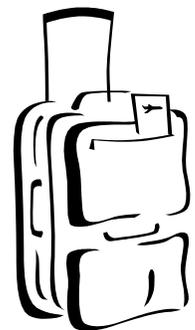
Our handout is a list of publications that you can subscribe to and learn of places you can go, as well as learn lots about square dancing.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Addresses of publications.

#### OUTCOME

The student is introduced to vacations and publications of square dancing.



**SQUARE DANCING IS**

**WORLDWIDE . . .**

## TOPIC #15

### HANDOUT

#### PUBLICATIONS

#### — Books, Magazines & Newsletters —

It is highly recommended that each dancer (couple) subscribe to their local or state square dance publication. These magazines usually have all the information about dances in your local area. This provides the dancer the opportunity to locate a dance any night of the week, anywhere in the state or area that is covered by the magazine.

Items of interest usually provided in these local magazines could include any of the following:

- Articles by a reporter for each club
- Advertising purchased by clubs promoting their dances
- Advertising purchased by local businesses promoting square dancing
- Advertising by local square dance costume vendors
- Articles by the president, editor, callers or others providing pertinent information about the organization
- Promotion for a State or Regional Dance - usually a special event
- Listings of deaths of local dancers
- Directions to dance locations
- Monthly calendar of dances

Some national magazines and newsletters include:

AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE MAGAZINE ([www.americansquaredance.com/](http://www.americansquaredance.com/))

NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION TIMES ([nsdca.org/times.html](http://nsdca.org/times.html))

NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL SQUARE DANCE DIRECTORY ([www.nsddirectory.com](http://www.nsddirectory.com))

NATIONAL SQUARES ONLINE ([www.nsdcnec.com/index.php/national-squares-online](http://www.nsdcnec.com/index.php/national-squares-online))

USDA NEWS ([www.usda.org/usdanews.htm](http://www.usda.org/usdanews.htm))





## TOPIC #16

### SMOOTH DANCING

#### OBJECT

This topic will introduce the student to smooth dancing.

#### SPEECH

The art of smooth dancing takes time to develop, but we would like to give you a few suggestions to aid you on your way. First of all, practice keeping your feet on the floor and shuffle to the beat of the music. Keep arms and legs close to the body. Hold or touch hands every time you can, this gives security and tells where you are in the square. Be sure you hold hands lightly; rings can dig into the skin. Use forearms when possible, this makes the square smaller.

Practice the swing. The swing done well is beautiful. After you get in position for the swing pretend that there is a pole between the two of you, lean back slightly and push with your outside foot around the pole.

Remember who your partner and corner is! If you practice remembering, you will be able to straighten out a mix-up sometimes.

Sometimes, you may have a person in the square that is rough and may grab you too hard or try to be helpful by turning you or heading you the wrong way. There are ways you can stop this. If you are in a forearm grip, make your arm rigid, and hold as close to the body as possible. This will put the person a little off balance. If you must give your hand to him/her, move your hand a little out of line, they must hunt for it and you will throw them off balance, just enough that they can't grab you, but not enough to mix up the square. If the swing is too rough just stiffen up.

(At this time you may want to demonstrate a smooth square and a square that is not smooth. Also a question and answer time is good.)

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Smooth Dancing

#### OUTCOME

The student begins to understand that a good dancer is a smooth dancer.

## TOPIC #16

### HANDOUT

#### SMOOTH DANCING

The why and how of a smooth flowing set of square dancers can be traced to their learning period. The ease of each dancer's body mechanics, the traffic patterns they follow, the recovery from a misunderstood or wrong start, each dancer's ATTITUDE at that particular time and place, all reflect their personal experiences and knowledge of the game. All this reaction is sometimes called STYLING - and it doesn't just happen! The dancers must be trained to respond in this way and it takes some practice on their part to make it effective. Rhythm alone will not induce good styling, it should include knowing how to do a movement comfortably, flowingly with a minimum of effort. To do this, the dancer MUST know the accepted traffic pattern to follow, how to turn his partner and still remain courteous. This is learning to be a smooth dancer. The following are some do's & don'ts of smooth dancing:

- Do - keep your feet on the floor and shuffle or slide step with the music.
- Do - be aware at all times that square dancing is a "courteous" recreation rather than one of competition.
- Do - keep smiling.
- Do - recognize your corner, not only what she's wearing but who she is. Next to your partner, she's the most important person in your square.
- Do - be quiet and attentive to the caller.
- Do - remember to treat all the ladies as you would want other men to treat your own wife.
- Do - accept or admit you "goofed." And when you goof - goof gracefully and try to recover the best you can in order to save the set from breaking up entirely.
- Do - remember who you are every time you square up....heads, sides, what couple, and in some cases whether or not you are dancing as a boy or girl.
- Do - end each dance with a flourish, applause and thanks to all in the set and mean it.
- Don't - be over exuberant. Your yells might drown out the caller's next command.
- Don't - be a "know-it-all."
- Don't - cut in or out of a set unless you know how.
- Don't - be guilty of "horse-play" unless you know the set would not be offended - or the club.
- Don't - take that extra swing with your partner. It might make her late for the next command.
- Don't - spin or twirl the ladies unless you know she likes it.
- Don't - cut through another set on your way to your place to dance.
- Don't - insist on dancing YOUR way when visiting other areas.
- Don't - just stand instead of swinging at the end of a promenade, especially in a singing call. The dance has been timed to allow for this movement, so don't waste the MUSIC.



## TOPIC #17

### SUMMARY

#### OBJECT

This is an overall review of what was discussed in the previous topics.  
(Audience participation will help the student to remember)

#### SPEECH

Tonight, we will go over all the subjects that we have talked about in the previous topics.

In Topic 3, we discussed the fact that our square dance attire is a costume and when we wear it, non-square dancers know who we are. When we have the costume on, we should be alert to the fact that non-square dancers are judging all square dancers by the way we act.

In Topic 4, we learned some of the courtesies of square dancing, the right costume and to use jewelry that will not get in the way. Men wear long sleeve shirts. Comfortable shoes and badges are important. Talking and chewing gum is hard to do while dancing. Drinking alcoholic beverages before or during a dance is not allowed. We need to use deodorant. Don't walk by a square when starting a tip and to say "Thank You" after the dance.

We then introduced you to our club, the duties of the officers, and our area and state association. In the next topic you were told a little about the history of Square Dancing, how it came from many countries and how it developed into today's Western Square Dance.

We discussed the National Square Dance Convention and how it started in 1952. This year's National Convention will be held in \_\_\_\_\_.

We have many Square Dance organizations. You have a copy in your folder to explain what they are.

In Topic 13 we told you about our local festival (large dance) (remind the students when and where). Someday you may want to travel and square dance. In Topic 14 we discussed how you can do it.

Visiting is important to a club and we want you to visit with us. Our first visit for you will be \_\_\_\_\_ (if you know the date.)

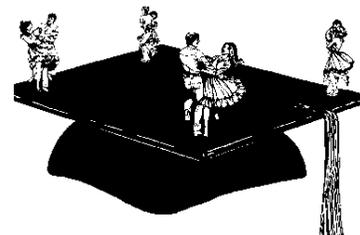
Next week you will graduate and we hope you will join our club and have a long and happy Square Dance life.

#### HANDOUT

- 1) Guidelines for the New Dancer

#### OUTCOME

The student is prepared for the life of Square Dancing.



## TOPIC #17

### HANDOUT

#### GUIDELINES FOR NEW DANCERS

- 1) **DANCE AT OTHER CLUBS:** Your home club needs your support and there should always be a special place for the club where you learned to dance, but you are missing one of the great things about square dancing if you only dance with your home club.
- 2) **DANCE TO OTHER CALLERS:** During lessons you tuned into the caller who taught you, and you will always have a special place for him. Every caller has a different style, that's part of the fun.
- 3) **DANCE IN THE FRONT OF THE HALL:** The tendency for the newer dancers is to hide in the back of the hall where he thinks the caller can't see his square break down. A good caller watches the whole floor, including the back square. Don't be afraid to dance in the front square.
- 4) **DANCE WITH EXPERIENCED DANCERS:** Sometimes an outreached hand from a more experienced dancer is all your square needs to keep going. Everyone dancing today was a new dancer at one time and can remember how it felt.
- 5) **TOUCH HANDS AFTER EVERY MOVE:** Establish your position by touching hands after every move. If you are lost, at least you'll have company.
- 6) **KEEP DANCING:** To use all the information you have learned and to make it become second nature, it's important to practice, practice, practice.
- 7) **BE AWARE OF YOUR LEVEL:** Look for dances advertised at the level you know.
- 8) **STAY AT YOUR LEVEL AWHILE:** The level you dance has nothing to do with how good a dancer you are. It has to do with how much time you are willing to devote to our hobby. You may never choose to move to another level and that's fine. Don't make a choice until you have danced Mainstream at least a full year. Don't let anyone rush you!
- 9) **SQUARE DANCE FOR FUN:** The odds are pretty good that someone is going to make a mistake (even a caller makes one sometime). Don't worry about whose fault it was, it doesn't matter. Regroup and KEEP SMILING!
- 10) **FINALLY:** Jump right up when the music starts; get in the first open square, do not pass one up, introduce yourself, smile and have fun. Thank everyone when the tip is over.

# Welcome New Dancers!