

The UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. (USDA) was formed on June 26, 1981, during the National Square Dance Convention held in Seattle, Washington, and has grown to a size that approaches the representation of 300,000 dancers throughout the United States. USDA is an organization formed by dancers, for dancers, and is under the operational control of dancers. The purpose of the organization is to:

Promote and perpetuate the total Square Dance movement which includes Square, Round, Contra, Clogging, Line and Heritage Dancing.

Establish a line of communication from the individual dancer to a recognized unified body so that an expression of varied opinions can establish or influence policy for making decisions at the national level.

Provide for education to further the growth and enjoyment of Square Dancing.

Encourage cooperation between member clubs, state associations, councils, federations; national and international organizations; or other groups involved or interested in the promotion of Square Dancing.

Provide a forum for implementing the benefits of membership in the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA and assist members in any way possible.

Represent Square Dancing to the general public as a wholesome, enjoyable family-type recreation.

As a "dancers" organization, the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. serves to represent the square, round, contra, clogging, line and heritage dancer in decisions

which are made at the national level relative to the development and growth of the dance activity. This representation takes place through the various State and Regional organizations affiliating with the USDA. As a united voice, the USDA is able to express the views of the dancers on a national level so that they might be relayed to other national and international groups with whom the dancers interact such as leaders, callers, cuers, instructors, commercial enterprises, other dancers, etc.

Membership is open to any organized nonprofit square dance groups or other groups representing square, round, contra, clogging, line or heritage dancers that will subscribe to the By-Laws, Rules and Policies of the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. In states which do not have a statewide organization, or when the state organization elects not to join USDA, area or regional organizations may join the USDA to represent the dancers of their state. Applications for membership in USDA are available from any of the USDA officers.

Numerous projects have been specifically undertaken by the USDA to fulfill the organization's goals and objectives, and are progressing and expanding very rapidly. Dancers and their organizations, as members of USDA, are afforded the opportunity to participate in the following programs available through the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC.:

An economical Accident and Group Liability Insurance Program is offered for dancers, their clubs and associations. It is the best insurance coverage available in the USA at an unbeatable price.

A revenue sharing Square Dancer's Credit Card program as a means of consistently bringing Square Dancing to the attention of the public and gaining recognition as a

social force and economic entity. Revenues are shared with the USDA Affiliates, Handicapable Dancers and Youth programs.

A "Handicapable" Dancer program has been initiated by USDA to support the Square Dance activities of mentally or physically handicapped or disabled individuals. Association with these dancers has proved them to be most "capable," thus the "Handicapable" title being bestowed on our very special dancers. The Handicapable Program has received the attention and outstanding support of the President of the United States. The USDA is working to further the interaction of handicapable dancer groups throughout the nation and to achieve interest and recognition of the handicapable dancer as in integral part of the Square Dance activity.

A Youth Program to promote the introduction of youthful dancers and youth organizations into the Square Dance activity.

A program to pursue the permanent designation of the Square Dance as the American Folk Dance of the United States of America. Through the work of the USDA National Folk Dance committee, numerous efforts have been initiated to encourage Congress to establish this recognition of the Square Dance. The USDA is also deeply committed to the support of the State Campaign to make the Square Dance the official folk dance of every state.

An Educational program designed to inform dancers of club leadership and management techniques; the duties and responsibilities of officers, members and callers; data concerning square dance heritage and history; growth;

development; and the current trends and activities of the square dance movement. This program includes the preparation and distribution of educational and training literature, conducting educational seminars and panels, and the general sharing of knowledge of leadership experience.

A promotional program to offer USDA costumes, jackets, badges, banners, etc. to all dancers desiring them. These attractive articles not only provide identification of USDA, but of Square Dancing as a wholesome family activity as well.

A program to provide a communication loop with the leaders, dancers, dance publications and organizations of the total Square Dance activity. Communications are accomplished by the distribution of USDA press releases and the quarterly publication USDA NEWS.

A program to monitor the licensing requirements of Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and to keep the dancers advised of their activities.

Display tables and an After Party for all dancers at each National Square Dance Convention.

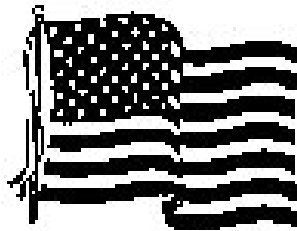
Other programs may come under USDA consideration for inclusion when their addition enhances the fulfillment of the organization's goals.

Regional Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Information, Historian, Parliamentarian and Committee Chairs.

Interested dancers and leaders are invited to attend the annual meeting of the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC., which is held immediately prior to each National Square Dance Convention.

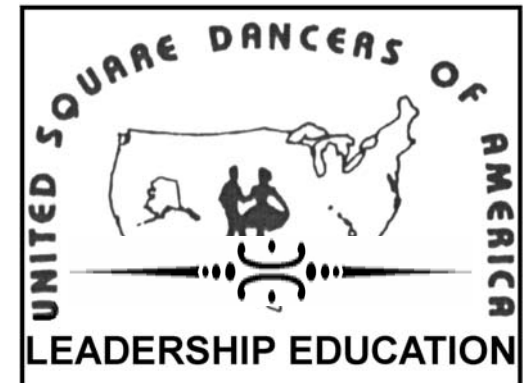
Educational and training materials are available, most of them at no charge, on the USDA display tables in the Showcase of Ideas at each National Square Dance Convention or from the Education Committee Chair.

Dancers are also invited to attend the USDA After Party at the National Square Dance Convention, featuring the best National callers available. Be a part of the World's Largest Square Dance Organization and participate in its activities - it is YOUR association. Take care of it, it's the best we have!



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

## WHAT IS USDA? THE LARGEST SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD



**THE ONLY NATIONAL  
DANCER'S ASSOCIATION  
ORGANIZED BY DANCERS  
FOR DANCERS AND  
OPERATED BY DANCERS**

For additional information about USDA or any of its programs, please contact:

Len & Connie Houel  
Education/Publications Committee  
32 First Ave  
Westfield, MA 01085  
(413) 519-0261  
[usda.education.publications@usda.org](mailto:usda.education.publications@usda.org)

Si & Marilyn Kittle  
President  
320 Maynard Dr  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
(608) 837-6958  
[president@usda.org](mailto:president@usda.org)

E-mail: [usda@usda.org](mailto:usda@usda.org)  
Web Site: <http://www.usda.org>

**IS-072-03**

The UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from each affiliate member. The USDA Executive Committee consists of a President, four