

## **INTRODUCTION**

There are many organizations involved in the square dance movement. The purpose of each organization is geared to its members. The following is a brief summary of the functions of the major National and International organizations within the square dance movement.

### **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA (USDA)**

Eleven charter member organizations joined in June 1981 to create the United Square Dancers of America (USDA). This nonprofit organization serves to represent the Square Dancer in decisions that are made relative to the development of the square dance activity. Membership is open to any organized group representing the dancers within a state. Benefits of membership include an economical dancer accident and group liability insurance program, a square dancer's credit card program, educational materials for dancers and leaders, a discount prescription drug program, forum for encouraging the benefits of dancer/leader interaction, active programs for youth and handicapped dancers.

### **NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION**

The four-day National Square Dance Convention is without question the "World's Greatest Square Dance Event". Thousands of dancers from all 50 states and many foreign countries meet at a different location in the USA each year to learn about every phase of the square dance hobby as well as to meet and dance with their many friends who also

come yearly. The convention is sponsored each year by a different square dance organization in a different state. Guidance for all of the national conventions is provided by the National Executive Committee whose members are all previous convention chairmen.

### **LLOYD SHAW FOUNDATION**

The Lloyd Shaw Foundation was formed in 1964 to preserve and promote all forms of American and associated folk dance. The archives produces records, books, and dance curriculum kits, sponsors university workshops to train teachers to teach dance, and maintains a square dance archives that is recognized by the Library of Congress. Membership is open to all interested individuals, clubs and organizations.

### **CALLERLAB**

CALLERLAB is an international association of square dance callers formed in 1971 to assist the caller members both professionally and personally in all aspects of their involvement in the square dance activity. Its purpose is to provide caller accreditation, leadership and direction for the calling profession in order to strengthen and standardize the dance program for square dancing.

### **AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION**

ACA is a nonprofit professional organization established by callers, round dance, and contra leaders, dedicated to the promotion and perpetuation of the square dance activity. ACA was established so that callers, cuers, and contra instructors would have a choice. Members of ACA are licensed through BMI/ASCAP for music performance to

perform copyrighted music, thereby absolving the dancer clubs of the need to obtain a music license.

### **ROUNDALAB**

ROUNDALAB was founded in 1977 and is an international nonprofit professional organization of round dance teachers, open to all who are actively teaching and/or cueing round dancing at any level anywhere in the world. Its primary purpose is to make round dancing more enjoyable and understandable for the teacher and the dancer. ROUNDALAB promotes, protects and perpetuates the general round dance movement as a complement to the overall square dance program.

### **CONTRALAB**

CONTRALAB is an international organization that was established to assist contra callers in improving their skills and to act as a forum for the exchange of ideas. It is an organization for contra callers who desire to retain, maintain, promote and perpetuate the contra dance.

### **NATIONAL CLOGGERS ASSOCIATION**

The National Cloggers Association was formed in 1971. A Clog College was organized in 1975, which led to the formation of CLOGGERLAB, the professional association of clogging instructors.

## I.A.G.S.D.C.®

The International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs is a non-profit association created to promote square dancing; enhance the image of Gay and Lesbian people, especially within the square dance community; encourage the growth of square dancing within the Gay and Lesbian community; and provide opportunities for friendship, social interchange, and the exchange of ideas among member clubs.

## OVERSEAS DANCER ASSOCIATION

This nonprofit organization is devoted to the concept of friendship through square dancing around the world. Its members either live outside the American continent (overseas) or learned to dance overseas or who have danced overseas for at least six months on a regular basis. The ODA maintains contact between these dancers upon their return to the United State or Canada.

## NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The NSDCA provides an opportunity and encourages those interested in both modern western square dancing and camping, to combine the two activities for mutual enjoyment. Membership is open to couples and singles. There are many chapters of NSDCA distributed throughout the USA.

## SINGLE SQUARE DANCERS U.S.A.

SSDUSA is a national organization of single square dance clubs and single square dancers. The SSDUSA promotes and stimulates square dancing among unmarried adults of all ages by assisting any group who wishes to start a new singles square dance club, publishing a newsletter and a directory of singles square and round dance clubs.

## ARTS-DANCE

The Alliance of Rounds, Traditional and Square Dance.

The ARTS functions in an advocacy role, representing ALL dance groups directly or indirectly associated with round, traditional, and square dancing. Like all alliances that represent diverse organizations with common interest, the ARTS concept provides a strong, central voice, concerned equally with the collective interest of all its affiliated organizations.

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# SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATIONS



This information sheet was developed by the Education Committee of the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. and will provide a brief summary of the major organizations associated with the square, round, clogging, contra, and folk dance movement.

Leadership Education material can also be printed directly from USDA web site at [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org)

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