VOL XXXIII, ISSUE 4 OCT - DEC 2022

Official Folk Dance of North America

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Newsletter of the World's Largest Square Dance Organization

Published by United Square Dancers of America

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Special Thanks to the following for their contributions to this Judy Taylor, Marilyn Schmidt, Sally Schmidt, Brett Damkroge Daniel Marcello, Anne Granger, Don Daulin, Bonnie Abramso Susan Ellis and Anonymous.	r,

Cover Design: Chris Dunkel

Printed by: Pittman Printing, Liberyty, MO.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

How exciting this past year has been with dance clubs reopening and conventions and festivals bringing crowds of dancers together again and for editors of square dance publications to have news to report.

One of USDA's favorite programs involves helping our Handicapable dancers to attend a convention. This year the "Hand in Hand" club of Mission Viejo, California attended the USA West Convention in San Diego, CA. We have a report and more pictures on page 9. Then

flip the page and read our Feature Article, written by a Hand in Hand club members, Bret Damkroger"Everyone is Different."You probably have the tissues in hand by now so go ahead and read the Editors Notes about the parents of



a new born child being told that "she is different and you probably should not keep her." That was in the late 1940's and things were different then.

We finally got the opportunity to present the USDA Founders Memorial Scholarships for 2021. We have seen this family before. They are a three generation family of square dancers. Story on page 7.

Just below our table of contents are the names of several people that a contributed to the making of this editon of USDA NEWS. I would like to remind everyone that we welcome your items that you feel would be of interest to our readers all across this great land we call home, and we love pictures.

USDA is continuing our very popular webinar "Beyond the Dance Floor" and Bonnie has updated the schedule for the next few months.

And for one last time I have copied an article from our British friends and their Let's Square Dance' magazine. They are a delightful group and I have enjoyed being able to share some of this with our readers. On page 13 is an article about why English is so hard to learn. Then Susan Ellis has a delightful article on the following page.

That's it for 2022. We will see you again in 2023.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



MARK & BINA KREBSBACH

Trees abound with colors so mellow The cool morning air is fit for this fellow Ducks and geese to the South they wing And God's beautiful songbirds no longer sing With snow in the forecast, I can hardly wait

For the USDA Executive Committee Winter Meeting is coming to this state.

Greetings from 'good ole' North Dakota; and happy Fall to all! Fall or Autumn, up here in the North we call it Fall. Either way it's my favorite time of the year. I love it.

Looks like a good year for farmers up here in the Northern great plains, good yields and nice commodity prices. Nice to have a good year after a year (2021) of drought.

We now have BSN (brand spankin new) Vice-Presidents in the USDA Central Region, Scott and Sandy Ebright. I tell you they lunged out of the chute so fast that some thorough breds in the Kentucky Derby would be humbled at such speed. Give them a call, their contact info is on the back of this magazine. Good job Scott and Sandy!!

Ed and Lynda Willis are temporarily filling in the Vice-President of the Eastern Region, contact Ed and Lynda. Thank you, Ed and Lynda, you always do such a good job!!

As for Bina and myself, we are trying to get a fall drive about in the makings. If we can get it worked out, we will be seeing the good folks across the square in the Northeast states.

Norwegian proverb: The only way to live life is to learn to love all the little everyday things.

God's blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Blessed Christmas.

Do something nice for someone today!!

God bless, as ever square dancers

Mark & Bina







A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Larry W. Dunkel

It's been a quite quarter here in Knoxville, my hometown. For those of you that have expressed interest in my live in friends with the white strip down their black back I am proud to say, they are gone. I thank those that sent suggestions on how to get rid of skunks. I did try a few, but most of the ideas received involved scaring them, catching them by surprise and I could not convince myself that scaring a skunk was in my best interest. Not sure why they decided to leave, but I am glad they are gone.

As I was preparing this edition I realized that September is "Friendship" month. I know that by the time you get your copy it will no longer be September, but for now it is and you will find some interesting comments about remembering old friends, or should I say friends from our past, throughout this issue. Friendship! That's what square dancing is about. We are "friendship set to music."

What a wonderful year it has been. We are getting reports from across the country of dances that are beginning to look like they did prior to Covid-19. Conventions are back in business with dancers returning for these special weekend events and old friendships are being renewed after a couple of years inactivity. I have only been able to get attendance numbers on a few conventions but it is a positive sign. Alabama State Convention had a handful over 300. USA West had more than 600 dancers including a group of Handicapable dancers that not only danced, but preformed a couple of exhibitions that delighted the crowd. The Tennessee State Convention has not returned to it's pre- Covid attendance level, but they did report a little over 1,000 dancers at this year's event with dancers from 30 states. On page 9 are pictures of some of the most precious people you will ever meet. These are our Handicapable Dancers and with help from USDA and a few others, they can attend a convention every other year. This year they attended the USA WEST convention. As you pass through the next few pages you will find a couple more aricles with the Handicapable Dancers along with more photos.

Our Featured Article for this issue is a beautiful essay entitled 'Everyone is Different' written by Brett Damkroger, a member of the Hand 'n Hand Square Dance Club. These kids and Brett's essay hit real close to home for me. My wife had a sister, a few years younger that was a "special needs" child. When Gayle was born her parents were immediately told this child was "different" and they should not keep her. Her parents said they would keep her. The staff members told them she would not fit in with other kids. She would be lucky to live to age 18, long enough to be so attached that they would be devastated, much easier to let her go now. The medical staff continued talking to deaf ears. Gayle was going home.

Her parents took her home and she lived to be 64 years of age. She was one of the sweetest and most precious human beings that I knew, but she was different. I have watched her cry her heart out when the school bus didn't run on a snow day. Later she had a little job at a Center for special people and she never missed a day. She trained for Special Olympics for weeks prior to the event and she proudly showed everyone the special medallion she got for winning her race. She came in 17th place in a group of 20. She didn't care what place and we didn't either because we all new Gayle won.

Gayle was always happy and cheerful except when her sister and I got married and moved to Atlanta. We would go back home often to visit and Gayle would go hide when I came in the house. She was mad at me for taking her sister away. But my charm finally won her over and we were friends from that point on..

My wife and I divorced several years later and I did not see Gayle for probably four or five years after that. Then one day I was at the mall and got something to eat at the food court. When I sat down I looked up and there was Gayle sitting about four tables down from me on the other side of the aisle. Everytime I looked up she was staring at me., but she never smiled or indicated in any way that she recognized me. She was with a group and I saw them get up to leave so I got up and walked down close to Gayle and I asked her if she knew who I was. She said "yes, you are Larry" and then she almost lunged at me, hugging me and started crying. I watched her leave and she was still crying and would occasionally turn and look back at me. I would wave at her. Inside I was about to burst, but I somehow maintained my composure......until I got in my car.

The doctors told Gayle's parents she would not be like the other kids. Boy, did they nail that one and we thank God that she wasn't. I look at kids today and then I think of Gayle. Gayle was loving, affectionate, loyal, dedicated, dependable and I could go on, but I think you see what I am saying. Could I say that about todays kids? Some yes, but not many. Gayle, as our Handicapable Dancers do, brought so much joy into our lives.

Yes, Gayle was different, I am different, you are different. We are all different, aren't we Brett?

Until next time.....Larry D

EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION Scott & Sandy Ebright, VP Central Region

A funny thing happened at the 71st NSDC in Evansville, IN. Our home state of Tennessee needed a couple of folks to be delegates at the USDA meeting. My wife, Sandy, and I volunteered to fill in. To make a long story short, that decision led to us being appointed as the new Vice Presidents of the Central Region!

As the newbies to the USDA Executive Board we will obviously have some learning to do. A big part of this job seems to be getting out to the different states in the Central Region and meeting dancers in each state, especially the people that keep their state associations going. As we get to know these fine folks, we also try to see how USDA can help them grow their clubs. This is a mission that is near and dear to our hearts.

So we started laying out all of the Central Region state conventions on our calendar in the hope that we could attend them all. Meanwhile, the USDA folks started making sure we had the supplies we needed for these conventions. (This is a great group of people with which to work!) There were two copy-paper boxes that contained the bulk of the "supplies". These were printed copies of all the various publications that the USDA offers to help in all aspects of club development.

Armed with these supplies we went to our first 3 conventions; Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama, in that order. Tennessee had a whopping 1021 people at their convention! We distributed hundreds of publications and spoke to countless people about the many forms of assistance USDA offers. The next convention was in North Carolina and it was an entertaining success at just over 150 in attendance. It must be noted that the Michigan convention was the same weekend as North Carolina and, unfortunately, we could not attend both. Michigan also had just over 150 folks and they all had a fun time, too. Then we traveled to Alabama for another great convention with over 300 attendees.

We want to thank all of the committee members at the various conventions for their hospitality in helping us get our displays setup and packed up. Y'all have been awesome!

In the next few months we have already scheduled trips to Kentucky, Georgia, Indiana, and Florida. We encourage everyone to support square dancing by dancing at any conventions you can possibly make. Even more importantly, we hope to meet y'all during our travels!

IHS, Scott & Sandy Ebright





Three weeks later at the AL State Convention.

EVENTS IN THE WESTERN REGION LPaul & Sally Schmidt, Western Region VP

WESTERN REGION REPORT

(Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)

The "event of the summer" in the Western Region was definitely the 19th USA West Square Dance Convention, held August 17-20 at the Handlery Hotel in San Diego. Over 600 people "danced on the wild side" to more than 70 callers, cuers, line dance prompters, and other entertainers including the Ghost Riders Square Dance Band. There was plenty of square and round dancing; a variety hall with lines, contra, and country western sessions; education panels and sewing presentations; exhibitions; a silent auction and quilt raffle; Showcase of Ideas and USA West Convention History displays; and more. We would like to thank the Western Region USDA Affiliates as well as other state, regional, and local dance organizations across the Western United States for supporting and promoting the ^{USA}West Convention. We hope everyone will start making plans now to visit Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 26-29, 2023, for the 20th USAWest Square Dance Convention (www.newmexico.usawest.net).

As we move into the fall and winter, we are looking forward to dancing with our local clubs and making plans to visit Western Region Affiliate dances. Be sure to keep us informed about your affiliate festivals as well as how we can support your endeavors to continue building our square dance community.

At the completion of our third term as Western Region Vice President in June 2023, we will be "termed out" and are looking for someone new to represent the Western Region. Please contact us at: <u>WesternVP@usda.org</u> if you might be interested or know of someone else who would like to join this wonderful organization and support dancers and dancing in the 13 Western states.

Live Lively, Square Dance! LPaul & Sally Schmidt

Pictures on ages 11 & 18

EVENTS IN THE PLAINS REGION Ellery & Karen Gulbrand, USDA Plains Region VP

Looks like summer is finally arriving in the Midwest. The long cold winter is now in the rearview mirror.

As we write this, we are looking forward to attending the Minnesota State Square Dance Convention in Breezy Point Minnesota. A few weeks after that we will be attending the National Convention in Evansville, Indiana. At that Convention, we hope to meet delegates from the Affiliates in the Plains Region at the USDA Board of Directors Meeting.

We ask all the Affiliates in the Plains Region to send us information on Festivals and Conventions in your state or region. We will try to schedule to attend as many events as we can.

We would also encourage everyone to participate in the monthly webinars that USDA present in the "Beyond the Dance Floor" series. Check out the USDA website for upcoming topics. If you have suggestions for future topics, please feel free to make those suggestions.

May God send his blessings, keep everyone safe, and may our dance floors come alive with returning dancers along with new dancers.

Ellery & Karen Gulbrand

YOUTH REPORT

Dan Reedy, Youth Advisor

Hello Everyone

I truly hope that everyone has had a great summer, here in the Midwest we have had a terribly hot one. Thank goodness for Willis Carrier (inventor of the modern Air Conditioning)! I have some really great news from the recent National Convention in Evansville to share with everyone.

First, starting with the 2023 Youth Scholarship, the award going forward will be for \$2500.00. It was felt by the USDA (recommended by the board, and unanimously approved by the affiliates), that with the current educational costs the new award would be more appropriate. The Scholarship is still open to all eligible High Seniors, College and Trade School Freshmen, so let's get the word out there.

Secondly, they had an a exciting Youth Hall at Evansville. Hailing from Grove City, Ohio, was Mrs. Jason Raleigh (Kati), who was nothing short of amazing. The great news is that Alabama has asked her to run their Hall in Mobile. I look forward to both seeing the Hall in action and watching her boys (who dance and function as her light crew). Add in a father and National caller Jason Raleigh, you have a high powered fun family team.

I will for however long I am the Youth Advisor; continue to highlight people that I come across working with Youth. Everyone needs a little attention in their lives, especially with them working with something as special as our Youth.

Until Next Time God Bless, and Let's All Dance ! Dan Reedy USDA Youth Advisor

USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Dale and Kathy Worthington, USDA Vice Presidents for the Plains Region, recently had the opportunity to present the 2021 scholarships. Due to Covid-19 there was a delay in getting together with the girls to make this presentation.

The winners of these scholarships went to Julia and Petrina Buchheit. Neither girl was in attendance but their sister Mariah and their brother Thomas accepted the awards on their behalf. Congratulations Ladies!

Julia is in the Vet Tech program at Chemeketa Community College and Petrina is doing accounting and learning how to be a mechanic so she can help her dad in his shop. Petrina is a goat breeder also. Julia is a cuer and Petrina has done a little calling and they dance together as a couple and do very well. The entire family are square and round dancers, third generation.



usda insurance coordinators notes

Greeting Everyone,

I hope everyone has registered for the 72nd NSDC to be held in Mobile, AL, June 21 - 24, 2023. At the 72nd NSDC there will be 2 sessions on insurance with the same information at both sessions. There will be one morning session and one afternoon session. Make plans to attend the 72nd NSDC and attend at least one of the insurance sessions.

Did you miss the insurance session at the 71st NSDC? Not a problem as I will be hosting a USDA Webinar on Saturday, November 12, 2022. The login information for the webinar will be posted to the USDA website (usda.org).

Let's address some problems that have occurred this year.

1. Handwritten Checks – Please make sure that all the numbers are legible. Apparently, my bank has a problem determining some "4" from "9" based on the way some people write them. The closed part of the "4" sometimes looks like a square "9". Not a big deal except when the bank takes \$90 from your account instead of \$40. Some "2" look like "7". If penmanship is not your forte then maybe you should enroll in online banking and have the bank send me a check.

2. Insurance portal – There is one time during the year when you can delete a facility or a name from the roster and that is the ONLY time that you can delete names and facilities. That time is when you are registering your club for the upcoming year and you are on the portal for the upcoming year. For the 2023 roster you can delete any name that you know will not be a member or anyone that is not sure if they will be dancing in 2023. After you have paid for your club, you cannot delete any names or facilities. That includes any members that passed during the year, left your club for another club or who just stopped dancing.

3. Accidents – The new rule for 2022 is a dancer is not covered by the USDA insurance before they enter the facility or after they have left the facility. Parking lot accidents are not insured. Tripping over a broken piece of concert in the parking lot should be handled by the facility.

4. New or Replacement Certificates – You can go into the portal and add new facilities at any time during the year. However, you will have to send me an email letting me know that you need a new certificate. If you have misplaced your certificated DO NOT go into the portal and enter the information again. Send me an email letting me know that you need a replacement certificate.

5. 2023 Rate – No, I don't have the rate yet. Hopefully by the time of the November USDA Webinar I will know the new rate for 2023. What you can do now is get your clubs to update their rosters and facilities ON PAPER – not in the portal. As soon as the insurance company releases the 2023 portal, I will let you know. I expect that to be in November. At that time, I will also be sending all the insurance coordinators new instructions for 2023.

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 insurance@usda.org



With Support from USDA

Submitted by Sally Schmidt

The 19th USA West Convention, held August 17-21 in San Diego, had a very special group of attendees among the 600 participants: 33 dancers and their chaperones from the Hand 'n Hand Handicapable Square Dance Club in Mission Viejo, California. These wonderful folks danced throughout the weekend, performed two beautiful exhibitions to the song "This is Me" (which brought the audience to tears at both performances), swam in the hotel pool, and generally brought smiles to the faces of everyone who watched and danced with them.

The Hand 'n' Hand Square Dancers' participation at the USA West convention was supported by USDA, who donated funds to underwrite the registration fees for all 33 participants. USDA is proud to support handicapable dancers through donations to the US Handicapable Square Dance Convention held every two years, and through reimbursement of registration fees for handicapable dancers attending National Square Dance Conventions.

"Established in 2014, the Hand 'n Hand Square Dance Club is an eclectic group of Square Dancers that welcomes all levels and all ages. We guarantee a friendly, fun, low pressure GOOD TIME!! We're not perfect, (what Club is?), but we're always smiling, laughing and learning. Hand 'n Hand Square Dancers are best defined by this essay, "Everyone is Different", written by Brett Damkroger, a club member. You can read it on the following page, but before you turn this page grab a handful of Kleenex and listen carefully to what you are reading.

PHOTOS FROM THE 19TH USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION

Here they come-the Hand 'n Hand Handicapable Square Dance Club in Mission Viejo, CA



FEAURE ARTICLE

Everyone is Different By Brett Damkroger

Everyone is Different in their own way. We have different hair, different eyes, different skin. Different bodies and different brains. There are so many ways to be different. Some people talk differently and some don't talk. Some people don't see or don't hear. Some people walk, and some people use wheelchairs or walkers. But we all hit obstacles, one then another. We all have good things and bad things happen in our lives. We are all happy sometimes and sad sometimes. Sometimes we travel with others and sometimes we are alone. Those things don't matter. It does not matter how you look. It doesn't matter that you can't hear or see. We are all the same inside, where it counts. We are all smart in our own way. Some things I do better than you, And some things you do better than me. But we can all be kind and loving. We can all climb to where we need to go ----If we just keep trying, and never give up. We are all perfect just the way we are.

USDA MEMBERS ATTEND THE 2022 USA WEST

Submitted by Judy Taylor

Over 600 dancers attended the 19th USA West Square Dance Convention in San Diego this August; yes, dancing is alive and well! Attending were people from all over the country (and a few from foreign countries), even though the Convention is made up of the 13 western states---the 3-day weekend rotates each year to a different location. The Convention Chairmen were USDA Executive Board members LPaul and Sally Schmidt, with Assistant Chairmen Jim Maczko & Patty Wilcox. Jim & Judy Taylor, USDA Treasurers, also attended.

Some of the exciting activities included 5 different Exhibition groups, the Ghost Riders Dance Band, Contras, line dancing, SSD, higher levels of square and round dancing, different workshops, teaches, vendors, sewing and education sessions. We, and a large audience, were especially delighted to see the "Hand 'n Hand" Handicapable performances; they are so enthusiastic!

Next year the Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the last weekend in July. These dances are wonderful vacations for us---we took over 300 pictures just going and coming, not counting the 3 days of dance pictures (we also took 40 different videos). If you'd like to see any, let us know and we'll send you some links to our Google Photos albums.

This USA West Convention was themed "Dance On The Wild Side", and there were stuffed wild animals as decorations in every hall. It was so much fun; we can hardly wait for Albuquerque. Come join us for a fantastic vacation!



More picturers page 18









REMEMBERING-OLD FRIENDS FROM YESTERDAY

How many times have we caught ourselves thinking that we need to call a certain someone but, we get busy and weeks or sometimes months go by and we find ourself saying the same thing again. We don't mean to but, time gets by and in some cases we miss that opportunity. I find this especially true with square dancers. We meet so many people through dancing and make so many friends, but for various reasons one will leave the club and we promise to keep in touch. We attract so many people because we are friendly. It says so right here on the flyer we passed out at the fair. Friendship set to music. They like music and they are friendly so they come to class, have a great time and make new friends. We even add them to our Facebool friends list which now shows that we have 712 friends.

Losing contact with friends is not just square dancers, but to so many people in our lives over the years. I mention square dancers because so many are reaching the age that they cannot dance due to health, or they don't drive at night now, etc.. Many of our older folks have elected not to return to dancing after a couple of years of Covid shut us down. Did we keep in touch with these people (friends) during the time the clubs were shut down? A few "hey we really miss you" or "sure be glad when we get to dance again. It will be so good to see you." might make them feel better and maybe improve their eyesight at night. Or will they say they have not talked to anyone in the club so we guess they don't miss us so we are just not going back. After all, driving at night is getting more difficult and we are getting older, you know. And we never see them again.

Remember the Dawson family? Nice family with a couple of well behaved school age kids. They danced with us close to ten years when someone mentioned one night that they had not been there for a while. The club secretary said she would give then a call, but she is a busy woman and forgot. The Dawson's dropped out when their kids were so involved in school activities, sports, and well, you know. We've all been there. But the kids are in college now and Mom and Pop are experiencing the "empty nest", which was nice for a while. There were a couple of times they would run into a square dancer at Walmart and hear how much they were missed. But, no one ever called, sent an email or dropped by to visit. They talked about going back to their old square dance club for some refresher classes, but class is half over now so they will have to wait until next September, another seven months. plus they were n't real sure they wanted to get back into that feeling of "having" to dance four nights a week.

The last I heard the Dawson's had decided to join a mixed bowing league. Four couples on a team and they go by Cracker Barrel for coffee and dessert after their game and once a month they get together for a meal or picnic, weather permitting. Sure hate that they are not coming back to dance with us. They were such a nice couple.

Friendship set to music! Friendship is different now than it was a few years ago. We are too busy now. If someone should ask if you are a friend with someone, we have to check our Facebook list before we answer. Oh yeah, here they are, but I can't remember who they are or where I met them. But we are friends. I have heard many times that the worse part of growing old is loneliness. If you have a real friend, especially an older one make that phone call, or send an email or text message and put a smile on their face and brighten their day. And you might also bring back a former dancer or two.



Stuff we borrowed from our friends on the other side of the big pond

A Note from the Editor. For the past couple of years there has been little or no dance activity which made it very difficult to fill the pages herein. And that is when we started exchanging articles with "Let's Square Dance" published by the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs. Well things have changed and we are back to the good old days with clubs having dances with people attending and information is rolling in for printing in "USDA NEWS". But old habits are hard to break and when my "LSD" magazine came in today I just had to sit down an go through it. And, as you would expect, I found a couple of things I would like to share with you. The first is about understanding the English Language. When you turn the page you will have a better understanding of why this one came first.

WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes. But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes. One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese, yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice, but the plural of house is houses, not hice. The plural of man is always men, but the plural of pan is neve pen.

If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet, and I give you a book, would a pair be a beek? If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren. Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him; but image the feminine.....she, shis, and shim!

ANONYMOUS

(Editor: What did he just say?)

CHECKING UP ON A OLD FRIEND FROM DAYS GONE BY

You remember Sally and Walt Baechle don't you?" They were the USDA VP for the Eastern Region from 1988–1991 and then took over the position of Facilities from then until 2000. Walt passed away a few years ago, but Sally is doing well and living in Rochester now. I have never actually met Sally but, we have talked on the phone a couple of times and she is such a delightful person. She loves square dancing and has so many great memories of her days with USDA. I think we did a Feature Article a couple of years ago about her and Walt along wit h some others and a USDA float in the Rose Parade.

She will usually ask about certain people, such as; how is Joy doing? I talked to her not long ago, she says. And she ask about Edythe. Said she had been meaning to call her. I refused to answer her question, but insisted that she call Edythe as soon as we hung up. The times I have talked with her she is always so bubbly and filled with memories to share and I want to hear. She is a special lady and she is on my friends list. Unlike that other article about remembering friends and having 700 plus friends on Facebook, but doesn't know most of them. I only have 7 or 8 and I know everyone of them. Sally is on that list. She is my kind of people.

Sally talks a lot about her square dance days, but even now she is still making memories of square dancing. Sally, like most of us, meet new friends as we get older, like Ben Gay. Charlie Horse, and Arther Ritus so we don't dance as much as we once did, but that doesn't stop her from dressing up in one of her beautiful square dance outfits and attending a dance.

Sally did not share this with me and I am not old enough to have experienced it first hand, but it seems that when a group of our more mature citizens get together, whether it be at a square dance or the old mens breakfast club at McDonalds, the conversation always follows the same agenda. Bill mentions that he has not seen Nicole lately and wonders if she has dropped out of class. Dot said she may as well have. She's got two left feet. Bill said her two feet were not what got his attention. A few more people that were not there were discussed before Sam mention the trouble he was having with his left knee. Fortunately for Sam every one there has had that same problem and each of them shared their remedy with him, If that didn't work Sam should call their doctor, he is the best in town. You cannot have a discussion of physical ailments without a quick run down on insurance plans. Just like with doctors, everyone there had a different plan and it was the best, except Martha. She couldn't remember the name of her plan, but it wasn't worth a flip.

Let me mention one more time that Sally had nothing to do with the above comments. They just seemed to fit here.

We do have a separate article, page 25, with pictures, of an Exhibition Dance by the Silver Squares and requested by Sally. She is such a fine example of a true square dancer. It's in your blood. Always willing to share a memory, a story, and still recruiting even now.

Thank you Sally, we love you and..... don't forget to call Edythe.

MUSINGS FROM YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER As copied (with permission) from the pages of "Let's Square Dance" - September 2022

Basking is a word I haven't mentioned much in the past, however this is the third month that my opening paragraph has found me 'basking' in my garden in tropical temperatures.

'Basking' has been sheer bliss at times, oppressive and stifling at others, but what we really needed was Rain.

Now I appreciate that as you read this we will have had rain, some experiencing dramatic thunderstorms and flash floods. Your water butts* may be overflowing and as usual people will be back to complaining about too much rain. However, I feel it incumbent on me to inform you that you have me to thank for the rain. Why is that? Because since my return from Vienna on 12th July I have performed a daily Raindance; (well I am a dancer after all) and it took a while to produce results but on Tuesday 16th August the heavens opened and down it came. Poor Incy Wincy Spider wasn't too happy about it as she had to climb back up the spout. Apparently the rhyme Incy Wincy Spider or alternatively Itsy Bitsy Spider was first published in 1920 as a song for adults. It wasn't until 1947 that Itsy Bitsy Spider made its first appearance as a nursery rhyme. Who would have known?

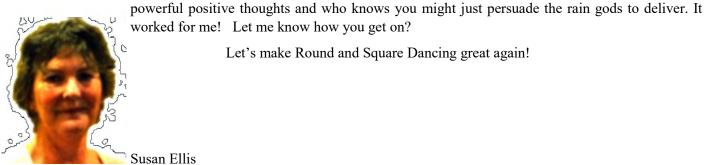
A Rain Dance is a ceremonial dance performed by people who believe it will bring rain and keep their harvest safe. Many different types of rain dance can be found in many cultures from Ancient Egypt to certain Native American tribes and the Cherokee Indians.

The dancers wear special headdresses and clothing. Jewels such as turquoise have special significance as well as the patterns on their clothing. They often use goat hair in the headdresses. Both men and women take part in the dances.

Us Brits are renowned for being obsessed with the weather and particularly Rain. It's one of our greatest assets and makes our country, in the words of Willian Blake, 'this green and pleasant land'.

Of course the rain has been the subject of many famous songs. Rainy night in Georgia by the Eurythmics and Purple Rain by Prince. A true masterpiece by Bob Dylan is A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall and my all-time favourite It's Raining Men by the very aptly named group The Weather Girls. Of course music about the rain is not simply restricted to pop music, Chopin composed a wonderful Prelude Opus 28 Number 15 entitled 'Raindrop'. Well worth a listen!

So next time there is a drought why not perform your own Raindance. You'll need to do a lot of pounding with your feet, and raise your arms to the heavens in imploring motions. You'll also need to engage the brain in strong



worked for me! Let me know how you get on?

Let's make Round and Square Dancing great again!

More comments from that USDA NEWS EDITOR.

The * above was placed there by me, not Susan. Water butts is not a term that I am accustomed to hearing around here. Water Butts is probably nothing like what came to mind as I read this, but it did remind me of another British term that caused quite a stir here several years ago. I believe the year was 1961 and Jack Parr, the star of the Tonight Show told a story, a funny story about a lady and a "WC", a water closet or a bathroom here. The NBC censors cut that story without Jack knowing it and he was furious. The following night, after about 15 minutes into the show he stood up, announced that there had to be a better way to make a living, and walked off. Mr. Parr did return to the show a week or so later. His opening comment was that when he left the show he said there had to be a better way to make a living. He said he was wrong. Not as interesting as who shot JR, but it did cause quite a stir at the time.

62nd California State Square Dance Convention

Yuba-Sutter



Ray Brendzy Canada

MaryAnn Callahan

& Craig Cowan

California

Mainstream/SSD

Plus - Advanced

Challenge

Rounds PH 2-5

Trail End Dance

After Party

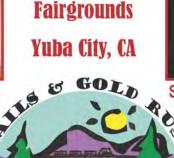
Caller Clinic Silent Auction Opportunity Quilt Drawing

RV Parking on Grass

Fun-Fun-Fun



Michael Kellogg California





Steve Edlund Canada



Darryl Lipscomb Oklahoma



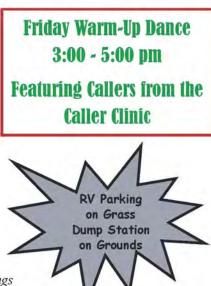
Sharon & Casey Parker California

April 21-23, 2023

Trail's End Dance Thursday Evening 7:30 ~ 10:00 pm



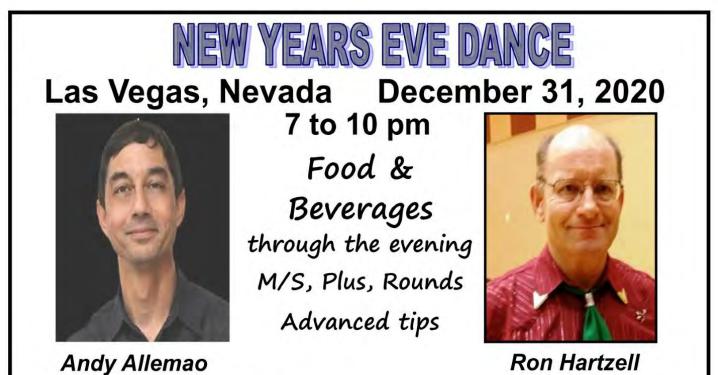
Ray Brendzy



Square Dance Attire Admired but Not Required on Friday & Saturday Evenings This event qualifies for the California Council of Square Dancers, Inc. Friendship

CONTACT General Chairmen: Katie Pearce: 916.606.9738 & Bonnie Abramson: 916.213.3640 Chairmen@CAState2023.org / Online Registration at www.CAState2023.org / Online Deadline: April 18, 2023 / Mail-In Deadline: April 8, 2023 Sponsored by the California Council of Square Dancers, Inc.





Good Times Square & Round Dance Club GoodTimesSquareDancers.org squaregirlritajo@yahoo.com

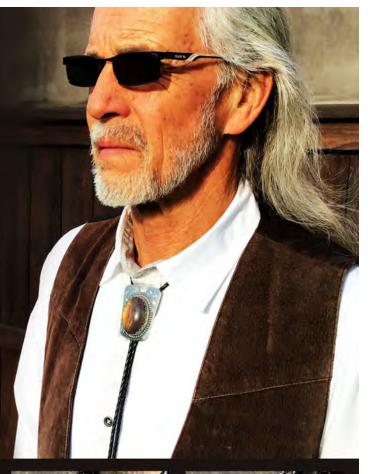






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The exhibition groups are so much fun to watch at the conventions and here are two of the best.

PAYMENT FOR TOTAL DUE (US Funds) PROGRAMMED CALLERS & DANCE LEADERS Check Enclosed Cash - Receipt # Credit Card: Name on Card: You must update your profile online by 12/31/22 at https://sdconvention.com Cand Two Arise Mastercard AmEV Type:
Security Code:

Name:

More information available at www.72nsdc.com/accomodations

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	HOTELACCOMMODATIONS			MAP OF HOTELS	
Code	Hotel	Rate	Anthony Ct	E	
-	Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel Headquarters	\$162	caint Louis Di	0	
2	Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa Pet Friendly 8	\$162	7 15 Jac.		
e	Hampton Inn & Suites *One night Deposit charged in advance	\$129*	Saint Michaels St <		
4	Holiday Inn Dance Leaders Only	\$130	2 Saim St 7	K	
Indical Assignu Hotels booked	Indicate choice of hotel preference by specifying code number: #1 #2 #3 Assignments will be made in order of registration form received & according to availability. Hotels assigned on first come basis. This form must be received, and rooms must be booked by April 1, 2023, to guarantee 72 nd NSDC pricing.	#3 lability. De	Government Street		
Room	Boom nights needed: (4 Night Minimum)		RV & CAMPING AC	RV & CAMPING ACCOMMODATIONS	
_S6/	□ S 6/17 □ S 6/18 □ M 6/19 □ T 6/20 □ W 6/21 □ T 6/22 □ F 6/23 □ S 6/24 □	S 6/25	Campground	Distance	Rate
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SHARE Pleas	SHARED ROOMS - only one person per room should complete a hotel reservation request. Please list all room occupants here: Housing Committee does not find or assign roommates.	1997 (1997) 1997 (1997)	connections as well as water and sewer hookups. Assignments will be made in order of registration form received & according to availability. Sites assigned on fist come basis. This form must be received, and sites must be booked by April 1, 2023, to guarantee 72 nd NSDC pricing.	okups. Assignments will be made ability. Sites assigned on fist come ked by April 1, 2023, to guarantee	t in order of basis. This 72nd NSDC
BLOCP that is p Block Block	BLOCK HOUSING (10-25 rooms) requests must be received by January 2, 2023. Everyone that is part of a Block Housing Group must fill in Block Name and Block Leader Name. Block Name	ryone	Site nights needed: (4 Night Minimum)	W 6/21 □ T 6/22 □ F 6/23 □ S 6/24 □ late nights?Total nights requested	t □ S 6/25 sted
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No airp online a	ort shuttle services provided by hotels; arrang t <i>www.72nsdc.com/accomodations</i> .		the Group must fill in Group Name and Group Leader Name. Group Name Group Leader NamePhone Email	Leader Name. Phone	
Your h Hotel c	Your hotel reservation must be guaranteed with credit card. Hotel confirmations will be sent via email or mail. If you do not receive your confirmation	ion	No Bus Passes Available. Parking Available at Convention Center \$5 per day (in/out).	at Convention Center \$5 per day ((in/out).
by May will be present cancell online r	by May 1, 2023, please email <i>registration@72nsdc.com</i> . The balance for your room will be charged at the hotel upon check in. An alternative form of payment may be presented at check in. Your confirmed hotel may assess a one-night tax penalty fee for cancellations received less than 72 hours of arrival, including early departure. No self or online registration available, all convention hotels must be booked, through Housing		Your camping reservation must be paid in advance with this form. (on Front Side) Your confirmed campground may assess a one-night tax penalty fee for cancellations received less than 72 hours of arrival, including early departure. No self or online registration available, all site reservations must be booked through RV & Camping Chairman.	advance with this form. (on Fron e-night tax penalty fee for cancella g early departure. No self or online through RV & Camping Chairman	t Side) ations e registration
Chairman.	Chairman. CREDIT CARD FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS Use same credit card on front side or Use different credit card below:	-	Mobile Convention Center	A M	
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2024 Milianakor Wisconsin	Pre-Registration 73rd National Square Dance Cor Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 26, 27, 28, & 29, 202		IF REGISTERING BY MAIL: 73 rd National Square Dance Convention® 2405 Royal Court, Waukesha, WI 53188 registration@73nsdc.com
Primary Last Name:		First Name	
Email Address:			
Partner's Last Name	(if different):First	st Name	
Email Address: (if dif	ferent)		
Youth Names & DOB			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Country:	Email:		
Check if you do not	want your email shared. Email addresses to be shar	ed only with the N	EC for upcoming convention information.
Phone: ()	Alt Number (
Pre-Registra	ation Prices (US currency only) \$50	.00 each x=	\$ until 2/25/2023
Youth bor	n after June 26, 2006 \$25	.00 each x=	\$ until 2/25/2023
Cash Received \$	Check #(Pay to 73NSDC)	Total Due	: \$
Credit Card Type:	Credit Card #:	100	
Expiration Date:	/Name of Care	dholder:	
Statement Mailing A	ldress (if different):		
Authorized Card Sigr	ature:		
\$10.00 cancellation fee per	registration. No refunds after April 30, 2024. This form an	nd registration rate is	void after February 25, 2023. Registration Long Forms

\$10.00 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2024. This form and registration rate is void after February 25, 2023. Registration Long Forms will be mailed in November 2022 for selection of hotel and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on February 25, 2023. Convention badges are required for entrance to all convention activities. Square Dance attire is requested for the evening dance.

74TH National Square Dance Convention

June 25-28, 2025 Shreveport, Louisiana Register on-line: 74th nsdc.com

EVENTS IN THE EASTERN REGION Ed and Lynda Willis, Eastern Region VP

Well, we thought we were done writing regional reports for USDA, when we had to retire as Central Region Vice Presidents at the end of our second third term. We were looking forward to traveling for fun with no set time schedules but alas that was not to be. When no one stepped up to cover the Eastern Region we were asked to step in and serve until someone stepped up and volunteered. We are still waiting. HINT HINT. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know!

Otherwise... we do know a little bit about the eastern region through our serving on the 64 NSDC when we wrote about the states in publications for the 64th. We do remember being in Lake George on our way to the preconvention and it being below Zero. Then moving on to New Hampshire and getting snowed in under 3 plus feet of snow. Guess this was preparing us for next year's winter meeting of USDA in Bismarck, ND in January and the pre-convention meeting in Milwaukee in February.

We did attend the Virginia state convention this year and are currently making plans to attend the New England convention in April. Other dances we know about include the Autumn Leaves festival, WASCA, Star Spangled Banner Festival, and many others. Please contact us with other large dances in the eastern region. We are still doing research and planning.

HAVE YOU HUGGED AN EDITOR TODAY ?

September was Friendship month and we missed it. Try to catch up, hug twice! 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



Beyond the Dance Floor

TENTATIVE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

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, October 15, 2022

Title: Marketing Square Dancing

Faculty: Jack Pladdys, Chairman of CALLERLAB's Marketing Committee

Program Description: As Chairman of CALLERLAB's Marketing Committee, Jack will share ideas on how to market our activity. Sharing input from across the country on what is currently working, what ideas may seem appropriate to revisit, and utilizing every opportunity available to us to get the word out about our activity. Join us to hear what ideas CALLERLAB has to share and be prepared to share you ideas and success stories as well.

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Title: USDA's Insurance Program

Faculty: Elizabeth & Eddie Sanders, USDA Insurance Directors

Program Description: Information about USDA's Insurance Program, including who qualifies, how it works and what is covered. During the program Elizabeth will review the new rates for 2023 as well as how local, regional and state insurance directors get dancers enrolled in the program. She will also inform you how to update your rosters as new members join your club and coverage for beginning dancers and when they need to be added to your club rosters.



Share your ideas for future topics!!

We are always looking for great ideas for our webinar series — let us know what you'd like to learn more about. Share your ideas with us at Education@usda.org.

Watch the USDA Website—www.USDA.org—for listings of future workshops and login information. We also invite you to join our Facebook group/community - United Square Dancers of America -USDA to see what's happening with square dancing all across the country.

califie To The Military 63rd	May 5 & 6, 202	:3	Ohio Dance Convention	XIII
Last Name / Veteran Y or N	First Name / Military Branch	Child's Fi	irst Name	Age
Last Name / Veteran Y or N	First Name / Military Branch Child's Fin		irst Name	Age
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SPECIAL EVENTS: Mday, Round Dance Clinic with Pat & Joe Hilton oth Sessions \$35.00 per person §	REGISTRATION FEES (per person) Friday & Saturday Adult before 3/17/23 #x \$40.00 after 3/17/23 #x \$50.00 Friday Adult Only #x \$30.00 Saturday Adult Only #x \$30.00 Saturday Adult Only #x \$30.00 Youth Under Age 18 #x \$20.00 Saturday Adult Only #x \$30.00 Youth Under Age 18 #x \$20.00 Family Rate w/more than 2 childrer Adults pay the appropriate Adult Rate & Youth Rates. Additional # of free Yo Thursday May 4, 2023 Trail End: Adult #x \$10.00 Youth 18 yrs -16 yrs #x \$5.0 Youth 15 yrs & Younger # Include Special Event Total Non Dancing Guest # Please register at the registration desk & wear name tag at all times TOTAL: \$ No Registration Refunds After App	= \$ = \$ = \$ = \$ for 2 buth 00 = \$ 00 = \$ FREE \$ FREE	Mainstream	pply) Counds II & III IV - VI Youth Hall CW Lines CUUNCIL Akron Central Toledo to be Refunded at con completion t All Time:
Cation: Crowne Plaza Colu King Room or 2 Double Bed Room rates are \$102 - Room rate cut off date is April 20, 2023 for the conv When making your room reservations, state that yo 53rd Ohio Dance Convention. Call 614-885-1885 to Camping is not permitted at the hotel. Mail Registration to: Linda Warren, 1322 Steeple Chase Dr. Mar 63rdohiodanceconvregistrar@gmail.com Make Checks payable to: Ohio Square & Round Dance Association	tax per night rention price d are with the make reservation.	End Dances al \$10.00 18yr Plus Hall, R Dance in a General Cha 63rdohic Vice-Chair: Dav 63rdohic	e., Columbus, (t The Crowne Plaza Colum s – 16yrs \$5.00 15yrs & ounds Hall, & Mainstream H and 3 halls for the price of one bir: Terri & Jeff Ross 740-811 odanceconvgenchair@gmail te & Sharon Anderson 614-8 odanceconvvicechair@gmail priate Dance Attire Requi	bus North under Free all 5-6116 com 391-9258 I com

Silver Squares Square Dance Exhibition

Submitted y Granger & Don Daulin

We held a Square Dance Exhibition at the Villages at Unity on November 17th, 2021. Sally Baechle, one of our experienced square dancers, requested we come to the Villages and dance for the residents. Mike Callahan called for us and we had an incredible afternoon. People kept pouring in to watch and more and more chairs needed to be brought into the huge conference room. The Villages provided water and snacks and everyone had a really enjoyable time!













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- 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.
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- 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 owed 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 owed 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: 1-800-252-3430 or 1-512-463-6515, www.tdi state texas.com



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

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

* Detailed Descriptions of Each Dance Form

* Find a Caller, Find a Cuer, and Find a Club sections

High Definition Pictures

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

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.

Page 28

ARTS Travel The

Dancer's Online Travel





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

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Book your travel to the 72nd NSDC in Mobile, AL and support dancing at the same time.

Logon to





72nd National Square Dance Convention®

June 21-24, 2023 Mobile, AL



www.arts-dancetravel.com



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Send the USDA NEWS Editor your State Association/Federation

Convention dates and they will be listed here at no charge.







Nov 4-6 Indiana Square & Round Dance Convention French Lick Springs Resort French Lick, Indiana Phone: 574 654-3395 Email: berger3395@gmail.com Web:insquaredanceconvention.com

Facebook: Indiana Square and Round Dance Convention

2023

Jan 20—21 **68th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention** Volusia County Fairgrounds 3150 E. New York Ave. DeLand, FL 32824 www.floridasquaredance.com



See AD page 15

62nd California State Square Dance Convention Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds Yuba City, CA General Chairmen: Katie Pearce & Bonnie Abramson Chairmen@CAState2023.org Register Online at CAState2023awww .org Facebook: Calif State Square Dance Convention 2023 May 5-6

63rd Ohio Dance Convention Crowne Plaza Columbus North 6500 Doubletree Ave Columbus, OH 432229 General Chair: Terri & Jeff Ross 740 815-6116 63rdohiodanceconvengenchair@gmail.com Register online:ohiodanceconvention.com See AD on Page 24

Jun 9-10

67th Colorado State Convention 1717 Denver West Blvd Golden, CO

Colorado Square Dance Festival.com

Aug 3-5

48th Tennessee Square& Round Dance Convention W. L. Mills Conference Center 234 Historic Nature Trail Gatlinburg, TN 37738

ww.tnsquaredance.org

FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2023—June 21-24—Mobile, AL 2024—June 26-29—Milwaukee, WI 2025—June 25-28—Shreveport, LA



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.

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NAME: ADDRESS:			1 year—\$6.00		2 Years—\$12.00		3 Years—\$18.00
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