

Newsletter of the World's Largest Square Dancing Organization

#### **PUBLISHED BY UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA**

SQUARE DANCING: OFFICIAL FOLK DANCE OF NORTH AMERICA

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Special Thanks to the following for their contributions to this issue of USDA NEWS.

Articles: Judy Taylor, Ed & Lynda Willis

Photos: Judy Taylor, Bonnie Abramson, Patty Wilcox

Cover Design: Chris Dunkel

My apology to anyone I failed to recognize.

#### WHAT'S INSIDE

Can you feel the excitement in the air? Square and Round dancers are beginning to dance again. For some it has been way too long while others are still thinking it may be a little to soon. I guess only time will answer that question and in the meantime follow your heart. The vaccine is becoming more readily available in most areas and I have noticed that most people are now wearing face mask.

Our Presidents, Tony and Diana Rock, have revised USDA's earlier comments on the Covid-19 situation, so check it out on pages 9-10.

Our Centennial Award was recently given to a caller. That was a first as all others have been given to dancers. We were thrilled to add a caller to our growing list of 100 year old dancers and now callers. Ed and Lynda Willis, USDA VP for the Central Region made the trip to Stuart, VA to present this award to Fred Martin, a long time dancer, caller, cuer and contra caller in the Virginia area. Mr. Martin was under hospice care and we sadly report that he did pass away just a few day after receiving this award. We were so glad we were able to do this when we did. Mr. Willis report is on page 8.

The 70th National Square Dance is just a few weeks away and all signs indicate that most covid-19 restrictions are being removed which will help in getting things back to normal. We are looking forward to a great convention in the city of Jackson. MS. The Soul City has a lot to offer and your convention committee has arranged some great tours. If you have not already registered you need to tear out the form on page 19 and git er done!

Now that spring has arrived and the days are longer we hope you are enjoying each day. Spring is such a beautiful time of year. In fact, it is Mark Krebsbachs favorite time of year. Mine too.

#### FREE PHARMACY CARD

#### CLIP AND USE THIS CARD AND SAVE. SHARE IT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS



#### TONY and DIANA ROCK

There is a fresh excitement in the air as COVID 19 vaccines are rolling out and there is the hope of returning to a lifestyle that will be approaching "normal". For the readers of the USDA NEWS that "normal" lifestyle includes dancing with all of our dear friends whom we have missed for 12 long months. While we are all very excited about the prospect of seeing our good friends again, if we are honest with ourselves, many of us are also a little nervous about hearing that familiar call to "square up". Will I remember the calls? Will I be fast enough? Will I break down the square? Will I be the only dancer who is a little rusty as a result of the pandemic? Sure, I've tried to attend ZOOM dances or lessons, but that just isn't the same as walking onto the dance floor with 7 of my best friends. Our advice to you is to relax and enjoy yourself. You are not the only one who has lived through a yearlong pandemic which demanded that our beloved activity come to a screeching halt. Many of us may feel better by taking refresher lessons and starting out more slowly. We should all have a positive attitude and encourage one another rather than being critical. We are all in the same place. We recommend that everyone be forgiving of mistakes, take your time, and just enjoy the blessing of once again dancing with our friends.

As we all begin to plan for a return to dancing there are a few points to keep in mind. First, we should be mindful of the current national, state, and local COVID protocols. Doing so demonstrates respect for everyone involved. Those protocols will vary in different parts of the country so a little research for your locality will go a long way in planning and running a safe dance. We know that sadly over the years square dancing has been diminishing in most parts of the country, however the pandemic does not have to lead to its demise. The current situation may in fact be our golden opportunity to promote our hobby by taking advantage of people's desire to be involved in a non-threatening, social activity such as square and round dancing. Since so much of society is quite eager to socialize once again after enduring such a long isolation, we encourage callers and dance leaders to "think outside the square" and work on new ideas not just for returning current dancers, but for marketing our hobby to those who never before thought about square dancing.

On another positive note, your USDA Executive Committee, USDA EC, has been working overtime. This group of dedicated dancers met for the annual USDA EC Winter Meeting this past January. Due to COVID restrictions we were not able to gather in person, but met over ZOOM for 13 hours spread over two consecutive days. We would like to personally express our gratitude to each of the EC members who enthusiastically participated in this lengthy meeting. This meeting was only the beginning of the work the EC set out to accomplish as most participants continued to work in the days and weeks following the meeting with research and follow up meetings. This is a truly amazing group of people whom we have grown to love and respect.

One of several topics discussed during this meeting was the plan for the USDA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which will take place at the 70<sup>th</sup> NSDC in Jackson, MS this June. In addition to our education sessions, the USDA After Party, and youth activities, there will be special giveaways during the Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 1:00 PM. The beautiful crocheted lap blanket and quilted wall hanging were hand crafted by our own gifted EC members, Patty Wilcox and Bonnie Abramson respectively. (Please see the pictures below). We hope to see many of our USDA Affiliate Delegates at the meeting where you'll be able to enjoy a superb slide show featuring the many dancers and events of our 40 year history. While you're attending the convention you should also be sure to visit the USDA Showcase of Ideas and check out the updated display highlighting the 40 years of USDA leaders and accomplishments.

Live Lively, Square Dance

Your USDA President,

Tony & Diana Rock

40
And Fabulous!
1981-2021

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Larry W. Dunkel

As you read through this issue of USDA NEWS you will notice one thing that most of us agree on. SPRING IS HERE!!! At least in the parts of the country that has seasons. Mark Krebsbach says spring is his favorite time of year, along with winter, autumn and summer. I agree with him on spring. Excitement fills the air with the coming of warmer weather, more outdoor activities and it is looking as if square dancing may be returning and that is exciting within its self. Are we ready? It is going to be a challenge for some while others will dance as if they never missed a thing. I envy people like that. I am getting to the point in my life that I have trouble remembering where the dance hall is and if I do find it I can't remember why I am there and will probably leave.

The word on the street, where I get most of my information, is that we will most likely lose several dancers as a result of the pandemic. After being away from dancing this long they will decide not to return. But we not only are losing dancers we are losing callers as well. Just within the last week or so we have gotten news that Jerry Biggerstaff and his wife Judy are retiring. Many of you, particularly from the southern part of the country will remember Jerry and Judy from the Turkey Strut Dance in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, TN. For many years the Turkey Strut was one of the largest weekend festivals in our part of the country. A great dance. Another popular caller, Mark Patterson, from the state capital of Kentucky has announced his retirement due to health concerns. I am trying to remember how to pronounce the state capital in KY. Is it Louisville or Loueyville? Oh yeah, I just remembered. It is Frankfort. Just a few days ago we got word that Ron Schneider had passed away. Ron was a local Knoxville caller for several years before moving back to Ohio to be closer to family. Ron was from Ohio before coming to Knoxville and was well known for running a dance lodge that was very popular. Many times we have had callers and dancers that knew Ron stop in Knoxville to say hello to Ron and relive some fond memories of days gone by. RIP my fiend. To all of these we say "THANK YOU" for giving of your time and talent for our enjoyment.

While on the subject of callers I am proud to announce that the United Square Dancers of America had the opportunity to present one of our Centennial Awards to a caller. Fred Martin, longtime caller in the Virginia area was the first caller to receive this award. Our Central Region Vice President, Ed and Lynda Willis, were long time friends of Mr. Martin and on behalf of USDA they traveled to Staurt, VA and presented this award to Mr. Martin. We received word just a couple of days ago that Mr. Martin had passed away. We are so happy that we were able to give this award to him when we did. In case you are not familiar with the Centennial Award program this is an award we give to recognize and honor those dancers that have reached the age of 100. If you know any dancer or caller in your club or area that would qualify, please let us know.

With the pandemic situation that has been in effect for the past couple of years it seems that has been a long time coming, but the 70th National Square Dance Convention is now just a couple of months away. This had to be a trying period for the convention committee; not knowing if local restrictions as well as other problems would allow them to have this special event or not. We hope to see many of you there this year and if you are please say "Thank You" to any of the committee members you see. We appreciate all they have done.

Well of course the United Square Dancers of America will be there. Our annual Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday at 1:00 pm and everyone is invited. We will again be holding several work sessions, a Friday night After Party and a few other events. Check out page 14 for more information.

#### EVENTS IN THE PLAINS REGION Mark & Bina Krebsbach, USDA Plains Region VP

Winter my favorite time of the year came 3 months late this year here in North Dakota. It only stayedfor about a week and yielded quickly to Spring. So much for Winter being my favorite time of the year. If this is the new trend maybe we should take the "North" out and just call this state "Dakota". Now, anyway we are enjoying beautiful weather without snow and temperatures bumping 60 degrees.

Bina and I have been hunkered down here in North Dakota. We have not traveled since March of 2020. We are chomping at the bit and getting ready to roll out when square dancing gets back in gear. Although, I have received reports of limited dancing in a few states in the Plains Region, and they seem to be doing just fine, that's encouraging. But I think a lot of folks are feeling a bit like a herd of cattle that have been penned up all Winter and are anxious to get turned out when the grass greens up.

Spring is my favorite time of the year. To witness new life being brought forth into God's creation is very special for me as we were involved in a career of production agriculture. Seeing that new crop comingout of the ground to greet the sun, or to watch a newborn calf wobble around to find it's first meal certainly puts a smile on my face and lightens my heart. It gives a positive feeling of reinforcing hopes and dreams for the future...in spite of the challenges of the ever-changing world we live in.

As I am writing this it appears as though the Southern states got the Winter we missed in North Dakota. I pray the Lord will help them get over the ice and snow and get back to a little more normal.

We sincerely hope and pray all stay healthy and will soon be dancing again. Hope to see you in Jackson, Mississippi in June.

Take good care of your life, your family, and your community.

God bless,

As ever, square dancers

Mark & Bina

#### EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION Ed & Lynda Willis, USDA Central Region VP

Things are beginning to stir in the Central Region. The three nationals in the central region scheduled for this year and next two are moving ahead. USDA continues to offer our monthly Webinars and they have been very popular. The last one with Mike Hogan was sold out. Lynn and I are waiting on the recording to be available so we can hear what we missed. We have heard it was excellent as we would have expected knowing Mike. We have been planning our travel to Jackson and believe we have that all booked. We have sent in our registration for Evansville and Milwaukee.

We are currently working on getting a caller/cuer nominated for the USDA Centennial award. He turned 100 in January.

Affiliates in our region have begun scheduling their state dances. We know of a couple, but if you would send us your information we will do our best to get the word out. It is also time to select your delegates to the USDA meeting in Jackson. Please let us know who you plan to send as soon as possible. USDA is planning to make the meeting available on Zoom. More information should be available elsewhere in this publication on how that will work.

Lynda and I have volunteered to represent USDA on the ARTS board. If you want to know anything about ARTS, please let us know. Ed & Lynda

#### **EVENTS IN THE WESTERN REGION**

LPaul and Sally Schmidt, USDA Western Region VP

As we move into spring, there is still very little dancing going on in the Western Region as most of our states still have restrictions on social gatherings. We have not done any formal square dancing for a year now, although we are pleased to have started a weekly Zoom "class" to help us refresh our memories on the basics. We are continuing to check in with ouraffiliates through monthly e-mails promoting the "Beyond the Dance Floor" webinar series as well as through monitoring their websites. At this time, the Western Region affiliates that usually have festivals between January and mid-May have cancelled or postponed those events. There are a couple scheduled for late-May and June that are moving forward with their plans – we are keeping our fingers crossed!

We have been pleased to see a number of Western region dancers and organization leaders participating in the USDA webinars. Each session has been very well-received. In fact, USDA had a full house – 100 log-ins – for the February webinar featuring Mike Hogan talking about promoting square dancing in these difficult times. We look forward to the upcoming sessions as we contue to share how USDA supports dancers and dancing "beyond the dance floor."

By the time this is published, we will have received both doses of our coronavirus vaccine. While we know that restrictions on social gathering and travel will likely continue for some time, we are pleased to be vaccinated and better protected against this nasty virus. We truly hope to see old friends and make new ones as local dances, regional festivals, and major conventions start to resume (given, of course, best practices under health guidelines).

Live Lively, Square Dance! | LPaul & Sally Schmidt

#### **COMMENTS FROM OUR YOUTH ADVISOR**

**Dan Reedy** 

As we all hope, watch and pray, the Covid pandemic is finally winding down. With all the mutant strains vaccines may go a bit longer to cover everything. But we see an end in site. As a survivor I can personally state that this was nothing to joke about.

We are now gearing up for the National Convention being held at Jackson, Mississippi. There will be two presentations of Engaging Youth.

As USDA normally does we will support the Youth Hall staff with a pizza party and some prizes for their use. Then in celebration of our Anniversary there will be a major announcement during the annual meeting, which should excite everyone.

So as I, and the Nation recover, plans are forming and excitement is building for seeing the Nationals in Jackson take off, I for one hope to see you there!!

Dan Reedy

#### USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Greeting Everyone,

Spring is here and there will be a National Square Dance Convention this year in Jackson, MS. Join me at the 70<sup>th</sup> NSDC in Jackson, MS. If you have not already registered, there's still time to register.

I will be presenting two (2) workshops as part of the Leadership Certification Program at the convention. They will be on Thursday, June 24 at 9:00am and Friday, June 25 at 10:00am. We will be discussing insurance and answering questions you have about the insurance program. These are not only for the Insurance coordinators but any dancers and dance leaders that are attending the convention.

I am getting reports that there are some clubs who are planning to begin dancing again in May. That is great. Be sure you have registered your club and have received your insurance certificates before your club begins dancing again.

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

Sincerely, Elizabeth Sanders

**USDA** National Insurance Coordinator

P O Box 417, Stephens, GA 30667

sqdanins@gmail.com or usda.insurance@usda.org

706-759-3642

#### **Picture Show Coming Up!**

In January 2020, an assignment was given to me, to prepare a picture show of historic events in which the USDA Executive Board has been involved, to be shown at the Jackson NSDC this June. Members of this Board are contributing many pictures, to which names, dates and titles are added. USDA delegates to the 2021 Convention will get to see this continuous presentation projected on a wall, as their meeting progresses. There will be over 500 pictures, from the last 10 or more years, of different Conventions and people you might recognize. Printed here are a couple of samples.





Of particular interest are pictures of your USDA NEWS Editor, Larry Dunkel. On page 4 of last month's NEWS you'll see how dedicated he is to bring you this quarterly magazine! Many of you aren't aware of what goes on behind the print; he, and others on the USDA's Board work hard on their own time simply because we care about square dancing and YOU! Say "Hi!" to Larry and all the USDA Executive Board members when you see them in Jackson this June. And don't forget to come to the General meeting on Wednesday for a grand celebration of USDA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Judy Taylor; USDA Archives

#### **FEATURE ARTICLE**

#### FRED MARTIN

On Monday, March 15, 2021, Central Vice President Ed and Lynda Willis along with Roger Routh and his wife traveled to Stuart, VA to present our Centennial Award to Fred Martin, long time caller in that area. Fred turned 100 years old In January and he is the first caller to receive this award. Roger was President of a club Fred called for in Mount Airy and assisted us in finding Fred.

Mr. Martin has been dancing, calling squares and contra and cueing rounds for many years and only quit calling when the pandemic started. He now lives with his daughter and is currently under hospice care. Due to the Covid-19 virus our presentation of this award has been restricted to a small family gathering. Fred's daughter-in-law Darlene got him out of bed and into a wheel chair before we arrived. She was very excited about the award and was very proud of him. She had collected memorabilia from his career. She said she saved napkins he had drawn calls on when he was at restaurants. While she never learned to square dance she could name all the calls and show you the moves.

Fred had attended around 40 national conventions, and had called in Germany and Austria. He keep telling us when he started calling for his first club, the Fairy Stone Squares. His "real 'job was working for DuPont and when he had to work the 4 to 8 shift he would pay a friend coworker \$40 to trade shifts so he could go call and get paid \$20.00.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Roger was prepared to hang the certificate on his wall of awards, but first he wanted to take it to his room so he could study it.

Thank you Fred Martin for sharing many years of your life with us. It is people like Fred that has helped shape and preserve Western Square Dancing as we know it today.









#### UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

SQUARE DANCE - AMERICAN FOLK DANCE



Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Updated response from the United Square Dancers

of America

Date: March 20, 2021

Hello dancers and dance leaders,

We would like to begin this COVID response update by reminding our readers that the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) is an organization that is run by dancers for dancers. We are educational in nature and not a governing body. The ideas expressed in this article are suggestions presented for individual dancers and dance leaders to consider as they begin to think about resuming dancing.

We would be remiss if we didn't begin by saying that different areas of the country are in various phases of reopening due to the state and local guidelines. Anything we suggest here should be considered in light of current conditions in your geographical area. As dances begin to open up we encourage everyone to respect the right of individuals to make the decisions they are most comfortable with in regards to whether or not they are ready to return to dancing. We continue to encourage dancers and dance leaders to follow the safety guidelines outlined in the first USDA Response to COVID 19 as posted on the USDA website, <u>usda.org</u> in conjunction with state and local guidance.

Recently the USDA Webinar Series, "Beyond the Dance Floor", hosted Mike Hogan as the guest presenter. Mr. Hogan has been a square dance caller for 45 years, has a 30 year career in the field of marketing, and is currently Market President for iHeart Media. He has combined his expertise in both fields to present many fresh ideas on the why and how of marketing square dancing. Mr. Hogan's hypothesis is that recruiting new square dancers has become difficult because the approach is backwards. He suggests, "People haven't associated square dancing as a product that satisfies a need or want. The solution is to promote the product now and recruit the dancers later!" For more details please go to <a href="usda.org">usda.org</a>, from the homepage click on "webinar", then "February 13, 2021". All of those links will provide details of Mike Hogan's presentation including his slides and video of the webinar. We strongly encourage you to check out this free resource for new ideas.

At our January 2021 ZOOM Winter Meeting of the USDA Executive Committee, Barry Clasper was a guest speaker who presented on "Social & Sustainable Square Dancing" or commonly referred to as SSD. This program was developed within CALLERLAB with one of the principle authors being the late Jerry Story. Much more information can still be found on the web at <a href="mailto:jerrystory.com">jerrystory.com</a>. Information can also be found (Continued Page 11)



#### UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA



Continued from Page 10

CALLERLAB Knowledge website at http://callerlabknowledge.org/?s=ssddoc . Sadly the social aspect of square dancing (SD) has eroded over time. The SSD program reintroduces the social aspect back into square dancing. The goal is to create a social activity that people will want to come back and have fun at. The SSD approach is designed to be more casual rather than a continuing learning process. Following over 15 months of social isolation, the general population is ripe with the desire to get out, socialize, and do something fun together.

Now is the perfect time to get together with your club and set your plan for moving forward in the post COVID isolation era. A combination of new marketing ideas gleaned from Mike Hogan's webinar presentation and CALLERLAB's Social (& Sustainable) Square Dancing looks like it could be the ticket to the rebirth of the activity we love so dearly. It may look a little different, but what is the goal? Do we want square dancing to continue to die a slow and painful death or do we want to keep it alive and vibrant? Do you want more information? The USDA webinar series, "Beyond the Dance Floor" has two more sessions planned that will be extremely helpful as square dancing moves forward. Please keep in mind that all webinar sessions will be available on usda.org under the "webinar" tab on the home page.

- July 10<sup>th</sup> SSD Program with Bear Miller and 2 additional callers
- August 14<sup>th</sup> Social Connections: The Key to Club Success with Mike Seastrom

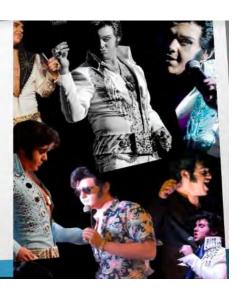
We hope this information will be helpful as square dancing opens up following such a difficult year of isolation. We look forward to dancing together very soon, until then we send everyone a virtual yellow rock!

Live Lively Square Dance, Tony & Diana Rock **USDA** President

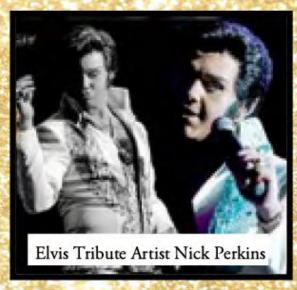
### IERE WILL YOU BE IN 2021?

- VISITING THE BIRTH PLACE OF ELVIS
- SEEING NICK PERKINS MULTI AWARD WINNING ENJOYING ALL THE DANCING FUN JUNE 23-26, **ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST** 
  - 2021 IN JACKSON MS

YOU "CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE" WITH MISSISSIPPI



## SEEYOUIN 70TH NSDC IS HAPPENING



**Great Dinner Show** 



**Keynote Mike Seastrom** 



**Ghost Riders Square Dance Band** 

## JACKSON!

JUNE 23 - JUNE 26, 2021

Jackson City Tour
Armed Forces Tour
Sing the Blues Tour
"The Help" Cooking Tour
Meridian Tour
Mississippi Delta Tour
Natchez Tour
Vicksburg Tour
Everything Elvis Pre-Convention Tour

**Terrific Tours** 



Jackson Convention Complex



Dancing for Everyone!

See you in
Jackson!
Register today!
70nsdc.com



### DANCING & FUN in 2021!!

## 46th TENNESSEE CONVENTION August 5 SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE

W.L. Mills Conference Center 234 Historic Nature Trail Gatlinburg, TN 37738



#### SQUARES

Mainstream - Plus Advanced - Challenge Hot Hash - DBD Hex - Progressive Singing Calls

Fashion Show Singles Dance Contra Sewing Clinic After-Party Vendors

#### ROUNDS

Phase II-VI Waltz - Rumba Jive - Two Step Foxtrot - Mambo W Coast Swing Cha - Bolero

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY: Trail-in Dance 8-11pm

2 Square Dance Halls

1 Dedicated Round Dance Hall

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 10am -11pm

6 Halls of Dancing \*Live Band: Evening Hours www.TNSquareDance.org Facebook: TN Square and Round Dance Convention



#### United Square Dancers of America at the 70<sup>th</sup> NSDC<sup>®</sup>

40
And Fabulous!

Are you traveling to Jackson, Mississippi for the 70<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention? If so, why not join us as we celebrate 40 fabulous years? **ALL** dancers are welcome at USDA-sponsored activities.

#### USDA ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, June 23 – 1:00 PM Jackson Convention Center Ballroom

Share in our 40 years of accomplishments and learn about how USDA supports dancers and promotes dancing across the country.



ODAY IS THE DAY

METHING HEV

to com



#### USDA-SPONSORED AFTER PARTY

Friday, June 25 – 10:00 PM Exhibit Hall B

SQUARE DANCE AFTER PARTY with the Ghost Riders Live Band Celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

#### USDA-SPONSORED EDUCATION SESSIONS

Thursday, June 24

9:00 AM, Room 206 Questions and Answers About Your USDA Insurance

10:30 AM, Room 207 Social Media – Share the Excitement!

12:15 PM, Room 206 Engaging Youth!

Friday, June 25

10:00 AM, Room 206 Engaging Youth!

10:00 AM, Room 210 Questions and Answers About Your USDA Insurance

3:15 PM, Room 207 Social Media – Share the Excitement!

Saturday, June 26

12:15 PM, Room 206 USDA's New 501(c)(3) Group Exemption Program



Please stop by the USDA booth at the Showcase of Ideas to see our display and pick up some of our free Educational Publications

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION (LEFT FRONT SIDE OF FORM

- Print legibly all names, address, city, state, zip code, country, and B/D of youth (age 5-17 by June 26, 2021 discounted price) to ensure correct registration.
  - 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<sup>®</sup> and return it with the Registration Form. <u>Do Not Send Cash</u>. No Single Day Registrations.
    - A\$10.00 fee per registrant will be assessed for cancellation. No refunds after April 30, 2021
       Important! Daily schedules are only available with the purchase of a Program Book. Daily
      - Important I 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.
- 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 812-969-2307 or email to c.schoen@dreamvacations.com. For Tour
  information and Order Form go to <a href="https://www.70nsdc.com">www.70nsdc.com</a> 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 Ide regrampingry@70nsdc.com.

## NSTRUCTIONS FOR HOUSING (RIGHT FRONT SIDE OF FORM)

- 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.
- 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, firstindicate.
  - serve basis according to availability.

     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.)
- Shared Room or Same Hotel Requests can be made through the online site OR forward registrations together in the same envelope.
- 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 reghousing@70nsdc.com
- Hotel Reservations: Your reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and a \$3.50 nonrefundable 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.
- 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 <a href="mailto:reghousing@70nsdc.com">reghousing@70nsdc.com</a>
   Hotel Changes: After receiving Hotel Confirmation, if you need to modify your hotel reservation
- you must contact the 70th NSDC Housing Committee, <u>reghousing@70nsdc.com</u> Hotel Cancellations: Your confirmed hotel will assess a one-night room/tax charge for
  - Hotel Cancellations: Your confirmed hotel will assess a one-night room/tax charge cancellations received less than 72 hours prior to arrival.
- Hotel Early Departure: An early departure fee may be charged unless the 70th NSDC Housing Committee <u>reghousing@70nsdc.com</u> is notified at least 72 hours prior to a change in the planned stay.
   BUS PASS AVAILABLE IF NEEDED

# Map of Hotels (1220) (

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 Headquarters Hotel	\$139	\$139	\$149	\$159	.3 miles
2	Westin Downtown * **	\$159	\$159	\$169	\$179	.3 miles
m	Hilton Garden Inn (Caller/Cuer) *	\$139	\$139	\$149	\$159	.2 miles
4	Hampton Inn & Suites **	\$102	\$102	\$102	\$102	1.4 mile
2	Holiday Inn Express **	\$129	\$129	\$129	\$129	1.4 mile
9	Residence Inn	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	3.7 miles
7	Oyo Townhouse **	08\$	08\$	08\$	08\$	7.7 miles
∞	Hilton Jackson	\$119	\$124	\$129	\$134	9 miles
6	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 38632 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

## THE PARTY OF THE P

I'd like to volunteer, please contact me.

# 70th National Square Dance Convention®

June 23, 24, 25, & 26, 2021, Jackson MS
Online Registration – Website This Com

"Come Dance & Meet Elvis in 2021"

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

"Join Us Down By the River"

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

Primary Last Name:		_ First Name:	
Partner's (if different)		_ First Name:	
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#### Pre-Registration 72<sup>nd</sup> 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:		
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Address:					
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\$10 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2023. This form and registration rate are void after April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention® Pre-Convention is first to be virtual

#### **NEWS—For immediate Release**

Contact Information:Bill Garrison/Paula Egenolf
3172738345/3173709213
Bgarrison27@comcast.net
Paulaegenolf50@att.net

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced events to be cancelled and upended lives, but it has also brought innovation. The 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention's® Pre-Convention is one example. The event was originally scheduled at Evansville's Doubletree Hotel, but the National Executive Committee (NEC) granted permission to NSDC organizers to hold the Pre-Convention virtually, after they determined COVID caseloads were still too high to hold large gatherings in person. Because necessary planning still needed to happen, organizers decided to use Zoom and make the event the first virtual Pre-Convention.

The event will run four days beginning March 10. The NEC will have meetings and hear reports from the 70<sup>th</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup>, and 73<sup>rd</sup> conventions. On Saturday, March 13, there will be breakout sessions beginning at 10 a.m. that will stretch until 4:30 p.m. and reconvene with a wrap-up session at 7 p.m. There will be eight virtual "rooms" that will be renamed after each round of meetings.

There will also be a virtual dance on March 12 beginning at 8 p.m. with callers James Cha and Janet Lewis. Virtual square dances usually have two couples at a time dancing. There will also be at least one game.

While the Pre-Convention is the first to be virtual, plans are still underway to have the 2022 National Square Dance Convention ® fully in-person. Keep June 22-25 on your calendars and "Join Us Down By The River" for a memorable convention. Register for the virtual dance and the 2022 convention at 71nsdc.org.

#### NEWS RELEASE

#### **For Immediate Release**

#### 70th NSDC IS STILL ON!

Plan to get together with friends in the City with Soul

January 4, 2021— Chances are you probably haven't gotten out much this past year thanks to the pandemic.

Jackson, MS can cure that wanderlust as the city and surrounding areas have something to cater to all interests as the hosts for the 70<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention®.

The fun starts with the Pre-convention tour **June 20-23**, which is dedicated to the King, Elvis Presley. The tour will visit his birthplace in Tupelo, MS before heading to Memphis, TN for two days near his well-known home in Graceland. You will also get a chance to visit Beale Street, one of the best-known streets in the United States.

During the convention, there are plenty of other tours, if you can tear yourself away from the dance floor. Continue the music theme with the Delta Blues Tour, which stops at the Grammy Museum, the Delta Blues Museum, and the Crossroads, where a blues legend sold his soul to the devil, or the Sing the Blues Tour, which visits the BB King Museum and Club Ebony. Pay tribute to the military with the Armed Forces Tour, which visits the Armed Forces Museum near Hattiesburg.

Jackson has plenty of history as well. Visit Merrehope, one of the few remaining Antebellum homes in Meridian, MS, on the Meridian Tour, or Stanton Hall, one of the most opulent houses in the south, on the Natchez Tour. If you want military history, travel to Vicksburg, MS a major turning point in the American Civil War at Vicksburg.

Come for the dancing, stay for the culture! There's plenty to do in the City with Soul! For more information, visit 70nsdc.com and click on "tours."

FOLLOW US: www.70NSDC.com

.com/70nsdccebook

#### The United Square Dancers of America's Annual Board of Directors Meeting



40 And Fabulous! 1981-2021

Wednesday, June 23, 2021—1:00 p.m. Jackson Convention Center Ballroom Jackson, Mississippi

Are you traveling to Jackson, Mississippi for the 70th National Square Dance Convention? If so, please join us for our Annual Business Meeting and share in our 40 years of accomplishments and learn how USDA supports dancers and promotes dancing across the country. Plus, those attending will have a chance to win one of these great beauties and support our Youth Scholarship and Handicapable Dancer programs!



This beautiful, patriotic lap-size afghan was made by USDA Executive Committee member Patty Wilcox of San Diego, CA. This warm and cuddly afghan (teddy bears not included!) will be a great addition to any square dancer's household.



Celebration Sam, a 24-1/2" x 19-1/2" quilted wallhanging was made by USDA Executive Committee member Bonnie Abramson of Sacramento, CA. This cheerful character is ready to help you celebrate any patriotic holiday.

**How Do You Win?** — Each attendee at the Annual Business Meeting will be given one FREE ticket for a chance to win your choice of prize. Want additional chances to win? Make a donation to USDA's Founders' Memorial Youth Scholarship Program and USDA's Handicapable Dancer program — for each dollar donated you will receive one additional ticket. The more you donate the better your chance to win! Donations received will be split equally between the two funds.

Each year the **United Square Dancers of America** awards at least one scholarship to a youth dancer through the **Founders' Memorial Youth Fund Scholarship** program. In 2020 we awarded 2 scholarhips and we hope to award 3 in honor of our 40th Anniversary.

USDA's Handicapable Dancer program makes a major donation every two years to help handicapable dancers attend their bi-annual National Handicapable Convention.

Not attending the National Convention or the annual USDA Board of Directors' Meeting but still want to donate to these great causes? Visit USDA's website: http://www.usda.org/YouthScholarshipDonationForm.pdf to make a donation.

#### The United Square Dancers of America's Social Media Committee



#### **Proudly Presents Our Webinar Series**

#### Beyond the Dance Floor

**Dancing** — We all miss dancing! The great news is, as a community we've been adapting to "the new normal". It's been wonderful to see callers and cuers set up virtual dance events. Online groups have been set up to discuss returning to dancing and what precautions need to be taken. IAGSDC even transitioned their International Convention into a "home edition" with virtual dancing and live online activities. Happily, in some areas of the country, clubs are cautiously and carefully beginning to dance again, but there is still more to do.

The United Square Dancers of America — USDA — your National dancers' organization, is proud to present a monthly series of web-based programs via *Zoom* to support clubs on the business and marketing end of our activity. The programs will be used to introduce more dancers across the country to who/what USDA is, the programs and services we provide, and a way to keep square and round dancing in the forefront of people's thoughts even if they aren't able to get together on the dance floor.

Beyond The Dance Floor – It takes a lot of effort and organizational skills to keep our favorite activity alive and USDA is here to help. From bylaws to event planning, club officer duties, promotion, communications, newsletters, youth and handicapable programs – this series is designed to help groups across the country build and grow your clubs.



**Workshops** are scheduled to last 90-minutes to allow plenty of time for questions & answers, plus we will welcome input from participants. Our complete schedule is listed on the subsequent pages.

Watch your email, our website and Facebook for links to the actual, **FREE** workshops.



#### For more information or to check on scheduling updates, please contact us at:

USDA Online Education: Bonnie Abramson, Chair — OnlineEducation@usda.org
Or visit our Facebook page and join our Facebook group
https://www.facebook.com/groups/314405916617 (United Square Dancers
of America—USDA)



#### The United Square Dancers of America's Social Media Committee



#### **Proudly Presents**

#### Beyond the Dance Floor

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE\* subject to change

All Programs will begin at 2:00 p.m. Eastern; 1:00 p.m. Central; 12:00 noon Mountain; 11:00 a.m. Pacific; 8:00 a.m. Hawaii; 90-minute duration

#### Saturday, April 10, 2021

Title: National Convention – Here We Come! Showcasing USDA's Involvement on the National Stage Faculty: Tony & Diana Rock, USDA Presidents; Ed & Lynda Willis, Central Region VP; Mark & Bina Krebsbach, Plains Region VP; LPaul & Sally Schmidt, Western Region VP; with special guests Dan & Glinda Torvik, General Chairmen of the 70th National Square Dance Convention, Jackson, MS

#### Saturday, May 15, 2021

Title: USDA's Handicapable Program

Faculty: Alicia Becker, Handicapable Program Chair

**Program Description:** Information about Handiciapble dancing and how USDA supports dancers to attend the National Handicapable Convention.

#### Saturday, June 12, 2021

Title: USDA's Specialty Programs and Honors





Faculty: Joy Vaccari, Prescription Card/Hearing Aid; Larry Dunkel, Centennial Award; Jerry & Donna Robey, USDA Traveler's Program; Jim & Judy Taylor, Amazon Smile

**Program Description:** An overview of USDA's specialty program—what they are and how you can participate or support them.

#### Saturday, July 10, 2021 — SPECIAL TIME—ONE HOUR EARLIER ALL REGIONS

Title: SSD-Social Square Dancing. What Is It and How Does It Work?

Faculty: Bear Miller, member CALLERLAB Board of Directors

**Program Description:** After months and months of not dancing, how can we best bring back and revitalize our beloved activity? CALLERLAB is promoting the SSD—Social Square Dance movement across the country. What is it and how do we make it work.



#### Saturday, August 14, 2021

Title: Social Connections—The Key to Club Success

Faculty: Mike Seastrom, International Square Dance Caller



## 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 <u>potential dancer</u> 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.

#### ARTS Travel The

### **Dancer's Online Travel**







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



#### **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 commissions.

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.

#### Logon to

#### www.arts-dancetravel.com









70th National Square Dance Convention®

June 23-26, 2020 - Jackson, MS

#### CONVENTION SCHEDULE

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

2021

2022

April 16 –18

61<sup>st</sup> 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

Jun 23-26

70th National Square Dance Convention

5252 McIngvale Rd. Hernando, MS 38632

Register: regchair@70nsdc.com

901 412-8140 http://70nsdc.com

Aug 5-7

46th Tennessee Square & Round Dance Convention

W. l.. Mills Conference Center 234 Historic Nature Trail Gatlinburg, TN 37738

www.tnsquaredance.org/convention

Oct 8-10

Missouri State Convention Cowen Civic Center 500 E. Elm St. Lebanon, MO 65536 Billie Jean Butler 660 287-1443

Apr 8-10

62<sup>nd</sup> 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

**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

ΑL

#### THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOU

Send us your State Association Federation Convention dates and we will list them here—no charge



#### Support USDA by Using AmazonSmile for your online purchases!



How it Works: Simply go to http://smile.amazon.com and select United Square Dancers of America as the 501(c)3 charitable organization you wish to support. Don't have an account? It's simple to sign-up and select USDA. Then, proceed with your purchase as normal. Amazon will donate 1/2 of 1% of your total AmazonSmile purchase to

**FUND RAISING** PROGRAM

Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com

http://smile.amazon.com

Welcome to amazon Smile Share Amazon Smile with your friends so



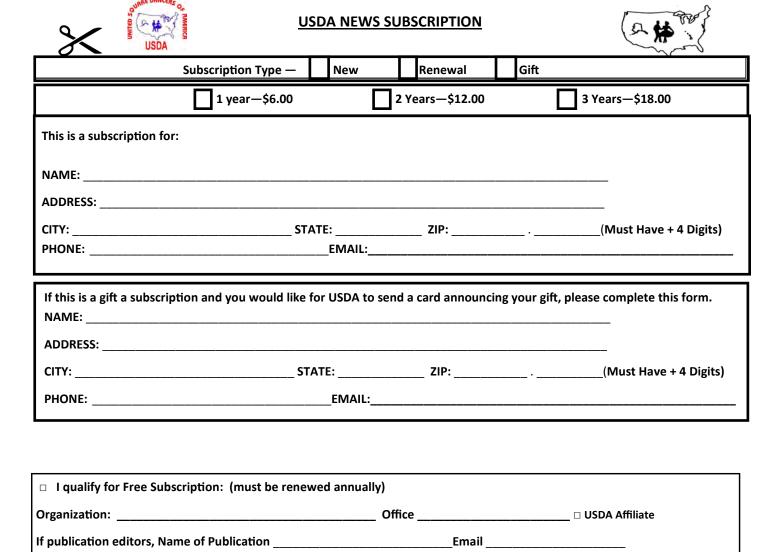
#### **USDA NEWS**

The USDA NEWS publication is a quarterly publication covering all aspects of the Square Dance activity. Each issue of USDA NEWS, which averages 32-36 pages, is provided FREE to all known dance publication editors; leaders of state, national, and international organizations; and USDA Affiliates, Officers and Directors.

USDA NEWS is available to all others at a yearly subscription rate of only \$6.00. The subscription rate does not pay for the newsletter but does assist in the postal costs. To keep abreast of square dance events, leadership and education articles, and to maintain your awareness and knowledge of the total activity, you should be reading the USDA NEWS.

If you would like to receive notice when a new issue is posted on our website please <u>click here</u> (or type in the address - — www.Subscribe.USDA.org) and follow the instructions. As soon as a new on-line edition is posted you will receive an email with a link to the website.

For your own personal copy of the quarterly USDA NEWS, complete the form below and return it with a check made out to USDA to the USDA NEWS Editor. If you would like to send a subscription as a gift please complete the "gift from" form as well as the "subscription for" form. We will send a card to the person receiving the gift subscription to let them know they are receiving this as a gift from you.



Please type or print clearly. Be sure the form is complete.

Attach check or money order for appropriate amount payable to **USDA** 



#### GOING AWAY FOR THE WINTER? SUMMER?



#### HAVE YOU MOVED?

We don't want you to miss a single copy of USDA NEWS, so please notify us of any change of address as soon as possible. If you go away for an extended period of time let us know the new address and the dates involved and we will see that you continue to get your copy wherever your current address might be.

When you plan a move please send your new address as soon as possible.

#### USDA NEWS PUBLICATION POLICY

USDA NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Square Dancers of America, the largest square dance organization in the world. Our goal is to cover all aspect of the square dance activity. USDA NEWS is not copyrighted and we welcome the reprinting of any material by USDA Affiliates and other publications. A credit line is appreciated whenever any of our material is reprinted.

We also welcome articles of interest to the square dance world in general. When submitting articles for use in USDA NEWS you must include your name, address, phone number and email address and also indicate the author of the article. The editor does reserves the right to reject, edit, omit, or rewrite all material submitted.

The opinions expressed within the publication does not necessarily reflect that of USDA or the Editorial staff.

#### USDA ADVERTISING POLICY

USDA NEWS accepts ads and flyers in camera-ready form only and of the proper size. Proper size is 7 ½ X 10 for a full size page or 7 ½x 5 for a half page. Ads should be submitted in digital form in .jpeg, png, or .pdf formats.

Make check payable to United Square Dancers of America and mail to the editor. Name and address can be found on the back cover of each issue. Checks must be received within 7 days of receiving the digital ad file. Unpaid ads will not be printed.

**Deadline Dates** are one month before the issue date with issues published quarterly.

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