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USDA

News

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST
SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATION

— ★ —
*Square Dancing: The Official
Folk Dance of North America*
— ★ —



PUBLISHED BY UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

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

Articles: Jim Maczko, Patty Wilcox

Photos: Sally & LPaul Schmidt

Cover Design: Chris Dunkel

My apology to anyone I failed to recognize.

WHAT'S INSIDE

It seems the past several issues keep getting smaller and smaller. Our Western Region VP's, Sally and LPaul Schmidt, were the only VP's attending and reporting on a dance during this past quarter. That is not a reflection on our Vice Presidents, simply a matter of clubs not dancing. Things are looking up though and we should soon see more dances, more reports and larger issues of USDA NEWS.

While we are still struggling to fill the pages of this issue, our friends across the pond are having the same problem. Peter Wright, editor of Let's Square Dance and Susan Ellis, President of the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs, have graciously agreed to share some of each others works. We thank them for sharing these with us. Anything taken from their publication will be identified with a **LSD** beside it.


On page 4 our Presidents, Tony and Diana Rock say their farewell article. I joined USDA in 2012 under the leadership of Alitia Becker. I was immediately impressed with her guidance and with all of our Presidents that have followed. Each one has brought their own personality with a special blend of togetherness that makes a smooth operation. Tony and Diana are no exception. They have done an outstanding job of leading us the past couple of years and I might add that their time in office was quite unusual with Covid 19 literally shutting down our dance world. While Tony and I did not always see things the same way, I have a great respect for him and Diana and how they kept me in line. It will take a tall man to fill his shoes.

Looks as if I am about to run out of space here and you are probably saying something like, "thank God for small favors". While we are thanking God let's include a thanks for the decline of Covid 19 and the return of square dancing where we join with people around the world in a special fellowship and love. And I am sure He would appreciate a thanks for the independence our country will celebrate on July 4.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, LAND THAT I LOVE!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS



TONY and DIANA ROCK

We write this message with hope and excitement in our hearts. Hope that COVID is slowly losing its grip on us instead of entangling us in its chains. Excitement as we gradually move back toward a “normal” lifestyle where we can once again visit with family and friends and actually share a hug with those we’ve missed for so many months. In light of this, we would like to offer you yet another challenge. Hopefully this one won’t be as difficult as what you’ve experienced in the past 15 months. Look back over the past year+ and search for the Lord’s blessings in your life. Here are a few possibilities to give you a jumpstart: more time with those you live with, realizing its not so bad to work from home, more time to devote to spiritual growth, all of the many projects that actually were completed, more time to relax, read a book or watch a movie. What we have discovered is that in the toughest of times we often need to actively search for the positive, but when we look we will see and be amazed at the richness of God’s blessings.

As our 2nd one year term is now expiring, this is also our final opportunity to write The President’s Message. Serving as your USDA President has by far been the greatest honor of our square dance experience. The USDA EC is an extremely dedicated and hard working committee that has become as close to us as family. Just since we joined this group 8 years ago, we have seen the birth of the Centennial Award (thank you Larry Dunkel), revision of Youth Publications (thank you Dan Reedy ; & Dale & Kathy Worthington) and expansion of Youth Memorial Scholarships, creation of the 501(c)3 Group Exemption Program, and the establishment of the new Associate Class of USDA Membership (thank you Jim Maczko & Pat Inglis). It is worth noting that the COVID pandemic didn’t slow the USDA EC down, it in fact seemed to create even more energy! Out of the great need dancers to remain connected and growing in our beloved activity during this year of isolation, our new “Beyond the Dance Floor” webinar series was created (thank you Bonnie Abramson & Milene McCall), as well as the first completely virtual Annual Board of Directors Meeting (June 2020), and possibly the first hybrid Annual Board of Directors Meeting (June 2021). Grass does not grow under the feet of your USDA EC! When we joined this team, we never believed all of this would be accomplished. Just imagine what the next eight years will bring to the United Square Dancers of America!

We encourage you to join the USDA Team by becoming an active delegate for your USDA Affiliate. Don’t miss out on the growth and excitement that is happening within the United Square Dancers of America!

Live

Lively

Square

Dance,

Tony & Diana Rock

40
And Fabulous!
1981-2021



A NOTE FROM THE**EDITOR****Larry W. Dunkel**

The year was 1981, a somewhat lackluster year for the majority of the country. There were a few things that gave the year some color, like Ronald Regan moving to Washington and occupying the White House for the next four years. And then some dude took a pot shot at him and that made headline news for a few days. I told Google to give me a list of famous people born in 1981. I only recognized a few of the names and they did not warrant taking up space on my page. So out of desperation I asked Siri if any famous people died in 1981. When I saw that list I had to sit down and catch my breath. Topping the list was my sweetheart from age 6 and she still is. Natalie Wood. I feel certain that Natalie would have waited for me had Robert Wagner not come along when he did. What a tragedy her death was. That story got more press time than the fellow that shot President Regan. There were others that died that year. The "Have Gun, Will Travel" man, Richard what's his name, Robert Montgomery and William Holden, and I did mention Natalie Wood didn't I? So why are we even discussing a year this boring? I'm glad you asked. There was one thing that kept 1981 from being even more boring than 1997 and that was the birth of the **United Square Dancers of America!** That has to be the highlight of the year for all square dancers and other forms of folk dancing. Two of our current Executive Committee are charter members of USDA and played a big role in getting the organization organized and are still playing a big part in keeping us organized, on track and moving ahead. Jim Maczko and Joy Vaccari we appreciate you and all you do and have done.

This year, 2021, we are celebrating our 40th anniversary of the United Square Dancers of America. We are an organization formed by square dancers, for square dancers and is run and operated by square dancers, for the advancement and preservation of square dancing. On the previous page you read our Presidents talk about the current group of people serving on the executive board and how dedicated they are. This is a group of dancers from all across the county. Take a look at the back of this issue and see where these people are from. We have volunteers from California and Oregon to Pennsylvania, Virginia, Florida and North Carolina with intermediate stops in Colorado, North Dakota, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. They (and me too) do this because we love square dancing.

If you did not get a copy of our Special USDA NEWS 40th Anniversary Edition you can find it on our website, <http://www.usda.org> and click on Publications and then 40th Anniversary. In that issue you can read about the birth of an organization, the people involved, positions held from day one until present. I will just simply say, "there's some good stuff there man!" Our Feature Article for this issue is a reprint of "The Birth of the Organization" taken from the 40th Anniversary issue.

Personally, I consider it a privilege to be a part of this group. As far as I know I am the only one listed with a salary. I started with nothing and each year they double it. I am currently drawing a triple double nothing and I think I am worth every bit of it. I don't think they could find anyone else to do what I do for less.

We have often said, but it bears repeating, we are the **United Square Dancers of America; USDA**. We are in no way associated with the US Dept. of Agriculture or the Drug Administration. When we ask square dancers if they are familiar with us they generally reply that we are the insurance people and that we are, but we are a lot more also. Are you familiar with our *Centennial Award Program* where we recognize and honor dancers 100 years old? What about our *Founders Memorial Youth Scholarship* to assist your dancers in pursuing their education? Know someone interested in becoming a caller? We will help with their financial expenses to attend a callers school. Have you checked out our *Education and Publication* section where you will find loads of information on most all facets of square dancing, recruiting new class members, how to organize a club and how each officer and position should be managed? It is all free just for asking. So who is USDA?

We are the world's largest square dance organization.

Until next time.....*Larry D.*

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

Here in good old North Dakota, we are hoping summer falls on a weekend this year. Time will tell. It looks like Summer will start this weekend, weatherman says 90 to 100 degrees, that's hot. We've been used to 60 degrees. I wonder what's wrong with about 70, 0 to 100 that's what I call seasonal shock.

Well anyway Summer is still my favorite time of the year. We will figure out how to handle the heat.

Square dancing has re-started here in North Dakota. We drove 110 miles to Minot for our first dance in 15 months, that was very good. It sounds like other states are starting to dance as well.

We hope everyone stays healthy and travels safe.

"Work together for the benefit of all mankind."

As ever square dancers, God bless

Mark & Bina

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

USDA continues to offer our monthly Webinars and they have been very popular. 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.

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. Both of our local clubs have resumed dancing. Both opened with a lot of restrictions, but those have mostly been dropped at this point. North Carolina and Tennessee have announced conventions for 2021.

We hope to see everyone in Jackson!

Ed & Lynda Willis

EVENTS IN THE WESTERN REGION

LPaul and Sally Schmidt, USDA Western Region VP

As we submit this article, we are excited to be attending our first Western Region festival in 15 months. We are pleased to be able to represent USDA at the 50th Montana State Square & Round Dance Festival, held over Memorial Day weekend in Ronan, MT. Montana has two USDA affiliate organizations: Missoula Area Federation of Square & Round Dance Clubs, and the Yellowstone Square Dance Council. Unfortunately, due to our travel schedule for the National Square Dance Convention® in Jackson, MS, we have to miss the Idaho, Washington, and Alaska State Festivals this year. We are looking forward to visiting more Western Region events over the next year as we get back on the road and back on the dance floor!

We hope that all our affiliates were able to have delegates participate in the USDA Annual Meeting at the National Square Dance Convention®. This was the first time we provided both in-person and electronic (Zoom) options. Remember that the Annual Meeting is YOUR opportunity to provide input into USDA programs and practices, as well as continue to build understanding of how USDA operates and how the organization supports dancers at the local, regional, and state levels. Delegate attendance at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting is one of the expectations of USDA membership. Put the 2022 Annual Meeting on your calendar now – it will take place on the Wednesday immediately preceding the National Square Dance Convention® in Evansville, IN.

We would like to continue to encourage dancers and dance leaders to participate in the USDA *Beyond the Dance Floor* webinar series. These monthly online education sessions provide a valuable opportunity to learn about USDA programs and services, and discuss topics of interest to the dance community. Check out the schedule and find links to the Zoom sessions on the USDA website at www.usda.org.

Live Lively, Square Dance!

LPaul & Sally Schmidt
USDA Western Region Vice President



USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Greeting Everyone,

We finally had another national convention this year. Hurray for us!! The 70th NSDC in Jackson, MS was a big welcome from all that has been going on for square dancers. If you were not there, then you can tune in to a Zoom workshop on October 9. I will be presenting most of the same material that I presented at the two insurance seminars in Jackson.

Here is a repeat of a portion of the article that was in the April-June 2021 USDA News magazine.

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

USDA National Insurance Coordinator

P O Box 417, Stephens, GA 30667

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



My Dad said,

“As one door closes, another one opens

Lovely man—terrible cabinet maker!

CLASSIFIED WANT AD



This is Buddy.

I bought him as a surprise for my husband, but it turns out he's allergic to dogs. So unfortunately I'm going to have to find him a new home. I am hoping that someone out there might be able to help me.

His name is Alan.

Age 61

Great at DIY

Dances Mainstream & Plus

And

Is wonderful at planning Holidays.

© LSD

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ April 2021



Chuckle Zone

(From Andy Phillips)

Here's some sage advice for older guys an absolute heart-breaker.

An old guy decided to get back in shape and re-live some of his youth, so he decided to start working out again.

Upon entering the gym he spotted a beautiful young woman exercising on the treadmill...

He asked the physical trainer who was nearby, "What machine in here should I use to impress that beautiful woman over there?"

The trainer looked him up and down and said without any further hesitation,

"I would try the cash machine in the lobby."

I love to make lists.

I also like to leave them on the kitchen counter

And then guess what's on the list while at the store.

DUE TO MY ISOLAION, I FINISHED 3 BOOKS YESTERDAY. BELIEVE ME, THAT'S A LOT OF COLORING!



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- 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

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

Cut out and fold

FEATURE ARTICLE

Birth of the Organization

Early efforts to create a National Dancer Organization focused on soliciting individual dancers to become members of the National Dancers Organization by paying an annual dues of \$10.00 per dancer. The first of these efforts in the early 1970's was led by Cacti Pete, a dancer from California who attended each of the first fifty National Square Dance Conventions®. The second attempt to unite dancers on a National basis was initiated by Ms. Chris Evans of Cedar Falls, Iowa, during 1975-1978 when she attempted to form the American Square Dance Association/International by charging family membership fees of \$10.00 or \$5.00 for a single membership.

In November of 1978, after seeing little success with this approach to combine individual dancers into a National Dancers Organization, Mr. Norm Holloway (General Chairman of the 13th National Square Dance Convention® in Long Beach, CA - 1964) suggested to the California Square Dance Council that their Presidents, Jim and Jan Maczko, seek the interest of the various other State and major Regional Square Dance Associations, Councils, Federations, etc., into joining together to form a National Square Dancers Organization by amalgamating all of these Organizations into one National Dancers Association where each State would send representatives to an annual meeting.

The Showcase of Ideas held in 1979 during the National Square Dance Convention® in Milwaukee afforded Jim and Jan the opportunity to collect contact information for the various State and Regional Square Dance organizations from around the country. In late 1979 and early 1980, the Maczkos mailed a survey (USPS was the primary means of communications during that era) inquiring on the interest from these groups in collaborating in the effort to form what was initially envisioned as a National Square Dancers Association.

Early responses were positive – enough so that with the assistance of Bob and Janette Kemper, Presidents of the Tennessee State Association of Square and Round Dance Clubs – arrangements were made to hold an informational meeting during the 1980 National Square Dance Convention® in Memphis. This meeting was actually held within the confines of the Memphis Convention Center, site of the 29th NSDC, and was open to all. As the initiators of the fact-finding efforts – Jim and Jan Maczko were selected to chair this meeting where viewpoints of those in favor as well as those opposed to the creation of such a National Square Dancers Association were expressed.

Those voicing support could see the benefits of the Dancers having their own voice in the affairs of the square dance movement and to provide support for such efforts to designate square dancing as the National Folk Dance of the United States. Those expressing opposition to such a National Square Dancer Association felt that existing organizations such as LEGACY International and the National Square Dance Convention's® Executive Committee already provided a venue for Dancers to be heard. Among the most significant shortcomings of these other existing organizations was that they did not exclusively represent dancers, nor did they include dancers from every State.

In the spirit of cooperative involvement, it was determined at the 1980 meeting in Memphis that there was a real need to create an Organizational Committee for the Formation of the National Square Dancers Association. This organizing committee consisted of not only those in favor of the creation of a National Square Dancers Organization but also those who opposed it. Jim and Jan Maczko were designated as the Chairs of this fifteen-member group. Ed and Mary Barbee – Past Presidents of the Texas Federation of Square Dancers – were chosen to serve as interim Secretaries of this organizing body. Other members of the Organizing Committee consisted of Regional Directors, including Frank and Helen Cavanaugh (New Jersey); Win and JoAnn Erlandson (Wisconsin); Norm and Sharon Frank (California); Dewey Glass (Alabama); Mike and Mary Gottulo (Nebraska); Freddie Kaltenthaler (Pennsylvania); Bob and Janette Kemper (Tennessee); Elmer and Jean Marose (Oklahoma); Bob and Ginger Prescott (Missouri); Joe Vaccari (Florida); Wayne and Marilyn Wells (Minnesota); Curtis and Jo Young (Texas); and, serving

Continued from previous page ...

were Charles and Ebba Naddeo (California). Correspondence among this group continued via USPS. Tasks undertaken by the group continued to determine the interest from additional dance organizations from around the country to participate in the proposed National Dancer group. These efforts resulted in determining that sufficient interest did exist to create a National Square Dancers Association.

The next step was to generate the Governing Documents for this National Square Dancers Association. To accomplish this goal, a special meeting of the Organizing Committee was scheduled in early November 1980 in Oklahoma City during the Oklahoma State Square Dance Festival. This meeting was well attended with representatives from Florida (Joe Vaccari, Joy Richardson); Texas (Ed and Mary Barbee, Curtis and Jo Young, Ed and Angie McCreary, Russ and Roberta Barton); Oklahoma (Elmer and Jean Marose, and Howard Thornton); and California (Mac and Mary McClure, Jim and Jan Maczko).

Among the issues discussed during the Oklahoma City meeting was the name of this National Dancer organization. It was suggested that adopting the name National Square Dancers Association might be confused with the annual National Square Dance Convention® which was a well-established and separate entity. In addition, the organizational structure was determined to allow each participating group to send four delegates to represent their interests at the annual meetings of this National Square Dancers organization. It was determined that the National Square Dancers organization would be divided into four regions and each region would be serviced by a Regional Vice President. To ensure equality among the regions, thirteen states were assigned to each of the four regions:

Eastern Region extending from Maine through Virginia and would include the District of Columbia

Central Region stretching from West Virginia and would encompass Mississippi up to Michigan

Plains Region covering Illinois through Texas

Western Region stretching from Colorado to Hawaii

Proposed Governing Documents – Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules – were distributed (again via the USPS) to all points of contact that had been collected to that point in time with the intent to present these Governing Documents during an organizational meeting to be held during the 30th National Square Dance Convention® in Seattle, 1981.

Following more than a year of preparation, the Organizing Committee for the Formation of a National Square Dancers Association issued invitations to all known State and major Regional Square Dance Associations, Councils, Federations, etc., encouraging them to send four delegates to represent their interests at the formation meeting for this National Square Dancers organization. Early in 1981 the proposed Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules were reproduced and distributed to these organizations for their review. The documents allowed for the equal representation of affiliate member groups regardless of whether or not an organization is established along state lines or on a regional basis covering portions of one or more states.

In advance of this Organizational meeting, a gathering of the Organizing Committee for the Formation of a National Square Dancers Association was held on Wednesday, June 24, 1981, just preceding the Seattle NSDC. During this meeting the Regional Directors from Florida, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Texas, and Missouri reviewed the Governing Documents and finalized plans for the Organizational meeting to be held that Friday during the 30th National Square Dance Convention®.

During the Organizational Meeting held in the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington on Friday, June 26, 1981, approximately 140 dancer leaders gathered to discuss and finalize plans to either move forward with a National Dancers Organization or to abandon this effort all together. With the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington, DC, each sending authorized delegates, it was readily determined that there was sufficient interest to move forward in the organizational process. Also in attendance were dancer leaders from ten (10) other states to observe the proceedings.

Continued from previous page ...

The proposed Governing Documents were presented to the assembled delegates with each document read and reviewed word-by-word – a somewhat time-consuming effort, but those in attendance were sufficiently committed to the cause that no one seemed to mind. In the end, the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules were adopted, and the name selected for this new organization – *United Square Dancers of America*.

An election of Officers was conducted with the following results:

- President – Jim and Jan Maczko – California
- Eastern Region Vice President – Vacant
- Central Region Vice President – Jim and Peggy Segraves – Alabama
- Plains Region Vice President – Ed and Mary Barbee - Texas
- Western Region Vice President – Claude and Polly Potter – Colorado
- Secretary – Margret Reynolds – Maryland
- Treasurer – Joe Vaccari – Florida

Among the decisions made during this initial meeting was the establishment of dues for the USDA at \$100 per year for a State organization granting them two voting delegates. These dues have never increased during the forty years of USDA's existence. Changes made later granted State Organizations four voting delegates, thereby allowing smaller and regional organizations to join with one, two or three votes as adjusted by the subsequent USDA Board of Directors.

Also at this organizing meeting in Seattle, three Resolutions were approved. The first involved creating the *United Square Dancers of America*, and directing the duly elected Officers to execute drafts of the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, and apply for a Charter of Incorporation under the laws of the United States. Another Resolution supported the efforts of the National Folk Dance Committee in their efforts to obtain recognition of Square Dancing as the National Folk Dance of the United States. The third resolution encouraged the Square Dancers of America in their endeavors to promote square dancing through presentation of an annual float in the Tournament of Roses Parade held New Year's Day in Pasadena, California. All-in-all this first meeting was very productive and established the groundwork for the *United Square Dancers of America* to represent the Dancers in dealings with the other National Organizations.

Following the initial formation meeting of the *United Square Dancers of America* these newly elected Officers held their first Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, June 27, 1981, at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The members of the Executive Committee in attendance were Jim and Jan Maczko – Presidents (California); Nate and Margaret Reynolds – Secretary (Maryland); Joe Vaccari – Treasurer (Florida); Claude and Polly Potter – Western Region Vice Presidents (Colorado); Ed and Mary Barbee – Plains Region Vice Presidents (Texas) and Charles Naddeo – Parliamentarian (California). This group sought to encourage the various State and major Regional Square Dance Associations, Councils, Federations, etc. from around the country to join this new organization – created by dancers for dancers.

The first Winter Meeting of the *United Square Dancers of America* was hosted by USDA Treasurers Joe Vaccari and Joy Richardson in Fort Walton Beach, Florida on January 30, 1982, with all Executive Committee members in attendance. Everyone traveled to Florida totally at their own expense to formulate plans and programs for the future of *United Square Dancers of America*.

Among those programs discussed:

- National Square Dancers Insurance Program;
- Establish lines of communication and cooperation with existing National organizations on behalf of the Square Dancer;
- Develop a National program for the recognition of the Square Dancer Leader for their services to the

Continued on next page ...

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movement;

- Provide assistance to those desiring to organize for the betterment of the Square Dance activity;
- Strive for the unification of Dancers
- Serve to promote Square Dancing in all its forms (Square, Round, Contra, Clog, Line, etc.) in all possible areas.

This first year cumulated with the *United Square Dancers of America's* first Annual Meeting being held in Detroit, Michigan on June 25, 1982, concurrently with the 31st National Square Dance Convention®. In preparation for this first Annual meeting, the Executive Committee met in their role as Membership Committee to review the various Applications for Affiliation and discuss possible resolutions for presentation to the Board of Directors. As a result of these Applications, the distinction of CHARTER MEMBER status was bestowed upon the following organizations which became USDA Affiliates between June 26, 1981 and June 25, 1982:

- Alabama Square and Round Dance Association
- Arkansas State Square Dance Federation
- California Square Dance Council, Inc.
- Colorado State Square Dance Association
- The Federation of Delaware Valley Square and Round Dancers
- Florida Federation of Square Dancers
- Lubbock Area Square and Round Dance Federation (Texas)
- Missouri Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc.
- New Mexico Square and Round Dance Association
- North Dakota Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc.
- Panhandle Square and Round Dance Association (Texas)

The acceptance of these organizations as Charter Members established the *United Square Dancers of America* as the "World's Largest Square Dance Organization," as these groups represented more than 100,000 Dancers in 1982.

Among the most significant actions taken during this first Annual Meeting in Detroit, the USDA Board of Directors approved the establishment of an economical National Insurance Program for Square Dancers through those organizations affiliated with the *United Square Dancers of America*.

Consistent with the practice established during the USDA organizational meeting in 1981, a number of key resolutions were adopted during this first Annual Meeting. Those resolutions included a Resolution to establish a committee for the purpose of developing plans and programs for the creation of a Square Dancers Museum and Hall of Fame. A second Resolution encouraged cooperation and the exchange of representatives among the various National and International Square Dance Organizations – CALLERLAB, LEGACY, ROUNDALAB, USDA, NEC, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE SUPPLIERS, etc., allowing dancers, leaders, callers and round dance instructors to contribute to the establishment of the direction and advancement of Square Dancing in all its forms. A third Resolution encouraged all USDA affiliate member organizations to support the annual National Square Dance Conventions®.

All of these accomplishments being achieved in just one short year of existence is a tribute to those who work so diligently on behalf of the Square Dancers to provide a representative body such as the

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA!

(Written and contributed by Patty Wilcox and Jim Maczko)

- Instructions for Registration and RV Camping** (front left side of the form)
- Print legibly, all names and complete addresses plus birth date of youth (age 5-17 on June 23, 2022 discounted price) to ensure correct registration.
 - Enter all amounts in Subtotals including registration fee for each dancer plus quantity and amount for all other materials and taxes. Calculate the Total and include credit card information, check, or money order payable to U.S. funds to the 71st National Square Dance Convention and return it with the Registration Form. **Do Not Send Cash.** No Single Day Registrations.
 - IMPORTANT!** Daily schedules are only available with the purchase of a Program Book. Daily schedule will not be available separately as the Convention.
 - Also dancers will want to purchase the Program Book.
 - Credit card info you will be **RV Camping** on your registration form and enclose the required fees (4-night minimum base fee plus additional days). 50 Amp with water and sewer are available on first-come, first-served basis. Free sewage dump station. If you plan to camp together, you must arrive together. For more information contact RV Vice-Chairman, Larry and Paula McCherry larrycherry@71nsdc.com.
 - There is **NO BUS PASS** because parking is free at the convention center.
 - Tour form and payments** are to be mailed directly to: **71st NSDC Tours, 5509 Timberlake Court, Evansville, IN 47710.** For any questions email 71nsdc@71nsdc.com. For Tour information and order form go to www.71nsdc.com and click "Tours."
 - A \$10 fee per registration will be assessed for cancellation. No refunds after April 30, 2022.
 - Mail completed forms by June 5, 2022. Final or online registration by June 12, 2022.

Instructions for Housing (front right side of form)

- Online access for housing reservations are available after March 1, 2021. If you book your room online, check the box provided on the front side of this form; otherwise complete the entire housing portion. **This form must be received, and rooms must be booked by May 15, 2022 to guarantee the 71st NSDC pricing.**

- Hôtels will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis according to availability.
- Only one person per room should complete a hotel reservation request. Please list all room occupants; the Housing Committee does not assign bed/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, 2022**, include the name and telephone number of Block Leader to housing@71nsdc.com.
- Hotel reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. Your credit card will not be charged in advance. An alternative form of payment may be presented at check in.
- Hotel confirmations will be sent via email or mail. If you do not receive your confirmation by March 31, 2022, please contact the Housing Committee by email at housing@71nsdc.com.

- Hotel changes before **May 15, 2022** may be made online or through housing@71nsdc.com.

DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTELS DIRECTLY UNTIL AFTER MAY 15, 2022.

Return completed forms to:
71st NSDC c/o Jill Stanley
21 Boots Trail
Greenfield IN 46140

Code	Hotel Name	Room Rate	Distance	Avg Travel Time by car
1	Double Tree by Hilton-Evansville*	\$100	Connected	N/A
2	Tropicana*	\$109	6 blocks	5 minutes
3	Hyatt Place	\$149	4 blocks	2 minutes
4	Riverhouse Downtown	\$139	5 blocks	4 minutes
5	Courtyard by Marriott	\$127	6.6 mi	13 minutes
6	TownePlace Suites by Marriott	\$129	7.9 mi	14 minutes
7	Holiday Inn Express-Evansville East	\$129	6.8 mi	13 minutes
8	Home2 Suites by Hilton-Evansville	\$129	6.8 mi	13 minutes
9	Hampton Inn Airport*	\$139	5.6 mi	13 minutes
10	Drury Inn & Suites-Evansville East	\$114	6.1 mi	11 minutes
11	Hilton Garden Inn	\$139	6.3 mi	12 minutes
12	Hampton Inn East	\$129	6.4 mi	13 minutes
13	Residence Inn by Marriott	\$139	6.9 mi	13 minutes

* Shuttle provided by hotel

Cutoff date for housing: May 15, 2022





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.

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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 USDA.

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234 Historic Nature Trail
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

SQUARES

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

ROUNDS

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

Fashion Show
Singles Dance
Contra
Sewing Clinic
After-Party
Vendors

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





Georgia State Square Dance Convention

Fabulous at 50

Thinking Back & Looking Ahead

FRIDAY, September 17, 2021: 2:00 – 10:00 PM
SATURDAY, September 18, 2021: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

**Gainesville Civic Center
 830 Green Street NE
 Gainesville Georgia 30501**

Early 2-Day Ribbons: \$25.00 Before 9/1/21
2-Day Ribbons: \$30.00 at the door
Single Day Ribbons: \$20.00 at the door
Youth: FREE

**Welcome Back to
 Dancing**

**FUN Begins
 Friday at 2:00 pm**

**FREE
 Parking**

SQUARES

**Mainstream, Plus, DBD, Advanced,
 Challenge, Hot Hash, HEX,
 High Energy, Fun Squares,
 Easy Mainstream, Singing Calls**

WORKSHOPS

VENDORS

**Multiple Dance Halls
 All Wooden Floors**

ROUNDS

**Intros, Teaches-Dances
 Variety of Rhythms & Levels
 Rounds w/select Tips**

LINES

Teaches & w/select Tips

CONTRA

Intros & Teaches

Follow us on Facebook: Georgia State Square Dancers Association
Website: www.gssda.org



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 handicapped 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, July 10, 2021 — SPECIAL TIME—ONE HOUR EARLIER

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

Faculty: Bear Miller, member CALLERLAB Board of Directors, and Deborah Carroll-Jones, International Square Dance Caller

Program Description: After months and months of not dancing, how can we best bring back and revitalize our beloved activity? CALLERLAB is promoting the Social Square Dance—SSD movement across the country, and recently approved SSD as an official CALLERLAB program. What is it and how does it work? Bear Miller will describe the program, the reason now is the time to implement it in your area, as well as teaching notes, FAQs and other resource materials available on the CALLERLAB website. Deborah Carroll-Jones and her husband, Jon Jones, have successfully utilized the SSD program in their club in Texas for the past five years. She will share their experiences and how it might work for your club.



Saturday, August 14, 2021

Title: Social Connections—The Key to Club Success

Faculty: Mike Seastrom, Chair, CALLERLAB Social Connections Committee

Program Description: The one thing that creates the biggest long-term benefit for those of us dancing, leading, and/or calling is the social connections that we make each time we walk in the hall. They can be brief or last a lifetime. Social connections and the friendships are things we can create, exponentially build on, and enhance if we, as dancers and leaders, really apply ourselves. We can learn how to connect our new dancers to our club members, smooth over tough times that might come up so everyone wins, and include those that might be shy and reserved so they become part of our group and want to come back week after week. Social Connections are a big part of club success. Join us for this webinar to help your club succeed.



Saturday, September 11, 2021 - Title: TBA

Saturday, October 9, 2021

Title: USDA's Insurance Program

Faculty: Elizabeth Sanders, USDA Insurance Director

Program Description: Questions and answers about the USDA Insurance Program. What's New?



71st NSDC Convention Committee

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Dave & Patti Woods
Asst. General Chairman

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact Information:

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

71st NSDC's host city is packed with things to do

Obviously people come to square dance conventions to dance, but don't forget to get out into the host city of Evansville and see what this gem on the Ohio River has to offer.

If you're looking for history, the question isn't where to find it, but what era. Angel Mounds State Historic Site is recognized as one of the best preserved Native American sites in the United States. It has 12 earthen mounds built for ceremonial and residential purposes scattered around its 100 acres.

Evansville was also an armory for the United States during WWII, and that heritage is celebrated at the Evansville Wartime Museum. It houses an authentic P-47 airplane, Tarheel Ha, among other artifacts.

Learn about one of the nation's first housing projects, built under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, at the Evansville African American Museum.

Movie history was made at Bosse Field, where the film "A League of Their Own," was made. The field offers tours of its facility.

If animals are more your speed, try the Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden. The zoo extends over 45 acres and includes more than 700 animals. Be sure to check out Amazonia, a walk through a South American rainforest.

If you're feeling lucky, check out Tropicana's Riverfront Event Center. It has a 24-hour casino, as well as some of the best views of the Ohio River in the city. For more information on the 71st NSDC, see 71nsdc.org.

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*

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- ✱ Find a Caller, Find a Cuer, and Find a Club sections
- ✱ High Definition Pictures

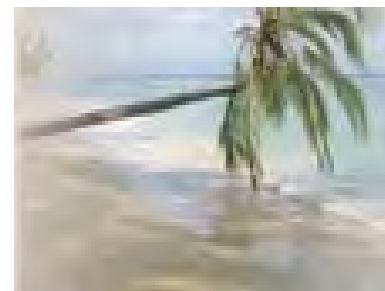
This site was created by ARTS-Dance to be a tool for promoting Square Dancing, Round Dancing, and Contra Dancing. Rather than trying to describe each activity on a flyer posted on a bulletin board, you can direct the potential dancer to this site to **show them**. They can watch video, read detailed 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.

ARTS Travel The Dancer's Online Travel Web Site



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

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Book your personal and business and
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Every time you do, Alliance of Rounds
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Book your travel to the
71st NSDC in Evansville, IN
and support dancing at
the same time.

Logon to

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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

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

2021

Oct 8-10 **Missouri State Convention**
Cowen Civic Center
500 E. Elm St.
Lebanon, MO 65536
Billie Jean Butler 660 287-1443

Aug 17-20 **19th USA West Square Dance
Convention**
Handlery Hotel
San Diego, CA
www.california.usawest.net

Oct 22-23 **52nd Louisiana Square Dance
Convention**
Rayne Civic Center
Rayne, Louisiana
I-10, Exit 87
Bob Landry (337) 258-5781

2022

Sep 17-18 **Georgia State Square Dance
Convention**
Gainesville Civic Center
830 Green Street NE
Gainesville, GA 30501
www.gsda.org
Facebook: Georgia State Dancers
Association

Apr 08-10 **62nd California State Square
Dance Convention**
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
Yuba City, CA
Katie Pearce & Bonnie Abramson, Co-General
Chairmen
bjabramson@gmail.com

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOU

Now that we are beginning to dance again let us help you
advertise your conventions We will list your state associ-
ation/ federation conventions here at no charge.

FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2022—June 22-25 Evansville, IN
2023—June 21-24—Mobile, AL
2024—June 26-29—Milwaukee, WI

40

And Fabulous!

1981-2021



*LSD

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 [click here](http://www.Subscribe.USDA.org) (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.

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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.

USDA NEWS has two editions; a printed edition and an on-line edition. The printed edition is a black and white copy except for the cover and the four center pages. The four center pages are available for purchase for your flyers and ads and are sold on a first-come basis. The on-line edition is a full color copy. When submitting copies for black and white advertising in the printed edition you can send a color copy for use. It will be printed in black and white, but the on-line copy will be in color.

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½ Page	\$25.00	\$20.00
Full Page - 1 side	\$45.00	\$35.00
Full Page—2 sides	\$60.00	\$50.00

Publication	Deadline
Jan-Mar	Dec 01
Apr-Jun	Mar 01
Jul—Sep	Jun 01
Oct—Dec	Sep 01

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UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

2020-2021 Executive Committee

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president@usda.org

VICE PRESIDENT EASTERN REGION

Gilbert & Sharon Leon
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 (757) 745-7182
usda.eastern.region.vp@usda.org

VICE PRESIDENT CENTRAL REGION

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usda.apparel@usda.org

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usda.plains.region.vp@usda.org
usda.waysandmeans@usda.org

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usda.western.region.vp@usda.org

SECRETARY

Ellery & Karen Gulbrand
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usda.secretary@usda.org

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usda.parliamentarian.usda@usda.org
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