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USDA *News*



NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST
SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATION

Square Dancing: Official Folk Dance of North America

PUBLISHED BY UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

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WHAT'S INSIDE

I think most of us are wanting to get back to our dance hall with our friends and do what we do best; square dance. However, before we just jump right in and say "doors are open", there are a few things we should consider. Our president's report (pages 3-4) suggest several things to think about and then on pages 13-14 are more things that were recently distributed to the clubs in CA.

"Could Our Yellow Rock Become a Fossil" An interesting article about the future of the yellow rock by Marianne King from the Greater Cincinnati Federation. Her article is on page 25. This is followed on the following page with an editorial, "Wonder Where the Yellow Went?" and then page 27 Ed Foote talks about the future of the Yellow Rock.

Page 12 is another article from Marianne about VOLUNTEERS. Being from the state of Tennessee I am all about volunteers. Read this page slowly and hear what she is saying.

Dan Reedy, youth advisor, announced the winners of this year's "Founders Scholarships." Two well deserving young people are pictured along with their story on page 7.

Well, our list of dancers 100 years old continues to grow. Just a couple of weeks ago Milene McCall, drove down to Louisville, KY to present our Centennial Award to Louise Hale. Had I not been so closely connected with this program for the past five years you would have never convinced me that this lady was a 100 years old. Louise did tell Milene that her longevity was due to her square dancing. Read our Feature Article on page 9 for more of Louise Hale.



Do you know the oldest square dance club in IL? I will give you a clue. They were formed in 1949. My father would often tell me to look something up and I would remember it longer. If he told me I would likely forget it in a short period of time. But before you grab your phone, tablet, or your laptop and start asking Siri and Alexa for the answer, just turn to page 10 and ask Edythe Weber.

Filling the pages of a square dance magazine when square dance has been shut down for the past 3-4 months was quite a challenge, but I think we met that challenge. Hope you enjoy this issue.

CLIP AND USE THIS CARD AND SAVE

PRESIDENTS**Tony and Diana Rock**

President's Message

June 2020

Greetings Fellow Square Dancers,

Before beginning this article we looked over The President's Message from the last edition of the USDA News. It brought tears to our eyes as we realized how much has changed since then. In March we were talking about summer dances and of course the excitement of the 69th NSDC in Spokane where USDA would hold their 39th Annual Board of Directors Meeting. Today, as we write this article, USDA is on the eve of a first time ever internet Annual Board of Directors Meeting powered by the ZOOM conferencing platform. This meeting format became a necessity as a result of the 69th NSDC being cancelled, along with literally every square and round dance in the United States, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The USDA Executive Committee has spent many hours in ZOOM meetings as we planned for this unique 39th Annual Board of Directors Meeting. We hope that you were able to be there to experience it with us.

All of that being said, the topic on everyone's mind is, "When and how do we resume dancing?" Members of the USDA Executive Committee have been in touch with other dance organizations, Affiliates, and states to gather ideas as to what the various parts of the country are doing and to find some common threads. Currently the Executive Committee is working towards compiling an official USDA document on guidelines for safely reopening the activity we all miss and love so much. Below is a sampling of some of the things to consider with your local club as the discussion continues. Please keep in mind that this is a general list of a few ideas and that when deciding how your club will move forward the official guidelines/regulations for your state and even your particular area within your state must be at the top of this list.

A Few Things to Consider for Safely Reopening Our Dance Communities

- Facility
 - Is your facility able and willing to clean and disinfect before and after your dances? Will there be an extra charge for this service? Can your club afford the additional fee?
 - Can you configure your hall to accommodate the number of people permitted in a room and arrange seating to follow social distancing mandates?
 - Prop entry door(s) open to reduce touching.
- Additional supplies to have on hand
 - Have appropriate cleaning products (sprays, wipes, etc.) on hand to clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the dance.
 - Masks should be worn at all times. My mask does not protect me, it protects you.
 - Use a wand or temple thermometer to check everyone's temperature as they arrive. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4 should be sent home.
 - Consider having everyone wear gloves or have them wash hands following each tip or round of dancing. Allow extra time between tips for hand washing.

Continued from page 3

- Plenty of hand sanitizer
- Arrival and Socializing
 - Limit hugs and handshakes at the dance
 - Have one person sign in dancers upon arrival
 - Consider having dancers pay by check and not cash
 - Keep a log of accurate contact information for every dancer in attendance, even visitors, in case someone later becomes ill and you have to contact those in attendance.
 - Have each dancer bring their own labeled water bottle.
 - Consider eliminating snacks altogether or have dancers bring their own.
- Respecting all dancers
 - Respect each dancer's decision as to whether or not they feel comfortable coming out to a dance. Do not pressure or tease them for their choice.
 - If you feel ill, do not go to a dance.
 - If you have been around someone who is ill, stay home.
 - Anyone who develops symptoms following a dance should immediately contact the President of the club or dance host so that others may be contacted appropriately.
 - As a club leader or dance host remind people frequently of the changes that are being implemented and that they will continue for the unforeseen future. Try to keep this light hearted if possible.
- Additional considerations
 - Weigh the risk of safety verses the desire to dance. Keep in mind that many of our dancers fall within the high risk category for COVID 19.
 - Use a survey to see how many club members are willing to attend.
 - Is your club incorporated? This protects your members' assets.
 - Does your club have USDA Insurance? It will handle any virus related claim/lawsuit provided you are abiding by your state and local mandates.

During this time of isolation, many callers have been very creative in hosting ZOOM internet dances. Also, as states begin to open up many couples have been coming together to do two couple or four couple dances. We hope this is the beginning of getting us back to the activity and the people that we all miss so very much. Hopefully when we write the September President's Message we'll have a very different story to tell. In the meantime, make wise decisions when called upon and above all, stay safe.

Tony & Diana Rock
Presidents, USDA



Carla said "I didn't think the day would ever come when I would walk into a Bank wearing a mask, and ask for money..!!".

(Reprint from "Let's Square Dance" as sent in by Brian Hotchkies)

**A NOTE FROM THE
EDITOR**



Larry W. Dunkel

The cover of this issue has an interesting story behind it. My son has been designing our cover page ever since the National convention in Des Moines and in my unbiased opinion has done a good job of putting some color and "zip" in the cover. I seldom tell him what to do although I may make an occasional suggestion, but this time I knew what I wanted. Since the outbreak of the corona virus there has been a lot of discussion about the future of square dancing and especially the "yellow rock". I normally find some humor in most things and my idea was to show a tombstone indicating the death of this unofficial, but most popular call. Well Chris told me he thought this portrayed a negative image and suggested a lack of sensitivity to those who had been affected by this terrible virus. Considering that he gets his smarts from his mother and his good looks from me I felt I should listen to what he had to say. This just shows that there are more than one way to look at something and get different meanings. It had never occurred to me that I was being insensitive. I would never, ever intentionally do that. The final result was that he came up with a cover that shows our emergency workers that we do appreciate and support their efforts to protect us. I have to agree with him that this is a much more positive statement to show some appreciation to these workers who give of themselves for our benefit. We will continue this on page 15 with a beautiful poem copied from the LSD.

The past couple of weeks have been very interesting and educational for me. I have attended several meetings via a program called "Zoom". What a wonderful program. My first experience with it was with one of my doctors. They did not want people coming into their office and since I did not want to go to their office this video conference worked out very well.

The USDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting is always held on the Wednesday of the National convention opening. Problem this year was that there was no National convention. But not to worry, we would have a "Zoom Meeting". Our presidents, Tony and Diana Rock, took charge and started the ball rolling. Jim Weber, our web master, was challenged with making all he technical stuff come together and he got it done. He also created a simplified "sign-in sheet" for our delegates as well as a simplified voting ballot that made the whole process faster and more efficient than ever. Another person that was truly over-worked was our secretary, Karen Gulbrand. Prior to our meetings I kept hearing Karen being asked to check with the delegates, or send this to the delegates, etc. But Karen is a professional and she got'er done and we never ever heard a whimper. Of course many people were involved with this task, but these two truly deserve a hand of appreciation.

Not only did we have the BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting via Zoom, there were a couple of other USDA meetings held and we also had a couple of practice sessions for the delegates that were not familiar with the Zoom program. Several people attended these sessions and were able to work out the problems before the main meeting. I think everyone involved would agree that this was an excellent way to conduct a meeting when everyone could not be together. It was also nice not having to get dressed for this meeting. Got out of bed, slipped on nice shirt and remembered to stay under the desk for the rest of the meeting. There was a little uneasiness when we were asked to stand for the pledge of allegiance, but it worked out.

I understand that a few places are beginning to go back to the dance hall. I do hope they read the suggestions given by our presidents and the CA Council of items to think about before opening those doors. We all want to return as soon as possible, but let's not forego the health risk involved.

Also a reminder that several clubs have not made a decision on whether to cancel a dance or not. Before you go give them a call and be sure the dance is still on. Many are cancelled on short notice.

If you have not already heard the news, the NEC has awarded the 73rd Natimonal Convention to Wisconsin. The dates are June 26-29, 2024. The general chairmen are Scott & Brenda Deal., former members of the USDA Executive Committee until they resigned in order to devote more time on the convention. The convention will be held in Milwaukee.

The general chairmen of the 72nd convention in Mobile, Al are also former USDA Executive Committee members that resigned in order to devote more time to their convention. Nice couple. Wish I could remember their names.

Until next time.....Larry D

EVENTS IN THE PLAINS REGION

Mark & Bina Krebsbach, USDA Plains Region VP

Summer time - Summer time – Fun – Fun – Summer time

Summer is my favorite time of the year. Maybe a little less fun this Summer as most square dance activities have been cancelled. But life on this blessed earth continues to roll on, just as the waves of the Great Lake Sibley continue to roll up to the shore and lap at the sandy beach in front of our lake cabin, where I am sitting and watching as I write this.

As the waves give way to the beach and the beach gives way to the grass, the Lord truly exhibits beautiful harmony in a pleasing arrangement of Mother Natures parts.

I hear God’s voice in the sound of the waves lap – lap – lap and that gives me tranquility, the internal calming of my spirit and soul.

Life at the lake continues on in a fairly normal fashion for Bina & I. We are both healthy and are fortunate to have a quiet and isolated place to hunker down and live through this COVID thing. As of this date Kidder County, where we live, has not had single confirmed case of the coronavirus disease.

Praise the Lord for that!!

We hope to be square dancing again real soon, I may need to take lessons again.

God’s blessings and we hope you stay healthy.

As ever square dancers,

Mark & Bina—



EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Ed & Lynda Willis, USDA Central Region VP

Well I guess our last quarter article turned out to be a total lie. All the events we were planning to attend were canceled due to the current health situation. Most of the upcoming conventions have been canceled as well including our North Carolina Convention. As far as we know the only upcoming conventions in the Central Region not to be canceled are the West Virginia Convention July 24-26. Alabama Convention September 10-12 and Indiana Convention Nov 6-8. Please support these conventions if you can.

The Central region did have an event with the awarding of the Centennial Award to Louise Hale for still dancing at the young age of 100. You can read more about this award elsewhere in this issue of USDA News.

One of our local clubs lost one of our founding members a week ago thru cancer. About two weeks before her passing the club did a drive by her house (social distancing), displaying signs, banners, blasting our horns to honor her. (Dolores you are missed!) We also passed by our Callers wife’s house who also has cancer. It was fun and lifted their spirits.

Other than the items mentioned above it has been a quiet quarter here at home.

Lynda and I are here to help you any way we can and we would love to hear from you. Please drop us a line and tell us what you have been doing during these stay at home days.

Ed & Lynda Willis



COMMENTS FROM OUR YOUTH ADVISOR

Dan Reedy

This spring has seen unprecedented changes in both our country and social organizations and related activities. Youth activities have been no exception to these challenges. Looking forward to the upcoming summer and planning for the 70th NSDC in Jackson. Conversations are on going with Youth directors in several states, that this past year had successful engagement with youth and subsequent growth. Laying the groundwork now for several Presenters for engaging youth at the 70th National Convention in Jackson, Mississippi next June.

This past winter witnessed a revamp and renewal of the Youth Scholarship program. To make the application process easier. The 2020 winners were announced during the Zoom Board of Directors meeting on June 20th. As we have stated previously these Scholarships are made available only by the generosity and donation of the Affiliates. We take this opportunity to thank those Affiliates which have donated and encourage those which haven't to consider this worthwhile endeavor.

Until next time I look forward to when we can resume dancing, and when I can say hello to those whose path I cross.

Dan Reedy

2020 USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

JULIA BUCHHEIT - \$1,000.00 SCHOLARSHIP

Julia Buchheit is a 19 year old graduate of Silverton High School in Silverton, Oregon, and will be attending Chemeketa Community College for her second year, where she plans to study pre-vet on her way to becoming a veterinarian. She is a third generation square dancer who is currently active in one club, the Silver City Squares, a member of the Oregon Federation of Square and Round Dancers.

Active in both school and social organizations, Dancing is definitely a part of her, as in addition to square dancing and round dancing Julia has done ballet since she was in kindergarten. She has competed in the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival with the Silver City Squares teams for 9 years – squares, rounds and cueing.

All four years of high school, she was involved with both the FFA and Theatre group. In FFA she bred, raised and showed hogs as well as showed dairy goats. In theatre she mostly worked behind the scenes as a technician though she did have a few small parts in plays.

Julia has held several officer positions both in the square dance world and in other groups. She is currently the Mid-Willamette Area Council Delegate to the Oregon Federation and vice-president to the Waldo Hills Community Club. She has also served on the youth committee for Oregon's Mid-Winter Festival and Summer Festival as well as acting as the Silver City Squares delegate to the Mid-Willamette Area Council, being co-captain for one of the Silver City Squares competition teams and secretary to the Silver Mask Thespan Society (the high school theatre club)



PETRINA BUCHEIT - \$500.00 SCHOLARSHIP

Petrina Buchheit is a 17 year old graduate of Silverton High School in Silverton, Oregon, and will be attending Chemeketa Community College, where she plans to study Automotive Technology and Small Business Administration on her way to becoming a automotive technician. She is a third generation square dancer who is currently active in one club, Silver City Squares, a member of the Oregon Federation of Square and Round Dancers.

Active in both school and social organizations, dancing is definitely a part of her, as in addition to square dancing and round dancing Petrina calls and has done some line dancing. She has also taught line dances to other Silver City Squares youth. She has competed in the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival with the Silver City Squares teams for 9 years – squares, rounds and calling.

All four years of high school, she was involved with both the FFA and Theatre group. In FFA she bred, raised and showed both meat and dairy goats as well as participated in public speaking, veterinary science and parliamentary procedure. In theatre she mostly worked behind the scenes as a technician though she did have a few small parts in plays.

Petrina has held several officer positions in the square dance world. She is currently the Mid-Willamette Area Council Alternate Delegate to the Oregon Federation. She has also served on the youth committee for Oregon's Mid-Winter Festival and Summer Festival as well as being co-captain for one of the Silver City Squares competition teams



USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Greeting Everyone,

This has been a very crazy Spring and Summer doesn't look promising either. The CDC guidelines seem to change on a weekly basis. I was hoping to get back to square dancing this summer but since most of the conventions and festivals for this summer have been canceled, doesn't look like it. However, at this writing there are still a few conventions that are holding out until the last minute.

I have updated several forms that are on the USDA website (www.usda.org). Please review these forms periodically as I will be making more changes.

Questions referring to the pandemic:

Mainstream Classes: The insurance company will allow for a break in the nine (9) month coverage for students. You must keep a record of the start date, temporary stop date, date you start again and date you graduate the students. If you choose to begin the class from the beginning when we do go back to dancing, then you will treat it as a new class. You will need to submit the names again.

The COVID-19 is a virus and is not covered by our Accidental Benefit portion of the insurance policy. Our policy covers accidents, not the flu or any other viruses. There is also liability coverage for the club.

Rates and Deadlines for 2021: As of June 1, no determination, from the insurance company, has been made for the 2021 Insurance fee. Please begin collecting the information from your clubs. The ideal deadline (for the insurance coordinators) is to have all your clubs' rosters and facility information in the insurance portal by November 15, 2020. You should have your fees for insurance submitted to me by November 30.

Word of caution to clubs and insurance coordinators – you can go into the insurance portal, review what is there and then close out. Not a problem. What is a problem is when you go into the portal to REVIEW and you click all the way through to the "Confirm" button instead of closing or exiting from the program. Every time you click "Confirm" a NEW set of documents will be generated and emailed to me. Doesn't matter if there were no changes made, a NEW set will be created. So, remember you don't need to click on "Confirm" unless you added members or a new facility. And Do Not delete any names from the roster. That is only done when you are submitting the renewal for the first time for the new year.

As always, you can call me or email with questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sanders

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FEATURE ARTICLE

LOUISE BOHN HALE

USDA WELCOMES # 16 TO THEIR EXCLUSIVE CENTENNIAL CLUB FOR 100 YEAR OLD SQUARE DANCERS

Louise started square dancing in 1949. She was 29 years old. Louise and her husband, Ray, with other family members were invited to a meeting by a family friend. Louise recalls, they met in a school gym at Mill Creek Elementary School in Louisville, Kentucky. To their surprise, about 100 people showed up to participate in the first square dance meeting and everything bloomed from that gathering.

Louise’s husband, Ray Bohn, had a natural talent in music and became a square dance caller in 1955 founding the Guys and Gals Club. This club grew to over 80 couples and meet in Southern Indiana above a hosiery company. Calling square dances became Ray’s full-time job. They went on to dance with Dixie Dancers, Kentuckiana Squares, Vagabohns, Rocketeers, Twin Lake Twirlers, Rough River Ramblers, Cardinal Twirlers, Kentucky Twirlers, Tank Town Twirlers, Breckin-Ridge Runners, Jack and Jill’s, Rough River Dancers, Camper Squares, Knight Crawlers, Abstract Squares and Diamond Squares.

For the next 30+ years, Louise and Ray would travel the globe square dancing and socializing from Hawaii to Germany, Switzerland, throughout Europe and the United States. Together, they attended many National Square Dance Conventions and made an abundant amount of life-long friends. Square Dancing was truly ‘their life’. After Ray’s passing in 1992, it was square dancing that kept Louise going.

In 2005, she married Earl Hale and continued to Square Dance, Round Dance and Ball Room Dance. They danced together until his passing in 2013. Again, square dancing kept her going. Dancing is in her blood, it is her life line. During her 71 years of continuous square dancing she has seen many dancers come and go and still helps teach beginner classes to spread the love of square dancing to the newer generations.

Louise continues to square dance every opportunity she gets, currently dancing with Daytime Squares & Rounds, Cardinal Twirlers, Kentuckiana Squares and Derby City Squares and Rounds. She often refers to square dancing as the reason for her longevity and good health. Louise’s wish is to square dance until the ‘last tip’.



Special thanks to Charlie Wheatley for providing this information.

HOEDOWNERS CELEBRATES MORE THAN 70 YEARS IN ILLINOIS



Celebrating their 70th anniversary in 2019, the Hoedowners Square Dance Club of Wood River is the oldest square dance club in Illinois. In 1947, Ring and Marjorie Ringering attended a Boy Scout event featuring a program on square dancing, and their feet started tapping. They learned how to dance and call, and soon started teaching classes in their apartment, and by 1949 they had formed “Ring’s Hoedowners Club.” The name eventually was changed to the “Hoedowners Square Dance Club”, and the organization boasts a long and varied history.

One member reminisced that in the 1950’s, the group met on Sunday afternoons in a local church with a television in the adjoining room. Their kids could watch television while the parents danced away the afternoon. Other members remember when they traded babysitting with other dancers so everyone could occasionally enjoy a night away.

In the post-WWII era, the club thrived as many towns in the metro-east had similar square dance groups. Back then, members could attend dances almost every night of the week, but over the years, most groups merged or folded. The Hoedowners, however, continued to thrive.

Today, the group is part of the St. Louis Metro Square and Round Dance Association, a group of nine clubs in the St. Louis metro area. Each club has scheduled dances, usually twice a month, and they strive to schedule the dances so they don’t conflict with other groups. Members can visit various chapters and dance almost as often as they wish.

Ruth Leech joined the Hoedowners ten years ago – she had attended a 50th wedding anniversary party featuring square dancing as entertainment; she thought it looked like fun, so she came back and joined in the new dancer training of the Hoedowners and Dandy Dancers since she wanted to learn as quickly as possible. She was able to dance at the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky the following spring with the 50th wedding anniversary couple. Another member, Henry Kallal, agreed to his first dance, just to pacify a neighbor who kept inviting him to visit. He told his wife, “We are going to have to go at least once; we’ll get there, say we didn’t like it, and go home.” However, he found that “the people were the nicest you ever want to meet and we loved it.” He and his late wife were members for ten years! Henry is now co-president of the club.

Current co-president, Pat Vogel, said she was going through a divorce and was lonely when someone invited her to square dance. She said, “I never laughed so much in my life,” and has continued attending for 13 years!

The most veteran dancers, though, are Agnes and Bo Semith, who have been part of the group for 48 years. Bo has been calling dances for 50 years! “We were PE majors in college and we had to take activity electives. We met in a square dance class and we’ve been dancing ever since.”

Agnes told us that she started with lessons, as did most of the group, but today’s lessons are a little more relaxed. Ring Ringering, the founder, taught lessons at his home in the late 1940’s. It was very crowded, and he carefully structured the dance education. Men were taught to promenade with their shoulders touching, and taught dancers to slide their feet, not pick them up. He didn’t allow any dancers to join the club dances until they were deemed “ready.”

Today, the club offers lessons, taught by Agnes and Bo, both for beginners and advanced students. The beginner classes start in the fall, usually September, and last through the school year, or until the dancer graduates. By the next fall, the new dancers have learned enough to participate in the regular dances, but can polish their skills with Tuesday evening classes and workshops around the area. The club hosts a dance two Saturday nights a month. Current co-president, Pat Vogel, says “Learning to square dance is a commitment because lessons are every week and they build on each other, so a person can’t come one week, be gone for three, and return. So much is taught. . . but it’s fun because of the music, the laughter, and the friendships.”

The music of today’s square dance isn’t what most of us would expect, either. The Hoedowners often feature songs classified as oldies, country and western, modern, spiritual – even Lady Gaga was heard on a recent evening. One member said, “If it’s a really popular song, someone has probably written a square dance routine to it.”

Whether one is interested in the social connections, the physical activity, or just loves good music, square dancing is alive and well in the metro area. Over and over, the members continually shared the same idea – “Come have a good time with us. Square dancing is good for the mind, soul, and body.”

I'M GOING TO JACKSON !! - ARE YOU?

NOT REGISTERED YET? NOT A PROBLEM, WE HAVE REGISTRATION FORMS RIGHT HERE IN THIS BOOK. Pages 17 & 18 OR.....you can register on-line at: www.70nsdc.com



Dancing Fun in 2021 in the “*City with Soul*”

♪♪ When I breeze into that city, ♪people gonna stoop and bow. ♪ (Hah!) (Oh, Yeah!)

♪♪ All them women gonna make me, ♪♪ teach 'em what they don't know how, ♪♪

(Every National Convention has several educational sessions . You can go home a lot smarter than you were before you got here!)

♪ Yeah, I'm goin' to Jackson...♪ ♪.....Lookout Jackson town. ♪ à♪

Vol•un•teer

A person who offers to do something without being forced, or without getting paid to do it.

One who willingly gives of one self’s time, talent and tears for someone or something else. Bet this has a familiar sound to you, and what kind of world would we live in without people who volunteer.

The next time you go to a dance, a special weekend, a local Federation or Council meeting, a State or a National Convention, take a minute to say thank you to the people who give so much of themselves so you can have a great time.

Every now and then it is important to remember that nothing happens without our volunteers. Who else will angel our student classes, who else will set up and take down our decorations, who else will make that special cupcake because your birthday is a reason for all of us to celebrate? Who Else?

There’s a lot to say about being a leader, a mentor, a person who takes charge and goes gung-ho (meaning to work together, work in harmony) to get it done. God Bless our take charge people for theirs is the satisfaction of seeing it thru.

Let’s not forget the unsung heroes of our dance communities. God Bless our “behind the scene” people who enjoy working in a team environment but shun the limelight, for theirs is pride of participation.

Where would we be without the countless hours of dedicated commitment our Callers, our Cuers, and Dance Leaders offer to our Federations, Councils, States and National Conventions? We ask not every once in a while, but time after time, over and over, year in and year out. Yes, I know the people with the microphones need us, but there is no joy of dance without them. God Bless our Dance Instructors for theirs is a bright and beautiful noise.

Today we face the rapid decline of our beloved dance activity as a busy world interrupts themagic that eight people share within a square. No one else knows the joy of movement, hand over hand, breathing life into rhythm swinging, swaying and strutting with style. Oh, what joy it is to dance!

Remember, if you have a little time to spare (and who doesn’t) give a bit of yourself to help out those who work so hard to bring the Joy of Dance to You, and better yet...always remember to say

Thankkkkkkkkkk You to all those who work so hard so You can have a great time.

(Contributed by Marianne King, Greater Cincinnati Federation)





CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE COUNCIL, INC.

June 1, 2020



CONSIDERATIONS FOR RE-OPENING SQUARE DANCING IN CALIFORNIA

Why do we want to get back to dancing? Of course, we love to dance – square dance, round dance, line dance, clog, contra, and more. But we also miss the fellowship, the social engagement, the exercise, and much more. So what might we need to do to resume this wonderful activity?

First and foremost, each association and club should monitor and follow state and local regulations and guidance regarding social gatherings. We also need to comply with any requirements put forth by our dance facilities. *Clogging, line dancing and round dancing may be able to resume earlier than square dancing, as they lend themselves more to social distancing. We may even start with some social activities like a picnic (without shared food) instead of a square dance.*

IF state, local, and facility regulations and requirement support resuming dancing:

COMMON SENSE AND CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS!

- Gently and frequently remind everyone that things will be different for some period of time. Approach these changes with humor, common sense, and consideration for others.
- Anyone who feels sick with ANY symptoms should stay home and self-quarantine based on guidelines. Encourage dancers to take their temperature before coming to the dance, and stay home if they have a fever or any other symptoms.
- Anyone who may have been exposed should stay home and self-quarantine based on guidelines.
- Anyone who develops symptoms after a dance should immediately contact the club or dance host so that others may be contacted appropriately.

MASKS

- Masks should be strongly encouraged /recommended given the best scientific knowledge being shared at this time. They are a way of showing consideration and respect to others in case someone is sick but asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. Remember – your mask helps protect me while my mask helps protect you.
- Masks need to cover the nose and mouth at all times if possible, and at least when coming within six feet of another person.
- If you wear glasses, your mask may cause your glasses to steam up when exercising or breathing hard. Try washing your glasses with soap and water, then rinsing lightly to keep a soap film on the lenses. A tissue folded and placed horizontally under the top portion of the mask can help as well.

FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider having social and, if possible, dance activity outside whenever possible.
- If inside, open doors and windows as much as possible to promote air flow.
- Prop entry door(s) open to reduce touching.
- Try to arrange for "no touch" access to restroom doors. If this is not possible, encourage dancers to use a paper towel to open/close the door (place trash cans inside and outside of the door) and/or provide hand sanitizer outside restrooms.
- Work with the facility to ensure appropriate cleaning prior to the dance.
- Have appropriate cleaning products (sprays, wipes) on hand to clean frequently touched surfaces.
- Limit the number of people touching commonly used surfaces such as tables, chairs, equipment.
- Work with facility to determine what cleaning is required at the end of the event.
- Provide plenty of hand sanitizer (assuming you can get it!)

(Continued from page 8)

ARRIVAL

Limit contact when greeting dancers (nods and a “welcome” rather than handshakes or hugs).

Have one person sign-in dancers to eliminate sharing pens and touching table surfaces. You could also/instead ask attendees to bring a small card with their name and contact information.

Consider having club members send a monthly check to cover dances instead of paying cash at the door; for visitors, provide a “no touch” donation jar.

Gather contact information (e.g., phone, e-mail) for each person attending the dance, even if they are just visitors, in case someone later becomes ill and you have to contact those in attendance.

DANCING

Space out squares on the floor to minimize proximity between dancers in separate squares. If your facility is small, have dancers alternate tips so there are not too many squares on the floor at a time.

You may wish to consider “set squares” for some period of time to minimize the number of people in close contact on any one evening, but only do so if you can ensure everyone gets a chance to dance and that each square has a mixture of “strong” and “weaker” dancers.

Allow time for dancers to wash hands before and after each tip. Ask callers and cuers to remind dancers to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer generously between tips.

Greet others in the square with a nod and “welcome” rather than handshakes or hugs.

Encourage no contact dancing as much as possible. Ask callers to use no- or low-contact calls as much as possible (slide through instead of star through; partner trade instead of California twirl; back-to-back do-sa-do instead of highland fling; grand square without swings or high fives; and so on). Callers can be creative! They may try some two couple variations, or even one couple “squares” (like some callers are trying with virtual dances).

Consider offering or even having someone teach some lines, clogging, or easy rounds which lend themselves better to social distancing.

Be sure to support newer or weaker dancers, who may be less comfortable with “no hands” dancing or more creative calls or figures.

SOCIALIZING AND REFRESHMENTS

Encourage social distancing between tips to minimize physical contact.

Have each dancer bring their own individual water container (reusable or disposable bottle), labeled with their name.

Discourage sharing of water bottles, open cups, or common water dispensers.

Consider having no refreshments or have each dancer bring their own individual snacks. If snacks are provided, offer only individually packaged items. Institute a “touch it and it’s yours” policy – no picking through the packages to choose the one on the bottom!

Have someone monitor the snack table and water (rotate so no one is “stuck” the whole evening).

CALLER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Encourage callers and cuers to wear masks at all times. If they can’t be easily heard or understood while wearing a mask when they call/cue, set up the hall so they are six or more feet away from any dancers. Have them put masks back on between tips or rounds.

Avoid sharing microphones. Consider having the caller make all announcements unless a club officer has access to a separate microphone.

Respect each dancer’s individual comfort and choices. Some may want to stay home a bit longer. Some may want to come to watch or socialize from appropriate distances, but are not yet ready to get back on the floor. Some may be ready to go back “full bore” – but remind those more enthusiastic dancers to follow the health and safety precautions for everyone.

Whatever we have to do, don’t let it keep us from getting back together and having fun!!!!

COVER: USDA would like to pay special recognition and appreciation to all of the Emergency Service workers who face situations head on day in and day out. They risk their lives daily to protect us and seldom get any recognition for doing this. To our doctors, nurses, emergency room staff, ambulance drivers and workers, firemen and police officers and many others that are not named here we want to say

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO

The following was taken from the May issue of “Let’s Square Dance” with the permission of the editor Peter Wright. I think it fits very nicely with what we are trying to convey here. Thank you Matt Kelly for writing such a wonderful piece to illustrate our thoughts.



I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written.
 Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain.
 They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes.
 They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains.
 They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask.
 We sent them to war, with one simple task.
 To show us the way, to lead and inspire us.
 To protect us from harm and fight off the virus.
 It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests.
 An invisible enemy, invaded our chests.
 So we called on our weapon, our soldiers in Blue.
 "All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you".
 We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride.
 As they went off to war, while we stayed inside.
 They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies.
 But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes.
 They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice.
 Some never came back, the ultimate price.
 So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on.
 As the virus was beaten and the battle was won.
 The many of us, owe so much, to so few.
 The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue.
 So let's line the streets and remember our debt.
 We love you, our heroes, Lest we forget.



Matt Kelly 2020

Cancellation of the USHandicapable Square Dance Convention

“But we’ve been working on our “Demo” dance for two years...They can’t cancel “our” convention.” Disappointment.. “I don’t understand....Why?” and some Tears...These are just a few of the reactions of our USHandicapable dancers when they were told of the cancellation of “Their” Square Dance Convention.

Rick Yates , the President of USHandicapable Square Dance Association , has announced, the National USH has been canceled....He reported many members and USH Officers were concerned about the current COVID-19 pandemic. He received a phone call from the First Vice President, Peggy Vaughn, with the results the officers had been discussing about how to handle COVID-19. Their recommendation was to see if we could postpone it until 2021.

He called the hotel and talked about concerns with this pandemic and inquired about the possibility of the date change. The pandemic is weighing heavily on their staff as well. The dates were open, a new contract was sent for their review. They approved this new contract. So the USH Convention will be held in 2021 on the 19th, 20th and 21st of July, at the Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tenn. This will give all of the USH members time to see how best to protect ourselves and our love ones, in the near future. There are many unanswered questions and only time will tell us the answers.

The United Square Dancers of America considers the Handicapable Dancers an important part of square dance community. We have long been a supporters of the USHandicapable Convention and will continue our commitment in the future.

I would love to hear from some of the Handicapable clubs in the US to know what their plans will be as a result of the cancellation of the convention...I would also like to have liaisons from different parts of the United States to help spread the idea “We Dance Just for the Fun of it” which has become our motto of a sort.

If you are interested in being a part of the Handicapable Dancers community, please call or email me.

Alitia Becker
USDA Handicapable Chairman
318(547)9578
aljonbecker@bellsouth.net

70th National Square Dance Convention

June 23, 24, 25, & 26, 2021, Jackson MS
 Online Registration - Website: Zounds.com
 Like us on Facebook

"Come Dance & Meet Elvis in 2021"



For Convention Use Only
 Registration # _____
 Date Received _____
 Payment Processed (Check)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____
 Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____

Please mark which dance program you will be attending the most:
 Squares: Basic M P DBB Hcs A1 A2 C1 C2
 H Energy Low Energy
 Rounds: 2 3/4 5/6
 Other: Chugging Contra C/W Lines Handicappable
 Will you be participating in the Education Leadership Certification Program?

(Email addresses will only be shared with the NEC for upcoming convention information)
 Check if you do not want your email shared
 Registration fee per Registrant: Adult \$60.00
 Youth born after June 26, 2003 \$40.00
 Children 5 and under (born after June 26, 2016) FREE
 A \$10.00 fee per Registrant will be imposed for cancellations or changes.
 Prizes will increase May 1, 2021 to \$75 for adults, \$37.50 for Youth born after June 26, 2003.
 Registrations received after April 30, 2021 will receive e-mail confirmation only.
 Mail-in Registrations must be sent by June 5, 2021 or email by June 12, 2021.

HOUSING
 Select your hotel online at: www.Zounds.com select "Housing" Tab for a direct secure link to the Hotel Booking Module after March 1, 2020
 I have selected my Hotel Online. YES NO
 I need Housing Reservations for the dates and selected Hotel below:

Please Circle Room Nights Needed:

So	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	

3 Hotel Preference required (hotel codes on back): 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____
 Please check the appropriate box: One Bed (1-2 people) 2 Beds (2-4 people)
 Wheelchair Accessible Room Special Needs Room:
 Shared Rooms in Same Hotel. Registrations must be mailed together in the same envelope.

SOLO For badges First Name _____ Last Name _____ Subtotals \$ _____
 Adult: _____ \$ _____
 Adult/Child: _____ \$ _____
 Adult/Child: _____ \$ _____
 Adult/Child: _____ \$ _____
 Adult/Child: _____ \$ _____

Same Hotel as: _____
 Block Housing Requests are due by Jan 2, 2021.
 Block Housing (10-25 rooms) E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____
 Group Name: _____
 To guarantee your room reservations, you must provide a credit card number and pay a \$2.50 processing fee. Deposit may be changed in advance, balance for your room will be charged by hotel at check in.

\$	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	# of Nights	\$
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	#	\$

(U.S. Funds) Total Due: \$ _____
 No Refunds or Cancellations After April 30, 2021.
 TTOURS - Please complete separate Tour Order Form and submit separate payment.

Check Enclosed # _____ Visa MasterCard Discover
 Name on Card: _____
 Credit Card No.: _____
 Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ (Ensure expiration date is after July 2021)

Check Enclosed # _____ Visa MasterCard Discover
 Name on Card: _____
 Credit Card No.: _____
 Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ (Ensure expiration date is after July 2021)

Dance Leader Name to be programmed *Go to www.Zounds.com to update your profile
 Name: _____ Caller Cue Contra Logging C/W Lines
 Name: _____ Caller Cue Contra Logging C/W Lines

Convention badges required for entrance to all convention activities: Dressy Casual attire allowed until 6:00pm. PROPER DANCE ATTIRE is required after 6:00pm for all dancers.
 Registration: Mary Ann Walker E-mail: regchair@Zounds.com

Convention badges required for entrance to all convention activities: Dressy Casual attire allowed until 6:00pm. PROPER DANCE ATTIRE is required after 6:00pm for all dancers.
 Registration: Mary Ann Walker E-mail: regchair@Zounds.com



I'd like to volunteer, please contact me.

Return completed form with payment to:
 70NSDX, 5252 McIngvale Rd. Hernando, MS 38632

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION (LEFT FRONT SIDE OF FORM)

1. Print legibly all names, address, city, state, zip code, country, and B/D of youth (age 5-17 by June 26, 2021 discount price) to ensure correct registration.
2. Correctly enter all amounts in the Subtotals, including registration fee for each dancer plus quantity and amounts for all other materials. Calculate the Total and include credit card information, check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the 70th National Square Dance Convention® and return it with the Registration Form. **Do Not Send Cash!** No Single Day Registrations.
3. A \$10.00 fee per registrant will be assessed for cancellation. No refunds after April 30, 2021.
4. **Important! Daily schedules are only available with the purchase of a Program Book. Daily schedules will not be available separately at the Convention. Most dancers will want to purchase the Program Book.**
5. **TOUR FORM AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete the Tour Order Form and mail directly to: Dream Vacations (70th NSDC), 8538 Lotticks Corner Rd SE, Elizabeth IN 47117. For any questions call 812-969-2107 or email to c.schoen@dreamvacations.com. For Tour Information and Order Form go to www.70nsdc.com and click "TOURS"

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RV/CAMPING

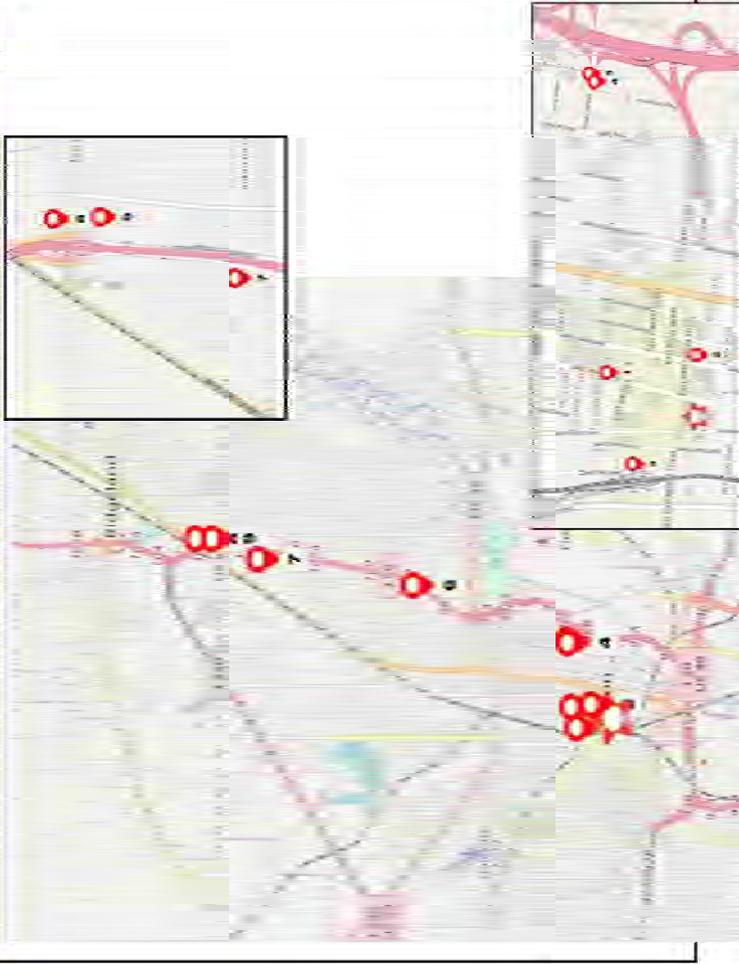
Indicate RV Camping on your registration form and enclose the required fees (4-night minimum) to cover the nights that you intend to stay, 30 or 50 Amp and water available at all sites with sewer at most sites. Free dump station on site. If you plan to camp together, you must arrive together. For more information contact RV Vice-Chairman, John & Dolly Dale regcamping@70nsdc.com.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOUSING (RIGHT FRONT SIDE OF FORM)

1. The 70th NSDC Housing Committee is pleased to offer website online access for housing reservations available after March 1, 2020. If you book your room online, check the box provided on front side of this form; otherwise complete the entire housing portion on the right side of the front of this form. This form must be received by May 15, 2021 to guarantee the 70th NSDC pricing.
2. Indicate three (3) choices of hotel preference by specifying hotel code number. Also, be sure to indicate 1 bed (Standard King) or 2 beds (Queen). Hotels will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis according to availability.
3. Only one person per room should complete a hotel reservation request on the front of this form. Please list all room occupants. (The Housing Committee does not find or assign roommates.)
4. Shared Room or Same Hotel Requests can be made through the online site OR forward registrations together in the same envelope.
5. All Block Housing requests staying in the same hotel are due by January 2, 2021, include the name and telephone number of Block Leader to leighsullivan@70nsdc.com
6. **Hotel Reservations:** Your reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and a \$3.50 non-refundable processing fee. The hotel may require an advance deposit for 1st night. The balance will be paid at the hotel. An alternative form of payment may be presented at check in. Ensure expiration date is after July 2021.
7. **Hotel Confirmations:** You will receive a hotel confirmation from the 70th NSDC via email or mail. A Hotel confirmation will be sent after March 1, 2021. If you do not receive your confirmation by March 30, 2021, please contact the Housing Committee by email at leighsullivan@70nsdc.com
8. **Hotel Changes:** After receiving Hotel Confirmation, if you need to modify your hotel reservation you must contact the 70th NSDC Housing Committee, leighsullivan@70nsdc.com
9. **Hotel Cancellations:** Your confirmed hotel will assess a one-night room/tax charge for cancellations received less than 72 hours prior to arrival.
10. **Hotel Early Departure:** An early departure fee may be charged unless the 70th NSDC Housing Committee leighsullivan@70nsdc.com is notified at least 72 hours prior to a change in the planned stay.

BUS PASSES AVAILABLE IF NEEDED

Map of Hotels



Code	Hotel Name * parking fee ** 1. night deposit at time of reservation	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	Distance
1	Jackson Downtown Convention Center Hotel by Marriott	\$139	\$139	\$149	\$159	.3 miles
2	Westin Downtown **	\$159	\$159	\$169	\$179	.3 miles
3	Hilton Garden Inn (Caller/Cuer) **	\$139	\$139	\$149	\$159	.2 miles
4	Hampton Inn & Suites **	\$102	\$102	\$102	\$102	1.4 mile
5	Holiday Inn Express **	\$129	\$129	\$129	\$129	1.4 mile
6	Residence Inn	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	3.7 miles
7	Oyo Townhouse **	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80	7.7 miles
8	Hilton Jackson	\$119	\$124	\$129	\$134	9 miles
9	Courtyard Jackson/Ridgeland	\$129	\$129	\$129	\$139	7 miles



Jackson Convention Complex 105 E Pascagoula St, Jackson, MS 39201

**Return completed form with payment to:
70th NSDC, 5252 McIngvale Rd., Hernando, MS 38637
Any questions, please call 901-628-4356**

Come Early or Stay Late! The Soul Team of the 70th NSDC is committed to making our Convention fun and memorable experience for you. Please email us if you have a concern or suggestion.
Dan and Glinda Torvik, General Chairman, generalchair@70nsdc.com



"Join Us Down By the River"

Pre-Registration 71st National Square Dance Convention®

Evansville, Indiana **June 22-25, 2022**

Please complete the form below and send it along with your check or credit card info to:

71st National Square Dance Convention®

2820 Alexandria Pike, Anderson, Indiana 46012

Email: registration@71nsdc.org Website: 71nsdc.org

Registration Information: (765) 662-2553 Please Print Clearly

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Partner's (if different) _____ First Name: _____
 Youth: _____ DOB: _____ Youth: _____ DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____
 Phone: _____ Mobile: _____
 Email: _____ (Partner's) Email: _____
 Amount Paid (US Currency Only) \$50.00 each x _____ = \$ _____
 Youth born after June 22, 2004 \$25.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

\$10 cancellation fee per registration. No refund after April 30, 2022 This form and registration rate is void after March 13, 2021

Payment (check one) Check MasterCard Visa Discover

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Credit Card No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Statement Mailing Address: _____

Your early registration gives you free admittance to the Saturday evening dance at the Pre-Convention on March 13, 2021.

71st NSDC Short Form 070919



**Pre-Registration
 72nd National Square Dance Convention®
 Mobile, Alabama
 June 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2023**

IF REGISTERING BY MAIL:
 PO Box 613
 Leeds, AL 35094
 REGISTER ONLINE at
www.72nsdc.com

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Partner's (if different): _____ First Name: _____
 Youth Names & DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Country: _____ Email: _____

Check if you do not want your email shared. Email addresses to be shared only with the NEC for upcoming convention information

Phone: (____) _____ Alt Number (____) _____

Registration Prices (U.S. currency only) \$50.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Youth born after June 21, 2005 \$25.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Cash Received \$ _____ Check# _____ (Pay to 72nd NSDC) **Total Due: \$ _____**

Credit Card Type _____ Card# _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Security Code _____ Name of Cardholder: _____

Statement Mailing Address (if different) _____

Authorized Card Signature: _____

\$10 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2023. This form and registration rate are void after April 30th, 2022. Registration Long Forms will be mailed April 2022 for selection of hotel and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on April 30th, 2022. Convention badges required for entrance to all convention activities; Dressy casual attire allowed until 6:00pm. Proper dance attire is required After 6:00pm for all dancers.

You 2 Can Dance

***A BRAND NEW MARKETING WEB SITE
PROMOTING
SQUARE, ROUND, AND CONTRA DANCING***

*High Definition Video Clip of Each Dance Form
with professional voice-overs*

- * Detailed Descriptions of Each Dance Form
- * Find a Caller, Find a Cuer, and Find a Club sections
- * High Definition Pictures

This site was created by ARTS-Dance to be a tool for promoting Square Dancing, Round Dancing, and Contra Dancing. Rather than trying to describe each activity on a flyer posted on a bulletin board, you can direct the potential dancer to this site to **show them**. They can watch video, read detailed descriptions and then find a leader or club in their area using either the resources page of the web site, or the contact info you have provided on your advertising

check it out at

 <http://www.you2candance.com>

To learn more about using this web site as part of a nation-wide marketing plan go to the Facebook page (You 2 Can Dance.com) or the ARTS-Dance web site (arts-dance.org). It doesn't cost you a thing and is there for you to use to help promote our dance forms.



Save up to 65% on your medications!

1. Present this card at your local pharmacy to save.
2. Find participating pharmacies and pricing information on our website at <http://usda.EBCcard.com>.

USDA Prescription Savings Card Program Highlights

- It is completely FREE
- You, as well as your family and friends, can use the card
- The USDA Prescription Savings Card is active and ready to use
- Unlimited uses / Never expires
- No personal information needed
- Works for FDA approved prescription medications

This is NOT INSURANCE. This card is FREE. Prescriptions may be filled at any pharmacy, however, this prescription discount card provides a discount only at participating pharmacies. It does not replace COBRA or any other medical insurance program, nor is it a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. Cardholders are responsible for paying the discounted cost at the time of service from participating providers. Discounts may not be taken in conjunction with any third party payor arrangement, including Medicare or Medicaid or government programs. This program is administered by Access One Consumer Health, your Discount Medical Plan Organization, 84 Villa Rd, Greenville, SC 29615. www.accessonedmpo.com. The program and its administrators have no liability for providing or guaranteeing service or the quality of service rendered. This program is not available to Montana residents, but may be used at participating Montana providers.

- Q:** *Is this insurance?*
A: No, this is not insurance. It is a discount plan that provides discounted prices on certain health care services.
- Q:** *Is there a monthly fee or a registration fee for this program?*
A: No, the card is free. Members pay only for services they receive.
- Q:** *How soon can I use my card to start saving money?*
A: There's no waiting period. Your card can be used immediately.
- Q:** *How do I receive a discount?*
A: Saving money on health care expenses is easy. Simply show your ID card at the time of service. Members are responsible for paying all fees directly to the provider.
- Q:** *Are all members of my household covered by this program?*
A: Yes, your card can be used by every person living at the same address. Additional cards can be printed from our website at <http://usda.EBCcard.com>.
- Q:** *Can I use my membership when I travel away from home?*
A: Yes, your discount plan can be used at any participating provider in the United States.
- Q:** *How do I replace a lost card?*
A: Visit <http://usda.EBCcard.com> and follow the instructions.
- Q:** *Who do I contact if I have questions about this program?*
A: You can visit our website at <http://usda.EBCcard.com> for more information.
- Q:** *How do I save the most?*
A: The most savings will come from pharmacies located in grocery stores or at independently owned pharmacies. While the card can also be used at the large, chain-store pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, these chain-stores often charge higher prices than grocery stores or independently owned pharmacies. Check the pricing tool on our website for the best savings.

Texas Residents, by using this card your savings may vary by drug and pharmacy. Savings are based on actual drug purchases. The program administrator may obtain fees or rebates from manufacturers and/or pharmacies based on your prescription drug purchase. These fees or rebates may be retained by the program administrator or shared with you and/or your pharmacy. This plan is regulated by the Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 12157, Austin, TX 78711; 1-800-252-3439 or 1-512-463-6515. www.tdi.state.texas.com

Cut out and fold



Prescription Card

Use this card for any prescription that is not covered by Medicare, Medicaid or insurance

This is NOT insurance

BIN: 600428
 PCN: 05100000
 GRP: 05690001
 Member ID: EB22USDA1

Powered by 

Pharmacist's Help Desk:
1-866-921-7286

Member Customer Service:
1-800-285-5783

<http://usda.ebcard.com>

Present this card to any participating pharmacy.

At the time of service, you are responsible for payment of your prescription. Accepted at most pharmacies nationwide.

This card may not be used in combination with Medicare, Medicaid or third party payer programs.

Cut out and fold



Welcome to AMERICAN HEARING BENEFITS

A Starkey® Hearing Technologies Program

Dear Member,

As an Enhanced Benefits Card member, you are eligible for American Hearing Benefits (AHB). This free hearing benefits program gives you access to free hearing consultations and discounts on hearing aids through our nationwide network of hearing professionals.

As you may know, most insurance plans do not cover hearing healthcare. At AHB, we believe the quality of your hearing directly affects the quality of your life, and we are excited to be working with EBC on providing hearing health solutions.

One call activates your benefits. Then you and your family can begin enjoying all the advantages this **FREE** program provides, including:

- ▶ **Discounts on today's latest technology**, including hearing aids, tinnitus treatment and hearing protection products
- ▶ **FREE** annual hearing consultations
- ▶ Access to a nationwide **network of 3,000+ hearing locations**
- ▶ **FREE** one-year supply of batteries (*40 cells per hearing aid purchased*)
- ▶ One year of **FREE office visits** (*limit of 6*)
- ▶ **60-day trial period***
- ▶ **FREE Deluxe Warranty Plan**, including loss and damage*
- ▶ **Financing plans** available (*subject to credit approval*)

Call **1-888-890-2875** or visit **AmericanHearingBenefits.com** today to **SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION** with a provider near you.



A hearing aid designed so
NO ONE CAN SEE IT!

Get **discounts** on the latest technology, like the Invisible-in-the-Canal Hearing Aid.



*The Enhanced
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American Owned & Operated

ARTS Travel The Dancer's Online Travel Web Site



Turn your Vacations & Dance Travel into Donations

Book your personal and business and
dance travel on our new
travel website,
www.arts-dancetravel.com !



Every time you do, Alliance of Rounds
Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS)
will receive a portion of the travel com-
missions.



You get the same low rates offered by
other travel websites while helping to
raise funds for ARTS.

It's simple!



Book your travel to the
70th NSDC in Jackson, MS
and support dancing at
the same time.

Book Golf Tee Times, Get Event Tickets, Send
flowers, Site Seeing Activities

Logon to

www.arts-dancetravel.com

70th National Square Dance Convention®

June 23-26, 2020 - Jackson, MS



A Social Girl

I'm normally a social girl - I love to meet my mates
 But lately with the virus here, we can't go out the gates.
 You see, we are the 'oldies' now. We need to stay inside
 If they haven't seen us for a while, they'll think we've upped and died.
 They'll never know the things we did before we got this old
 There wasn't any Facebook, so not everything was told.
 We may seem sweet old ladies who would never be uncouth
 But we grew up in the 60s - if you only knew the truth!
 There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll, the pill and miniskirts
 We smoked, we drank, we partied and were quite outrageous flirts.
 Then we settled down, got married and turned into someone's mum,
 Somebody's wife, then nana, Who on earth did we become?
 We didn't mind the change of pace because our lives were full
 But to bury us before we're dead is like a red rag to a bull!
 So here you find me stuck inside for four weeks, maybe more
 I finally found myself again then I had to close the door!
 It didn't really bother me - I'd while away the hour
 I'd bake for all the family but I've got no bloody flour!
 Now Netflix is just wonderful; I like a gutsy thriller
 I'm swooning over Idris or some random sexy killer.
 At least I've got a stash of booze, for when I'm being idle
 There's wine and whiskey, even gin, if I'm feeling suicidal!
 So let's all drink to lockdown, to recovery and health
 And hope this bloody virus Doesn't decimate our wealth.
 We'll all get through the crisis and be back to join our mates
 Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming gates!

(Copied with permission of Peter Wright, Editor of Let's Square Dance—June 200 edition. Author unknown. Sent in by Janet Hewitt)



Could Our Yellow Rock Become A Fossil?

Today is day 18 of Ohio's "Stay at Home" order and all is well, or as well as it could possibly be living in a Corona Virus world.

Ohioans are hardy people, they listen to what they are told to do, they follow directions and it seems that early indications suggest we may be cautiously successful in flattening the curve in the fight against the spread of this invisible menace to society.

People are living apart together, supporting each other by celebrating the small victories shared on the evening news every night, and lifting up each other's spirits with at home concerts, tic-toc videos, Zoom meetings and everything from virtual bingo to Jimmy Fallon doing the Tonight Show from his home.

As a very small glimmer of hope shines a bit brighter today, a simple glance into the future by the most comforting and encouraging of voices, Dr. Tony Fauci indicated that the world we once knew is now forever changed, and with it comes possibly new ways we will need to adjust and maybe, just maybe, one of them is such as simple a thing as shaking hands.

This got me thinking today as a long-time square dancer will our Yellow Rocks turn to stone?

Square Dancers by nature are gloriously happy people, we follow a tradition that is as warm and genuine as it comes when we square up, when we see one another at a local dance, weekend festival, State or National Convention. It is an international hug, a warm embrace shared between all dancers from Maine to Malibu, from Washington to West Palm Beach and everywhere in between. Take it across the pond and anywhere in Europe and you will find the same thing. For all square dancers, hello, good-bye, take care, you OK? and anything else that means I care about you is all wrapped in on one good "Yellow Rock" also known in layman's terms as a great big hug.

Where will our Yellow Rock fit into a post corona world is the thought that crossed my mind today. I can't imagine seeing anyone of our square dance family and not automatically throwing my arms around them in a joyous Yellow Rock hug. It would be as strange and as foreign as the thought of staying at home endlessly without the intimate contact of family or friends, yet here we are.

I am sure that eventually the time will come to celebrate the new life we all will learn to live in a post corona virus world. Will it be the same, I don't know, probably not? Some dancers are no longer here, victims to the non-discriminating vicious micro malady that has scourged our Cities, States, Country and World, what a sad day it will be to square up to the realization that someone special is missing.

Time will only tell, and like us Ohioans, Square Dancers are hardy people, we will survive to dance again. When the day comes for new classes to start, the call goes out for Angels to help, and dancers square up at Grange Halls, Churches, School Cafeterias, Festivals and Conventions all will be well. Maybe if we bump elbows instead of sharing Yellow Rocks, we will stand a chance to dance again.

(Contributed by Marianne King, Greater Cincinnati Federation)



I was talking to one of my Dancers yesterday, and he said that during the pandemic his fuel consumption has been wonderful – he's currently getting three-weeks to the litre..!!

(Reprint from "Let's Square Dance" as sent in by Brian Hotchkies)

WELL I WONDER WHERE THE YELLOW WENT

Don't exactly remember how old I was at the time but, I do remember it was a long time ago, there was a commercial with this catchy little jingle that seemed to get caught in my brain and would not go away. This song was constantly running through my mind. "Oh I wonder where the yellow went, when I brushed my teeth with Pepsodent?" Remember it?

Several weeks ago I was reading some information on the corona virus and how it would affect our square dancing. I didn't think much of it at the time, but later on I realized that this though kept running through my mind. It was beginning to create this curiosity about where, how and when did the call "yellow rock" become a part of square dancing. When did it become a part of anything? Enquiring minds want to know, so it was "look out Google here I come."

Much to my surprise I was not able to find very much information on the "yellow rock". I searched various means through the computer, but always came up empty handed. Not to be defeated I knew that the most logical thing to do now was to ask a caller. I had already determined that "yellow rock" has been around a long time so I needed to ask a caller that had been around a long time. So I picked a few of the older guys, which I will not name cause they don't know they are old, and told them my dilemma and asked them for some help. Then came surprise number two. They didn't know either. I got responses like, "I don't know. I have been calling for more than 50 years and it has always been there, "or a few that said "I don't like the call and I never use it". Some were not sure of the exact date, but they thought it started in the 50's or 60's. Now I am really beginning to get frustrated.

Why didn't I think of this to begin with? I will ask the USDA Executive Committee. If you want to know something about square dancing you turn to the world's largest square dance association for help. I finally found some help. Tony and Diana Rock (Presidents), Ed and Lynda Willis (VP for the Central Region,) and Dan Reedy (Youth Advisor) all responded to my request. They did not have answers, but they thought they knew people that could help us and they spent considerable time pursuing this information. Now we are beginning to make some progress and I thank all of these folks for the time and effort they gave.

As I look back on this it amazes me that this much time has been spent on trying to learn more about a square dance call that is not even an official call. It is not on any call list and probably never will be, yet it seems to be one of the dancer's favorites. And why not? As Maryanne King mentioned in her article "Could Our Yellow Rock Become a Fossil", it is a dancer's way of saying hello, good-bye, take care, you OK?, and anything else that means I care about you all wrapped up in one good old "Yellow Rock".

Dan Reedy referred to an article he read from 2013 that discussed Yellow Rock and suggested that it originated at the Fun Valley Square Dance Resort in CO. Dancers that came there liked the call and took it with them to their home clubs and the call was expanded that way. Ed and Lynda spent hours with emails to/from various people, but none had the information we were looking for.

Tony and Diana remembered an article by Ed Foote some time back and they got in touch with him and he graciously gave his permission to reprint this in our USDA NEWS. Ed is also a regular contributing writer for American Square Dance Magazine so I also checked with Susanelaine Parker, the new owner and publisher of Square Dance Magazine and she also gave us permission to use Ed's article.

So far our thoughts on the survival of the Yellow Rock have been centered around the corona virus. The article on the following page was written before this virus shut down the square dance world. So join us on the following page as we do learn where the Yellow Rock Call was first called. Ed does not tell us the time period so we are still looking for a date. If you know, please send me an email—usdanews@usda.org

CHANGING TIMES: THE FUTURE OF YELLOW ROCK

By Ed Foote (Reprinted from American Square Dance)

Yellow Rock, including variations with other names, has been a part of the square dance activity for over 50 years. This name for hugging was invented by a caller calling at Yellow Rock Barn outside of Kansas City, MO. For decades people considered Yellow Rock harmless fun and a way to increase friendliness in square dancing. But in these changing times of sexual harassment focus, it may be time to take another look at Yellow Rock.

In recent years we have seen a sharp rise in sexual harassment issues in the news, including confidential agreements, high profile trials, and resignations of people in prominent positions. What is and is not sexual harassment is a subject of widespread debate.

The Board of Governors (25 callers) of CALLERLAB did so at a recent annual convention, where considerable time was devoted to a discussion of the issue. Male members, who comprise a majority of the Board, were genuinely concerned about whether they could be accused of sexual harassment if they called Yellow Rock. In addition, they worried whether they could be accused if they themselves gave someone a Yellow Rock.

Female members of the Board described their experiences of appropriate and inappropriate Yellow Rocks that they had received over the years. It quickly became clear that there is a fine line between appropriate and inappropriate hugging, and that this line is different for each person—both the giver and the receiver of the Yellow Rock.

Male callers were concerned that they might be reported to CALLERLAB for an ethics violation if they call Yellow Rock, even though there is currently nothing specific in this topic in the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics. They were also concerned they might be reported if they gave a Yellow Rock to someone—reported either by the person who received the Yellow Rock or by someone viewing the action from across the room.

More on Yellow Rock. The story was told of a well-known caller who started a large beginners class. This caller recognized that the personal space of new dancers was much larger than those who have danced a long time, so he intentionally never showed Yellow Rock until later in class. This caller had to miss the third night of class, and the replacement caller showed Yellow Rock. The next week half the class had quit, because their personal space had been invaded in a manner unacceptable to them.

Bottom Line. The Board took no vote on this issue, and callers are free to call Yellow Rock as they wish. But many callers on the Board said they had already stopped calling Yellow Rock, and others said they planned to do so. They all agreed it was just a no-win situation for them.

So, while Yellow Rock will not be going away, it is likely to be used far less in the future. When you notice that the use of Yellow Rock is in decline, remember the observations made here and you will know the reason.

WHO IS - ED FOOTE?

I am quite familiar with the name Ed Foote and I have read several of his articles, but I don't know Ed Foote. When I ran across the following in "Let's Square Dance" I thought that perhaps there are others that are in the same position as I am. Know the name, but not the person.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me introduce you to—Mr. Ed Foote

Ed Foote from Pittsburgh PA USA is well-known throughout the world to dancers at Mainstream through Challenge. He has called for 55 years, in all 50 U.S. states and throughout Canada, Europe and Asia. He made 11 calling trips to England from 1981- 2005, where he called in all parts of the country. He currently calls throughout the U.S. and is the regular caller for three square dance clubs in his home area, having been with each club for over 50 years. A member of Callerlab's Board of Governors, he has been an active member in that organization for 46 years, including being a committee chairman for 43 years. He is an Accredited Callerlab Caller Coach, and has conducted caller clinics and schools in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In 2008 he received the Callerlab Milestone Award for significant contribution to the field of square dancing. Ed is a well-known square dance author, having written and edited several instructional books on square dancing, and he has had hundreds of articles published throughout the world.

AND NOW—WE KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY

Copied from—LET'S SQUARE DANCE

CHUCKLE ZONE

This one was sent in by Ronnie Hunt who spotted it in the Daily Mail. Thanks Ronnie

A married couple viewed a house in the country and decided to buy it. They suddenly remembered they had not seen the WC, so they wrote to the Vicar who had shown them around to ask if he knew where it was. Being ignorant of the meaning of WC, he thought they meant the Wesleyan Chapel. Imagine their surprise when they received this letter.

Dear Sir and Madam,

The WC is seven miles from the house. This is of course, very unfortunate if you are in the habit of going regularly. However, it may please you to know that some people take their lunch and make a day of it. By the way, it is made to seat 500 people and the committee have decided to fit plush seats to ensure greater comfort. Those who can spare the time walk, while others go by train and get there just in time. The last time my wife went was ten years ago and she had to stand. I never go at all. They have special facilities for ladies, presided over by the Minister, who renders assistance where necessary. The children sit together and sing during the proceedings.

P.S. Hymn sheets can be found behind the door.

I'm passing this on because it worked for me today. A doctor on TV said that in order to have inner peace in our lives, we should always finish things that we start. Since we could all use more calm in our lives, I looked around the house to find things I'd started and not finished. I finished a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of] wum, the remainder of Valiuminum scriptins and a box of choclutz. Yu has no idr how fablus I feel rite now, Sned this to all yur frenz who need inner piss, an telum u luvum.

Throughout this edition of USDA NEWS there have been several things taken from "Let's Square Dance", a publication of the British Assoc of American Square Dance Clubs. Most square dance editors are most willing to share their publication and the contents asking only that you give them credit. As I was looking through some of their recent issues I found one that had an article from USDA NEWS. I point that you to you so you know that we share articles, we don't just steal them. It just so happens that the article I found was from 1998 and Jim and Edythe were our editors at that time, and the subject falls right in line with some of the other articles in this issue; **Hugging**.

HUGGING

(From USDA NEWS, April 1998)

Hugging is healthy; it helps the body's immune system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects.

Hugging is a miracle food, it is organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and is 100% wholesome.

Hugging is practically perfect; there are no moveable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation-proof, non-fattening, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, non taxable, non polluting,

and of course, fully returnable !

Editor's note – Hugging is also totally carbon free !

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

**Send the USDA NEWS Editor your State Association/Federation
Convention dates and they will be listed here at no charge.**

2020

2020

Aug 6-8 **46th TN State Square and Round
Dance Convention**
M.L. Mills Conference Center
234 Historic Nature Trail
Gatlinburg, TN
meincke_us@yahoo.com

CANCELLED

Oct 23-24 **MidSouth Square & Round
Dance Festival**
St. Paul United Methodist Church
949 Davies Plantation
Lakeland, TN 38002
patti.bundy@gmail.com

Sep 11-13 **New Mexico State Round Dance Festival**
Albuquerque Square Dance Center
4915 Hawkins, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
williamnsdeem116@gmail.com

Nov 01-03 **69th Fiesta de la Cuadrilla**
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
Check website for flyer and info:
<http://sdsda.org/fiesta>
Info: call Cindy at 619-890-4058

Sep 18-19 **Georgia State Square & Round
Dance Convention**
Gainesville Civic Center
830 Green Street NE
Gainesville, GA 30501
squaredancing7@gmail.com
www.gsda.org

CANCELLED

2021

April 16 –18 **61st California State Square
Dance Convention**
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds,
Victorville, CA
Marvin Fishman, General Chairman
CAState2021@gmail.com
<http://www.CAState2021.org>
818-269-1676

Oct 9-10 **71st Arkansas State Square Dance Festival**
Four States Fairgrounds
3700 E 50th St
Texarkansas, AR
Rhonda Bailey 903 276-3422
Linda Carlile 903 277-8681

2022

Apr 8-10 **62nd California State Square
Dance Convention**
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
Yuba City, CA
Katie Pearce & Bonnie Abramson, Co-General
Chairmen
bjabramson@gmail.com
<http://www.CAState2022.org>
916-213-3640

NOTICE

Due to the unique situation caused by the corona virus there are many last minute changes and cancellations. We highly suggest you contact your event before leaving home.



FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2021—June 23-26 Jackson, MS
2022—June 22-25 Evansville, IN
2023—JUNE 21-24, Mobile, AL
2024-June 28-29—Milwaukee, WI



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