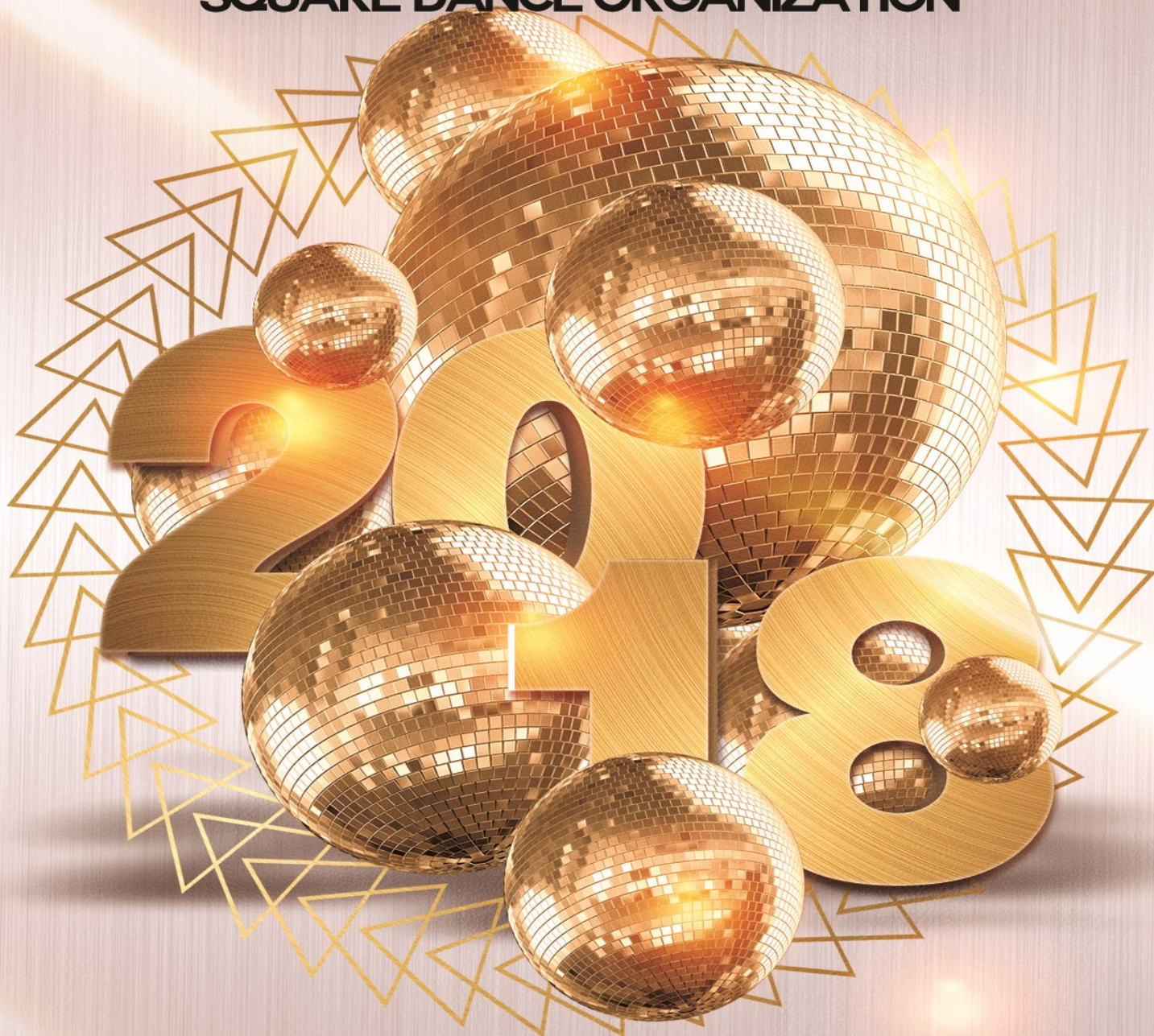


USDA NEWS

**NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLDS LARGEST
SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATION**



OFFICIAL FOLK DANCE OF NORTH AMERICA

PUBLISHED BY UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

FEATURE ARTICLE—page 11— **Another 100 year old dancer receives the USDA Centennial Award.** Bob Brown, not only square dances, but he also drives six days a week to the Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club to swim laps. **WAY TO GO BOB!**

TONY OXENDINE gave our editor permission to reprint portions of his Keynote Address to the 52nd National Square Dance Convention in Oklahoma City, OK on June 24, 2003. Read Tony's comments on page 4. Most of the problems in square dance then still apply today. One of Tony's suggestion was to improve our image by getting involved in our community and state and let people see that we are "regular" folks.

Judy Taylor reports on page 12 about the **Colorado Clubs coming together** and dancing at a Rockies football game and at the state capitol. The Denver Post and Denver TV 7 covered the events and gave us some good publicity. The kind Tony said we needed.

HELP SUPPORT USDA through our various programs and products as featured throughout this issue. Your support helps us to provide more and better ways of promoting square and dance programs.



A special **THANK YOU** to the following for their contributions to this edition of USDA NEWS.

Photography: Judy Taylor, Sally Schmidt, & Frank Hunter

Articles: Sally Schmidt and Judy Taylor

A Very Special Thank You to Tony Oxendine for permission to reprint portions of his 52nd National Square Dance Convention Keynote Address

COVER DESIGN: Chris Dunkel

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PRESIDENTS**MESSAGE****LPaul & Sally Schmidt**

Let us start by sending you all our heartfelt wishes for a happy and healthy 2018, and a wonderful year of dancing! We will be kicking off the new year in Kauai, Hawaii – unfortunately, not at a square dance. But January will bring plenty of dancing and dance-related activities, including the USDA Executive Committee Winter Meeting being held in Vancouver, Washington. We would like to thank our new Western Region Vice Presidents, Dale & Kathy Worthington, for making arrangements for us to visit the Portland, OR / Vancouver, WA area for meetings and – of course – some square dancing! The Winter Meeting provides the Executive Committee with the opportunity to review the status of all USDA programs, and prepare for the USDA-sponsored activities held in conjunction with the annual National Square Dance Convention.

We are excited to report on some USDA news from the past quarter. First, we have renewed the USDA-sponsored club insurance program and are pleased that our provider did not raise any of our rates for the 2018 insurance year. All affiliate and non-affiliated insurance chairs were notified by the USDA Insurance Director, Pat Inglis, and by now all insurance enrollments for 2018 should have been completed.

Second, we are pleased to report that we have received several donations to support USDA scholarship and education programs. Following the Annual Meeting in June 2017, the USDA Treasurer deposited \$1165 in donations to the Founders Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund. In August, we received another donation for the Youth Scholarship Program – \$1000 from the 65th National Square Dance Convention (Des Moines). And we received an additional \$1000 grant from the 65th NSDC to support development and dissemination of USDA leadership and educational materials. We would like to thank all of the donors for supporting USDA programs. Please remember that the Founders Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund as well as the Handicapable Dancer Program need donations to continue supporting our youth and handicapable dancers. Visit the USDA webpage at www.usda.org to learn more about these wonderful programs.

It is our honor to serve as president of this outstanding organization that supports dancers at the club, regional, and state levels across the United States. Live Lively, Square Dance! We hope to see you soon in a square.

LPaul & Sally Schmidt



USDA President LPaul & Sally Schmidt presenting 100 year old dancer, Bob Brown, with our Centennial Award.

See the Feature Article on Page 11 to learn more about Mr. Brown.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Larry W. Dunkel

I no longer do New Year's Resolutions as they just don't seem to work for me, but I would like to take a look at Square Dancing and what we might do differently this year. In 2003 Tony Oxendine presented the Keynote Address at the 52nd National Square Dance Convention in Oklahoma City. His topic was "Square Dancing-Is It Broke? Can We Fix It? Tony mentioned several areas that we need to change or improve. He did not offer answers, but merely challenged us to find ways to fix it. I wish space allowed me to reprint his complete speech, but it doesn't, so I will just point out a few of the highlights that we might want to think about. The following is taken in part from this keynote address and if you have not heard or read it I do recommend you check it out on his website at: <http://www.tonyoxendine.com/resources/NationalsKeynoteAddress.pdf>

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that square dancing is declining (has been in fact for 20 years or better). Clubs all over are folding. Classes are almost nonexistent in many areas. Some states have even had to fold their state convention. Many long-lived festivals nationwide have ceased operations. Look around you – There are roughly 8000 dancers in attendance here. In 1983 at the Louisville Nationals, there were over 30,000. In my travels and conversations, I have observed five of what I view as problems.

New Dancers. *Without new dancers, square dancing cannot survive. We have always relied on friends bringing friends bringing friends. Unfortunately, most of you are like me – All my friends already dance! We must find alternate ways of recruiting new people. Get your square dance club involved civically in your town. ANYTHING to get your picture in the paper (or radio/TV) to allow you to tell people what a great activity we have. This would do a lot to dispel our other problem*

Image. *People either know nothing about us or they figure we're still dancing half drunk in someone's barn. Sometimes we don't do ourselves any good in this regard. We have to understand that to the "real" world, our clothes look kinda funny. So if you're doing an exhibition in the public – CONSIDER not having everyone dress in full square dance regalia. Have some of the dancers wear western attire, or heaven forbid – even casual clothes. Show the people watching you that you really are normal people.*

Dress. *Not very long ago, I was calling at a major festival. During one of the morning sessions, a local round dance cuer came to the workshop dressed in very nice dress slacks and an equally nice blouse. The organizers of the event asked her to leave because she was dressed inappropriately. In my opinion, she was dressed appropriately enough for church. If it's nice enough for church – it ought to be nice enough for us. PERHAPS we place too much emphasis on attire. We have to be aware that to the general public – we look funny. Am I against square dance clothes? Absolutely not! I think that our costumes are a big part of our heritage. But in order to survive, square dancing, like everything else must change with the times. As the great poet and songwriter, Bob Dylan wrote – "The times, they are a changing".*

Programs. *Many of us blame the ills of square dancing on the PROGRAMS. The problem isn't with the programs – it's the use (or rather ABUSE) of them that is the problem. Is this a normal scenario? You convince someone to take lessons. They stay (anywhere from 20 weeks to almost a year depending on the area) and then graduate. Almost immediately, they're pressured to learn the next level (normally Plus). In fact, most people don't think they're dancing unless they're dancing Plus. Our square dance pyramid is getting way out of kilter. For stability, the base should be the widest point. Our base is new students. New students should graduate at Mainstream. Instead, our pyramid is beginning to bulge in the middle, and become pointed at the base – kinda like a diamond. Diamonds are pretty, but have you ever tried to stand one upright? Not very stable... That's what's happening to our activity. It has become very unstable.*

Marketing. *Many people have spoken about "marketing" square dancing better. Many clubs and associations have tried varied forms of promoting our product – mostly with poor results. If marketing isn't the answer – Maybe it's time we offer a "new and improved" square dance. Let's change the product! Several years ago, the CALLERLAB Foundation hired a marketing firm to conduct a survey to determine exactly why ex-dancers quit. The bottom line---- It was too difficult and required too much of a time*

(Continued page 29)

EVENTS IN THE PLAINS REGION

Floyd and Judy Engelhardt, USDA Plains Region VP

Greetings to all from our home in Minnesota, where we have green grass and sunshine - but it's getting to be COLD sunshine! We expect snow one of these days. After all, it is Minnesota.

In hot August, we danced to Shane Greer at a friendly club in Wagoner, OK. That was between our round dance weeks at Eureka Springs, and Oklahoma gave us another state for our traveler badge "third time around". In September, we did a lot of the usual dancing near home, with no big trips. Then in October, we traveled to the Arkansas festival/convention one weekend and the Missouri one the next weekend. We had time between events to catch some extra Missouri dances and found a round dance in Paola, Kansas. You probably all know that the local groups are always welcoming when guests show up - - especially "far away" guests!

We are now busy preparing for the holidays like everyone else. Soon after Christmas we will head south, and then drive to the USDA winter meeting near Portland, Oregon. Oh, good. Some more "new" states.

As square and round dancing declines in numbers, we need to keep on going and encouraging others to join us. We know it's good for mental and physical health as well as great social times.

Floyd and Judy Engelhardt

EVENTS IN THE EASTERN REGION

Tony & Diana Rock, USDA Eastern Region VP

Since our last article in the USDA News we have contacted nearly all of the affiliates in our region by phone or email. We have encouraged them to use the web site to view, print, and/or order the many educational materials that the United Square Dancers has to offer. As Education and Publications Chairmen we are responsible to mail out all of the publications that are requested, so we are more than happy to move the materials from our house to yours! We are encouraging all dancers to take advantage of these wonderful resources. Three of our most recent publications include: "Communication Kit for Leaders", the new "Discount Prescription Plan", and "Incorporation for Square Dance Clubs". Go to usda.org and check them out. If you haven't seen the USDA publications before you will be pleasantly surprised.

We are involved in the Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation (PSRDF) and attend their semiannual meetings. We are excited to report that since it is getting more difficult for many dancers to travel outside of their local area to attend a meeting and the meeting attendance has been declining, the PSRDF has begun holding their meetings not only by the traditional face to face method, but simultaneously through remote on line meetings. This has been a well-received change to the Federation. For those of you who have enjoyed the Pennsylvania State Conventions in the past, you are aware that they didn't have a convention in 2017, nor will there be one in 2018. However, we hope to have a PA state sponsored dance following the festival format in 2019. Stay tuned for further updates as they develop.

Tony and Diana Rock

EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Tom & Tina Wilkins, USDA Central Region VP

September's Hurricane Irma didn't stop over 300 dancers from ***Feeling the Magic of Square Dancing*** at The Classic Center in Athens, Georgia at the 46th Annual Convention. Darlene Barge and the GSSDA Board put on a spectacular dance and managed to handle all the last-minute adjustments of missing callers and cuers (due to the severe weather) flawlessly. Many dancers had to run out for a pit stop on Friday night; when it was announced that there were extreme gas shortages in the area. Dancers enjoyed the magical program featuring 30 callers and 7 cuers.



The last weekend of September over 200 dancers were able to ***Get Into the Swing for 2017*** at the 9th Annual Kentucky Square and Round Dance Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Claudette Raymer put together a marvelous dance program with some outstanding callers and cuers. Although attendance was slim, it was packed with excitement and the dancers in attendance had a great time. Amanda Skidmore managed to help our 6 year old daughter and her new friend Alex dance for their first time in an afternoon tip.



The first weekend in November Milene McCall and over 500 of her friends were ***Gone Country*** at the 28th Indiana Square and Round Dance Convention in French Lick, Indiana. This annual Convention is held at the stunning French Lick Resort. Featured Callers for Friday Nights



Presidents Ball were Wes Dyer and Mark Patterson. Nadine Henry and Dan Doll put together an amazing program; offering many halls with different types and levels of dancing. The Convention featured a lineup of all-star callers and cuers, those pictured were part of the Gospel Round Up.

On October 27th and 28th we attended the Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association's 43rd Round Up, ***Its Fall Ya'll*** in Pensacola, Florida. The dance was held at Ragon Hall, and was packed full of quality dance opportunities presented by callers Darryl McMillan and Larry Belcher. Cuers Terri & Tim Wilaby also keep the round dancers moving with an outstanding program.



We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season full of dancing. Hopefully you will also be able to ring in the New Year at a special dance with your friends.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events in our region you won't want to miss:

February 23rd-24th the 64th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

March 9th-10th the 63rd Annual Mississippi Square and Round Dance Association

March 23rd-25th the 4th Louisiana State Square Dance Convention

April 26th-28th the 43rd Annual South Carolina Square and Round Dancers

May 4th-5th the 58th Ohio Dance Convention

Tom & Tina Wilkins



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Q: How do I receive a discount?

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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?

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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: Can I go to any provider?

R: A: To ensure you receive your USDA Savings Card discounts, you need to visit a participating provider. While most pharmacies will accept this card, you can visit <http://usda.EBCcard.com> to find a participating pharmacy near you.

Q: Is my information kept private?

A: Yes, the program is HIPAA compliant.

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ARE YOU DANCING UNINSURED?

REAL FACTS ABOUT THE SQUARE DANCE INSURANCE PROGRAM

THE BASICS:

Every square dance organization needs General Liability and Accidental Medical Expense coverage while conducting and sponsoring dance activities. As closely as safety rules are followed, accidents can and will happen. This insurance program, especially designed for USDA dance groups, provides Accident Medical insurance, which helps protect club members from financial loss due to a covered accidental bodily injury, and Liability Insurance, which protects the club and its members and association officials from financial loss due to unforeseen incidents which may develop into litigation against members and dance organizations.

PERIOD OF COVERAGE:

The insurance year is January 1 through December 31. Coverage becomes effective for individual clubs under the policy on the day the application and premium for insurance is received by the USDA Insurance Coordinator. There is no pro-rate provision. This is necessary due to the large administrative expense of maintaining different policy dates.

OUR DANCE FACILITIES

LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Limits of Protection: \$1,000,000 combined single limit of liability for bodily injury and property damage per occurrence (subject to a \$100 property damage deductible per claim) while participating in scheduled and sponsored dancing activities. \$100,000 limit for damage to premises rented to you.



Pat Inglis
USDA National
Insurance Coordinator



DANCER MEDICAL INSURANCE WHAT IS COVERED?:

Accidental bodily injury sustained by an insured person while participating in dancing activities sponsored and supervised by a recognized club or organization

WHO IS COVERED?:

Club members will be insured while participating in any regularly scheduled and sponsored dancing activity worldwide, including group travel (10 or more club members) in a vehicle commercially licensed for transportation of passengers and operated by a person holding a valid operators license for such vehicle, while being transported to or from a covered dancing activity.

LIMITS OF COVERAGE:

\$10,000 Usual and Customary Accident Medical Expense, including Dental (\$10,000), Accidental Death Benefit (\$10,000), Accidental Dismemberment Benefit (loss of one hand, one foot, sight of one eye).

BUT I HAVE MY OWN MEDICAL INSURANCE!

Coverage provided is excess to any other valid and collectible medical insurance covering the same accident. Coverage provided for covered medical expenses incurred within 52 weeks of the accident up to \$10,000 for all eligible expenses as stated in the policy.



OUR DANCE FACILITIES WHO IS COVERED:

The club and its members while participating in club or organization-sponsored and supervised dancing activities. Liability coverage applies in the United States, its territories or possessions, and Canada.

QUESTIONS OR CLAIMS? CONTACT:

Pat Inglis, USDA National Insurance Coordinator

P.O. Box 22, Tucker, GA 300085-0022 — PH: 404.298.6148 / FX: 404.298.6149 / Email: usda.insurance@usda.org

USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

CHANGES ARE COMING!!! 2018 will bring some changes to the certificate of insurance form that will be issued. I am waiting for the first ones to be returned to me so that I can review to actually see what we will be receiving. In early November I met with my new “boss” and her boss to discuss our insurance. I answered questions from them and listened to their plans to improve the process of transferring information from me to Markel and them back to me! Are you confused? I was after our meeting but Tammy (new boss) has assured me that all will be better after this transition. Change always bothers me as it seems things just go wrong and if it’s not broken why fix it; however we all know how concerned we all get during this time of year when you are waiting and I am waiting for the new certificates. Each day when nothing happens we all get more concerned. I have already been contacted from concerned clubs and it’s not even December 1st! Enough of me rambling. I just wanted to forewarn you to expect something different. Markel is trying to make our process quicker for all concerned. We just have to believe that it will happen.

To be repetitive, I stress to everyone, fill in all the blanks on the forms; always put your federation/association name and club name on your forms and reply back to my e-mails because I need your answers quickly so I can process your enrollments. If you delay, you slow down the entire process. Please send the requested two copies of all forms so that I am not delayed to make copies.

Use the forms on-line when possible. The forms can be saved and will save you time the following year by you not having to re-enter information on various clubs, perhaps only changing or adding some locations. Let me know if you ever have any questions about the on-line forms.

Insurance chairmen should send each club in their group a copy of their club’s insurance certificate. The club should present to the facility to review for accuracy. If something is not correct on the certificate, please request a corrected certificate giving me the information for the needed changes. I will have the certificate revised and sent back to you for the club to again present to the facility for approval.

Please try not to panic if a certificate is not received by the date needed. If the request has been submitted then you do have coverage even if certificate is not in your hand. I know this is not the answer anyone wants to hear. I assure you that if you get your enrollments to me in a timely manner they will be sent to Markel as soon as possible. I never know what causes the delays within Markel, but I do feel that they have our best interests at heart and will try to do their best for us.

I will be presenting two seminars (Questions & Answers about Your USDA Insurance) at the Nationals in June. If you attend the convention, please try to attend one of my seminars or just come by for a brief “hello”. I would love to meet you!

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding our insurance program.

Pat Inglis
USDA Insurance Coordinator
P. O. Box 22
Tucker, GA 30085-0022
Phone 404/298-6148
FAX 404/298-6149
E-mail usda.insurance@usda.org



FEATURE ARTICLE

Centennial Award Recipient Bob Brown

Robert “Bob” Brown, a member of the Promenaders Square Dance Club in Escondido, California, celebrated his 100th birthday on September 23, 2017. He currently holds the honor of being the most senior dancer currently active in the Palomar Square Dance Association.

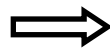
Bob was born in Needles, California, in 1917, the only child of William and Mary Louise Brown. He graduated from Needles High School in 1935. Following high school, Bob spend 30 years in the United States Navy working in Naval communications and traveling the world. His stateside duty stations included Long Beach and San Diego, California; Norfolk, Virginia; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Rockville, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. During World War II he served in various locations in the Pacific; other overseas assignments included Paris and Japan. Bob retired from the Navy in 1965 then spent more than 15 years working for Mid-Valley Electric and Marvin Barrett Construction doing appliance repair and plumbing.

Bob married Olive “Tots” Johnson in 1939 after they met only six weeks earlier in Oakland, California. They had two daughters, Evonne and Sally, and were blessed with three grandchildren and five great grandchildren (with another on the way). Bob and Tots started out ballroom dancing then began taking square dance lessons with the RBees Square Dance Club in Rancho Bernardo (northern San Diego County) in the late 1970s. They added round dancing in the 1990s, and continued to dance together weekly until her death in January 2000. Bob was married to another square dancer, the late Al Evans, from 2004 until her death in 2014. They were enthusiastic square dancers who supported many club and association dances and benefit activities.

Bob continues to remain active both on and off the square dance floor. He dances weekly with the Promenaders Square Dance Club. He also drives six days a week to the Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club to swim laps. He was an avid golfer for over 55 years, always walking the course; he no longer plays actively but can be spotted swinging a golf club in his backyard.

USDA Presidents LPaul and Sally Schmidt, along with Past President Patty Wilcox, were honored to present Bob Brown with the USDA Centennial Award at the Promenaders Square Dance on September 28, 2017. One of the local television stations was present at the dance to record both the Centennial Award presentation as well as Bob dancing in a square. Bob, along with other local square dancers, was also featured on one of the morning news programs the following day.

Bob is squared up & ready to dance.



Bob is pictured here with Past USDA President Patty Wilcox and current USDA Presidents LPaul & Sally Schmidt, who are all working toward their Centennial Award.



COLORADO CLUBS JOIN TOGETHER

Submitted by Judy Taylor

Two state-wide events were held this last summer, which gave all of the Colorado square dancers an opportunity to dance together! The first was held in July---dancing on the field of Coors Stadium, before the Colorado Rockies game on July 23.

This all started in 2011, when Denver Council's President, Jim Langdon, arranged with the Rockies management, and subsequently the PR person, to pursue the idea of having a two-song tip of square dancing before a game.

After about a year of planning it was agreed that if dancers sold a certain number of \$10.00 tickets (it changed each year---in 2017 it was 700!), we would be allowed to dance on the field. By agreement, we were to wear purple tops, white skirts for the gals and black pants for the guys and tennis shoes ONLY! Design contests for purple T-shirts were held for a few of the following years. Bear Miller graciously would record two songs, with 10 seconds of square dance talk in between.

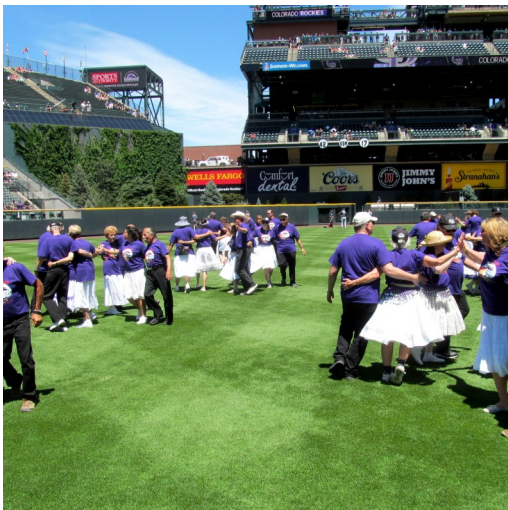
The numbers of dancers changed over the years, depending on how much the word got out to all the Colorado clubs (publicity, again!). It was a spectacular sight to see almost 100 dancers, all dressed alike and dancing on the beautiful green grass of the Rockies' field!

The second event, Colorado's State Proclamation Dance, was held at the State Capitol in Denver, on September 13th. The proclamation declares that Square Dancing is the official Folk Dance of Colorado, and was signed by the Governor twenty-five years ago. Years ago, Governor Romer was a square dancer and danced with us!

Dancer clubs from all four Colorado Council areas are invited to square dance in the Rotunda, around the oval of the north wing. Generally, over the years, an average of seven squares would dance, with others showing up to support and work the event. Usually all four Councils are represented, with a local Denver caller calling the action for an hour. This year, it was Mike Olivieri calling, with Marshall Blaney doing the advertising and promotion. We finally got some publicity through The Denver Post and TV's Channel 7.

Most of the dancers wear their "Colorado Flag" outfits---white and blue, with the big red "C" surrounding a bright yellow sun. It makes a strikingly recognizable logo that people from all over the U.S. notice. Tourists from many states and countries have scheduled their tours to our state Capitol, and they get a "bonus" in viewing the dancing, looking down from the third floor alcove. Sometimes, even state Senators "get" to watch!

It's an eye-opener for all spectators to see the fun we have in this activity. And we all enjoy explaining that square dancing is alive and well.





USDA PROGRAMS and PRODUCTS



USDA is probably best known for our Insurance Program for dancers, but are you familiar with the following?

Additional information on each of these programs and any required forms can be found on our web site

www.usda.org -or- by contacting the program chairman.

USDA TRAVELER PROGRAM

Do you like to travel? Do you like to attend square dances wherever you go? Then look into the USA Traveler Program! The purpose of the USA traveler program is to promote visitation between dancers in all 50 states by encouraging dancers to visit club dances, festivals, state conventions, or national conventions across state lines and around the United States. The goal – to dance at an event in each of the 50 United States!

A badge and a bar will be awarded to participants after they have visited at least 12 states. The goal is to dance in all 50 states and any participant who visits 48 or 50 states will also be awarded paid admission to the next National Square Dance Convention.

Program Chairman: Joy Vaccari—email: usda.travelers@usda.org -or- javajoy2@cox.net

USDA CENTENNIAL AWARD PROGRAM

Are you aware that we have dancers 100 years old that are still active in their dance clubs? Very few of us reach that age, but USDA recognizes and honors those that do with a “Centennial Award”. They will receive a framed certificate of “Recognition and Appreciation” signed by the president and the Regional Vice President of USDA, a “USDA Centennial Award” lapel pin and a special “Feature Article” about them in the USDA NEWS.

Program Chairman: Larry Dunkel—email: usdanews@usda.org

USDA YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year the United Square Dancers of America – the national dancers’ organization – awards a merit-based scholarship to a student who has shown their dedication to the promotion and perpetuation of the total square dance movement, including square dance, round dance, contra and clogging. If you know of a youth dancer who is a high school senior or college freshman that would like to apply for the scholarship, the application form can be downloaded from the USDA website, <http://USDA.org/trifold/ISy0403.pdf>.

Donations are needed to continue making this \$1,000 scholarship available. You can make a donation in memory of a fellow dancer, in honor of a special occasion, or simply because you support youth square dancing. USDA is a 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which qualify for tax deduction status.

Youth Advisor: Bonnie Abramson—email: usda.youth.advisor.@usda.org

USDA HANDICAPABLE PROGRAM

The USDA Handicapable program is monetary in nature, consisting of allocating monies toward the registration fee for eligible Handicapable dancers to attend the National Square Dance Convention. The only requirement is that they must be a Handicapable dancer and a member of a Handicapable club. Any Handicapable club in the United States may apply for these funds. In order to apply for funds, a club contact person must complete the application form and send it to the USDA Handicapable Committee chairperson.

Program Chairman: Alitia Becker—email: usda.handicapable.dancers@usda.org

Continued on following page



USDA PROGRAMS and PRODUCTS

Continued from previous page



USDA PUBLICATIONS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

USDA has produced club leadership and educational materials for use by dancers and leaders to promote and perpetuate the dance activity. We offer a large variety of titles on club recruiting, officer responsibility, the Dancers Code of Ethics & Conduct, and much more. Most of these are Information Sheets and one sheet trifolds printed on both sides of the page. All of the Information Sheets can be downloaded for printing as either MS WORD or as a PDF copy.

In addition to the Information Sheets, we have several Pamphlets (5 1/2 X 8 1/2) and Booklets (8 1/2 X 11) available. Individuals may order up to a maximum of 10 copies of each Tri-fold Information Sheet and up to a maximum of 2 copies of each Pamphlet or Booklet at no charge. Additional copies of Pamphlets are \$.50 each and Booklets are \$1.00 each. Please make check payable to USDA. USDA materials are not copyrighted and duplication for club and organization use is permitted and encouraged.

Additional information and ordering forms and instructions can be found under publications at www.usda.org

Chairman: Tony & Diana Rock email: usda.education.publications@usda.org

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM



Support USDA by Using AmazonSmile for your online purchases!



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

Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com

**FUND RAISING
PROGRAM**

Welcome to
amazon smile

<http://smile.amazon.com>

Share AmazonSmile with your friends so
they can also support USDA:



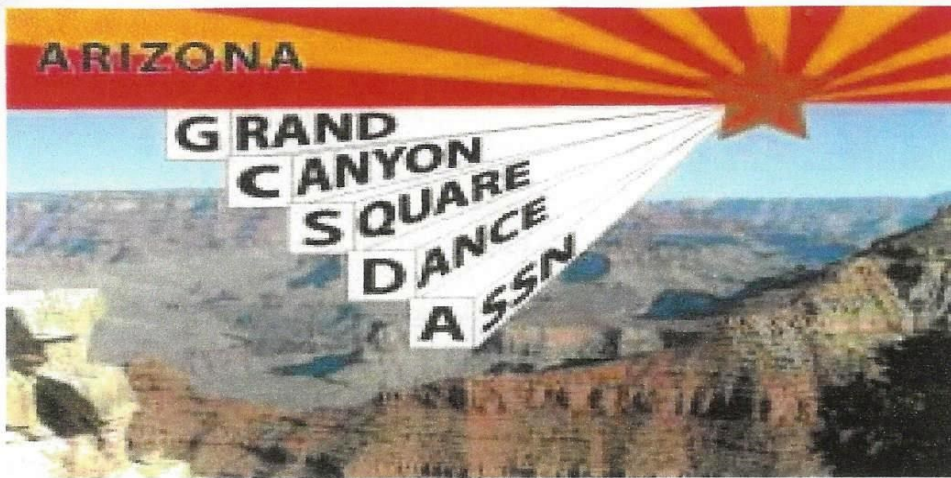
WAYS and MEANS



Help support USDA by purchasing products with our name and logo. Shirts, Jackets, Tote Bags and more can be seen at www.usda.org



Ways and Means Chairmen: Mark & Bina Krebsbach
email: usda.waysandmeans@usda.org



20TH ANNUAL SQUARE DANCE FESTIVAL MARCH 2 & 3, 2018

PATRIOTISM IS SQUARING UP IN ARIZONA



WE WANT YOU!



TO JOIN GCSDA
AT
OSBORN MIDDLE SCHOOL
1102 W HIGHLAND
PHOENIX , AZ 85013

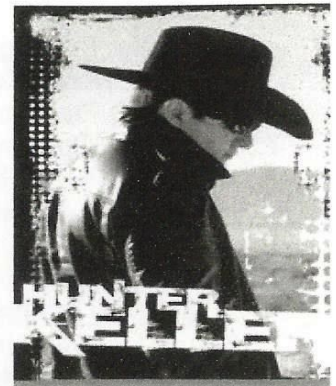
www.azsquaredance.com

Information
602-222-9339

Rodena Josey
2018 Chairman

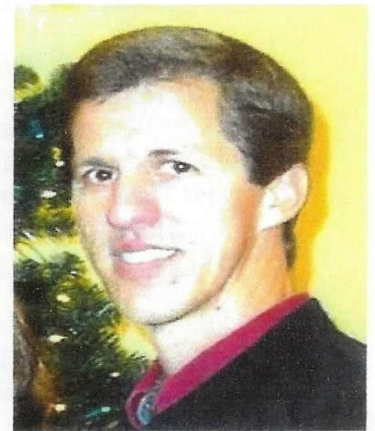


Featured Caller



Hunter Keller
(Billings, MT)

Featured Caller



Lee Hailey
(Glendale, AZ)

Featured Cuer



Lynn Van Alta
(Tucson, AZ)

20th Annual GCSDA Square Dance Festival

Friday Evening Plus Hall

Hunter Keller

7:00 - 7:30 Pre-Rounds
7:30 - 7:45 1st Tip Mainstream – Hunter & Lee
7:45 - 10:15 Plus w/ Rounds
10:15 - Last Tip Mainstream—Hunter & Lee

Saturday Daytime Plus Hall

10:00 - 11:30 Workshop & Dance
Hunter Keller

11:30 LUNCH 1:30

1:30 - 4:00 Workshop & Rounds
Lynn Van Atta

4:00 TO 6:30 DINNER

Saturday Evening Plus Hall

Hunter Keller

7:00 - 7:30 Pre-Rounds
7:30 - 7:45 Grand March
1st Tip Mainstream - Hunter & Lee
7:45 - 10:15 Plus w/ Rounds
10:15 - Last Tip Mainstream - Hunter & Lee

Friday Evening Mainstream Hall

Lee Hailey

7:45 - 10:15 Mainstream & Line Dances
10:15 - Last Tip in the Plus Hall

Saturday Daytime Mainstream Hall

10:00 - 11:30 Workshop & Dance
Lee Hailey

11:30 LUNCH 1:30

1:30 - 4:00 Fun Dance
Hunter Keller & Lee Hailey

4:00 TO 6:30 DINNER

Saturday Evening Mainstream Hall

Lee Hailey

7:30 - Grand March in Plus Hall
7:45 - 10:15 Mainstream & Line Dances
10:15 - Last Tip in the Plus Hall



R. V. Parking
East side of School Hall
In the School Bus Lanes
After 4 PM

Friday & Saturday Evenings

Snacks provided by the various GCSDA clubs

**FREE COFFEE & WATER AT ALL TIMES
HOSTED BY GCSDA**

Schedule of Fees (Per Person / Kids Under 18 1/2 Off)

All Events: Friday & Saturday

Pre-Registration till (March 1st - 2018 - \$25.00
On-Site Registration - \$35.00

Individual Events:

On-Site Registration Only
Friday Evening Dance - \$20.00
Saturday Evening Dance - \$20.00
Saturday All Day & Sat Night - \$30.00

SQUARE DANCE ATTIRE SUGGESTED FOR EVENING DANCES



**List of Hotel - Motels
See GCSDA Website
www.azsquaredance.com**

Please No Parking On The Sidewalk

**Make Checks Payable to:
GCSDA**

**Mail To:
GCSDA Festival
C/O Peggy Gray
808 N 82nd St #F114
Scottsdale, AZ 85257-3897**

Pre-Registration Form (\$25.00 ea—Postmark before March 1—2018)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
Phone: _____ Email Address: _____
Amount Enclosed: # Dance Tickets: _____ / Amount: _____

www.azsquaredance.com

602-222-9339

Revised 01-14-2017



*With Four Seasons of Color
See You In Denver
63rd Colorado State Festival
June 8 - 10, 2018*



Featured Callers

Gary Shoemake & Jerry Gilbreath

*AND COLORADO LOCAL
CALLERS AND CUERS*

Featured Cuer

*Steve and Lori
Harris*

Fabulous Banquet Sat. Night.

*Crowne Plaza, DIA
15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver, CO
www.cpdenverairport.com
reservations: 303-371-9494*

*For More Information:
ColoradoSquareDanceFestival.com
Char and Vern Hein
2018 CO State Festival Chairman
303-984-7074*

*Hosted by the Denver Area Square and Round Dance Council
and sponsored by the Colorado State Square Dance Association.*



44th Annual Square and Round Dance Convention
August 2-3-4, 2018
Gatlinburg, TN

WOOD FLOORS!
LIVE* BAND

DANCING GALORE
and So Much More

DANCING!
SQUARES
 Mainstream
 Plus
 Advanced
 Challenge
 Hot Hash
 Progressive Squares
 Hex Squares
 DBD
 Singing Calls
LINES
ROUNDS
 Phase II-VI
 Different Rhythms

& MORE!!!
 Fashion Show
 Singles Program
 Vendors
 Contra
 Grand March
 Sewing Clinic
 Workshops
 Intros
 After-Party

Tentative Schedule
 Thursday: Trail-In Dance 8-11 pm
 Friday: 10 am to 11 pm
 Saturday: 10 am to 11 pm
 *Live Band: Evening Hours

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

www.TNSquareDance.org
 Facebook: TN Square and Round Dance Convention



67th National Square Dance Convention®
"Show-Me Kansas City 2018"

Registration Form
June 27, 28, 29, 30, 2018 Kansas City, Missouri
Online Registration - Website www.07nsdc.com



For Convention Use Only
Registration # _____
Date Received _____
Check # _____

Registrations are non-transferable.
 Registration fee per Registrant: Adult \$60.00.
 Youth born after June 30, 2000 \$30.00; 5 and under - born after June 30, 2013, Free admission. A \$10.00 fee per adult, \$37.50 will be imposed for cancellations or changes. Prices will increase May 1, 2018 to: \$75 for adults, \$37.50 for Youth born after June 30, 2000. Registrations received after April 30, 2018; e-mail confirmation only. ☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR HANDICAP EQUIPMENT ACCESSIBILITY INFO

For badges **First Name** **Last Name** **Subtotals**

Adult				00
Adult				00
Adult/Child:			DOB / /	00
Adult/Child:			DOB / /	00
Adult/Child:			DOB / /	00
Program Book widely schedules (\$15.00 after 4/30/2018)		#	@\$10.00-	00
Syllabus:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Contra	#	@\$10.00-
On CD:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Contra	#	@\$10.00-
Syllabus and CD	<input type="checkbox"/> Rounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Contra	#	@\$16.00-
Sew & Save Book - "Sew with MO"	<input type="checkbox"/> CD	<input type="checkbox"/> Book	#	@\$10.00-
Cookbook - "Kansas City Cookbook"		#	@\$13.00-	00
Wednesday Special Event, Dinner & Show "Duke Mason"		#	@\$47.00-	00
Tours - Please see reverse for details & instructions	Show Only	#	@\$25.00-	00
Tours Total				00

RV Camping - (4 nights minimum) (pricing on reverse side) ----- # ----- @ \$ ----- 00

Camping Reservation Deadline 01/01/18

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1

(U.S. Funds) Grand Total _____ 00

No Refunds/Cancellations after April 30, 2018
 ALL campers MUST Register. You will receive a profile form when your payment is received.
 To Camp together, you must stay in same camp area, and you must send in camping profiles together.
Bus passes for registered campers only Price TBA, and may be purchased when submitting your camping profile.

☐ Check Enclosed # _____ ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Print Name On Card _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code _____

Registration - Jim & Edythe Weber: 816-781-3598 Fax: 816-781-3041

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code _____

Instructions for Registration (left side)

1. Print legibly all names, address, city, state, zip code, country, and DOB of youth (age 5-17 by 6/30/2018 - 1/2 price) to ensure correct registration.
2. Correctly enter all amounts in the Subtotals including registration fee for each dancer plus quantity and amounts for all other materials and tours.
3. Important! Daily schedules are only available with the purchase of a Program Book. Daily schedules will not be available separately at the Convention. Most dancers will want to purchase the Program Book.
4. Correctly calculate the Total and include credit card information (with signature), check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the 67th National Square Dance Convention* and return it with the Registration Form. **Do Not Send Cash. No Single Day Registrations Sold.**
5. **RV Camping.** Indicate RV Camping on your Registration Form, and enclose the required fees (four-night minimum) to cover the nights that you intend to stay. Please check appropriate boxes. RV camp sites will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. There are 30 amp & 30 amp electrical service with water, Free Dump station available to registered guests. To camp together, you must stay in same camp area and you must send in camping profile together. For more info, contact RV Vice Chairman, Gene & Mary Miller, phone: 816-517-8547.
6. **Bus Service for 67th NSDC registered campers only.** bus passes may be purchased when submitting your camping profile. **Camping Reservation Deadline 01/01/18**
7. Tour forms and payments are to be mailed directly to: 67th National Square Dance Convention*, PO Box 767, Liberty, MO 64069-0767. For Tour information and form go to www.67nsdc.com and click tours. Include completed Tour Form with this Registration Form.
8. A \$10.00 fee per registrant will be assessed for cancellation. No refunds after April 30, 2018.

Instructions for Housing (right side)

1. The 67th NSDC Housing Committee is partnering with Kansas City Convention & Visitors Bureau to provide website access for housing reservations. Complete the housing portion on the right side of the front of this form. This form must be received by April 1, 2018 to receive the 67th NSDC contracted room rates. If you request housing at hotel codes 1-3, you must stay a minimum of four (4) nights, including Wednesday through Saturday, June 27-30, 2018.
 2. Only one person per room should complete a hotel reservation request on the front of this form. Please list all room occupants. (The Housing Committee does not find or assign roommates.)
 3. Shared Rooms or Same Hotel Requests can be made through the online site or registrations must be in the same envelope and mailed to arrive together.
 4. All Block Housing requests staying in same hotel are due by January 1, 2018 submitted with name and telephone number of leader to Jim & Elythe Weber, Registration & Housing Chairman at registration@67nsdc.com
 5. Indicate three (3) choices of housing preference, by specifying hotel code number. Be sure to indicate 1 or 2 beds as well as preferences. Hotels will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis according to availability.
 6. **Hotel Reservations:** Your reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. Your credit card will not be charged for the room in advance of arrival, an alternative form of payment may be presented at check-in.
 7. **Hotel Confirmations:** You will receive a hotel confirmation via email or mail. If you do not receive your confirmation by March 1, 2018, please contact the 67th NSDC Housing Committee by: (a) email: registration@67nsdc.com; (b) phone: 816-781-3398; (c) mail Registration to 67NSDC, PO Box 767, Liberty, MO 64069-0767 through April 1, 2018.
 8. **Hotel Changes:** After receiving Hotel Confirmation, if you need to change your Hotel reservation you must contact the 67th Housing Committee by using the information provided above in #7. The policies vary for each hotel.
 9. **Hotel Cancellations:** Your confirmed hotel will assess a one-night room/tax charge for cancellations received less than 72 hours prior to arrival.
 10. **Hotel Early Departure:** An early departure fee may be charged unless the hotel is notified at check-in or before of a change in the planned length of stay.
- The "Show-Me Board Team" of the 67th National Square Dance Convention* is committed to making our convention fun and enjoyable for you! Call or E-mail us if you have a concern or suggestion.
Call (816) 781-3398 or email registration@67nsdc.com

Map of Hotels



Code	Hotel Parking Fees Apply at hotels 1, 2 & 3 Require 4 Night Minimum Stay Wed. - Sat Hotels 1 has Underground walkway to convention center	1 or 2 Beds 1-2 People	2 Beds 3 People	2 Beds 4 People	Distance
1	Marriott Downtown (Headquarters)	\$145	\$160	\$175	2 Blocks
2	Crowne Plaza / Caller Over	\$154	\$164	\$174	1 Block
3	Hotel Phillips	\$169	\$169	\$169	3 Blocks

CAMP GROUNDS

Bus service available for campers only (Wednesday through Saturday of Convention)

Camping Reservation Deadline 01/01/18

To Camp Together You Must Stay In Same Camp Area.

1	Camp Area C	\$45	(Water & Electric w/50 amps)
2	Camp Area E & F	\$35	(Electric 30 amps with water available)



Pre-Registration
68th National Square Dance Convention®
"Come Dance and Explore Georgia"
June 26 – 29, 2019

Email Form

This form and registration rate is void March 10, 2018

Register now for the **68th National Square Dance Convention®** in Atlanta, Georgia.
 Your early registration helps to defray preparation cost and gives you free admittance
 to the Saturday evening dance at the Pre-Convention on March 10, 2018.

Thank you for your support!

Please complete the form below and send it along with your check or credit card info to:

68th National Square Dance Convention®

P.O. Box 441, Dillard GA 35037

Email: registration@68nsdc.org Website: <http://www.68nsdc.org>

Registration Information: (828) 349-0905

Please Print Clearly

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: (His) _____
 Partner's (if different) _____ First Name: (Her) _____
 Youth: _____ DOB: _____ Youth: _____ DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Country: _____ Email: _____
 Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Amount Paid (US Currency Only) \$50.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Youth born after June 26, 2001 \$25.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

\$10 cancellation fee per registration. No refund after April 30, 2019

Payment (circle one): ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Credit Card No: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Statement Mailing Address: _____

Come Early or Stay Late
Come Dance
&
Explore Georgia



Pre-Registration
69th National Square Dance Convention® Spokane, Washington
June 17, 18, 19, & 20, 2020
Keeping the Vision Alive in 2020

Register now for the **69th National Square Dance Convention®**. Your early registration helps defray cost and
 gives you free admittance to the Saturday evening Pre-Convention Dance on February 9, 2019
 Please complete the form below and send it along with your credit card info or check payable to:

69th National Square Dance Convention® 4511
 Bittersweet Lane
 Lansing, MI 48917
 Email: reg2020@comcast.net

Registration #: _____
 (Internal use only)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Thank you for your support!

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Partner's (if different): _____ First Name: _____
 Youth: _____ DOB: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: () _____

Mobile: () _____ Amount paid (U.S. currency only)

\$50.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

If born after June 17, 2002 \$25.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Check # _____ Cash: _____ Credit Card _____ Total \$ _____

\$10 cancellation fee per registration - No refunds after April 30, 2021

This form and registration rate is void after February 9, 2019

Credit card (circle one): MC VISA # _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____

Statement Mailing Address _____ (if different) _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

If you are a dance leader please check all that apply:

☐ MS ☐ Plus ☐ Adv. ☐ Challenge ☐ Cue 2 ☐ 3 / 4 ☐ 5 / 6 Contra ☐ Logging ☐ C/W lines

Convention Badge required for entrance to all convention activities. Dressy casual attire allowed until 6:00 p.m.
 Proper square dance attire required after 6:00 p.m. for all dancers

(Internal Use Only) Accepted By: _____ Date: _____ Revised 7-16-2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING



Special Dances for 2018



1/19/18	Don Moger – Plus/Mainstream
1/20/18	Don Moger – Advanced
2/2/18	Scott Smith - Plus/Mainstream
2/13/18	Don Moger – Plus/Mainstream
2/24/18	Don Moger – Advanced
3/2/18	Romney Tannehill - Plus/Mainstream
3/3/18	Romney Tannehill – Advanced

Locations:

***Friday Club Dances are located at the Harriet A. Treem
Elementary, 1698 Patrick Lane, Henderson, NV***

7:00 to 9:30pm

***Saturday Advance Dances are located at the Riviera Mobile
Home Community, 2038 Palm Street, Las Vegas, NV***

Noon to 2:00pm

For more details - www.goodtimessquaredancers.org

★ ★ ★
Swinging Stars Square Dance Club
★ ★ ★
Las Vegas, Nevada

February 14th, 2018 7 - 9 pm

"You are my Sunshine"

Caller: Vern Vernazzaro

Roger Bryan School • 8255 W. Katie Av. • Las Vegas, Nv.

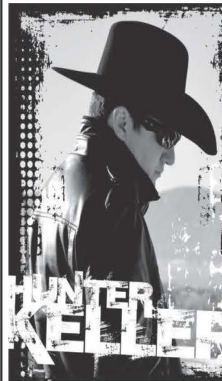
Cost: Members 5.00 Guests 6.00

For More Information: Call Mary 702-562-1550

★ ★ ★
Swinging Stars Square Dance Club
★ ★ ★
Las Vegas, Nevada

59th Anniversary Dance

Saturday May 5, 2018



Hunter Keller

Caller

Mountain View Lutheran Church

9550 W. Cheyenne Av.

Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

Mary (cell) 262-994-9139

★ ★ ★
Swinging Stars Square Dance Club
★ ★ ★
Las Vegas, Nevada

April 1st, 2018

Gary Shoemake

Advanced 6:30 - 7:30 pm • Squares and Rounds 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Mainstream & Plus 7:30 - 9:30

Meadows Mobile Home Park

2900 S. Valley View - Las Vegas, NV. 89102

Tell Guard at gate your going to the Square Dance

For More Information: Call

Rosie (cell) 310-739-7673

Mary (cell) 262-994-9139

★ ★ ★
Swinging Stars Square Dance Club
★ ★ ★
Las Vegas, NV.

Come to Dance....

Enjoy the Shows....

Have fun....

Join us for Square Dancing

Every Wednesday Evening 7 - 9

Roger Bryan School • 8255 W. Katie Av. • Las Vegas, Nv.

For More Information: Call Mary 702-562-1550



OPENING CEREMONIES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

COME EARLY, BE ENTERTAINED, AND DANCE!

The **5 Star Jazz Band** is a non-profit community youth band dedicated to providing Kansas City's top young musicians, ages 12-21, the unique opportunity to rehearse and perform in a professional caliber jazz ensemble. They perform an average of 35-45 gigs a year, along with meeting all their music and band obligations at their local middle and high schools. The band performs year-round throughout the metropolitan area, from local community, charity, and holiday events to professional/corporate venues. They have performed for the Missouri Governor in the Capitol Rotunda, in Branson at Dick Clark's Legends Theater, the Branson Belle Showboat, and Silver Dollar City, as well as for the U.S. Men's Olympic Swimming Association with Tony Orlando at the Muehlebach Hotel.

This is the same group that performed for the Friday night entertainment at Pre-Convention in March 2017 and obtained overwhelming reviews from all who attended.

They are excited to be returning to entertain square dancers on Wednesday during the 67th National Square Dance Convention®. Their high-energy repertoire of over 100+ charts from Big Band, Swing, Jazz, Blues, Funk and Latin styles will surprise and entertain you.

Come early! There will be space and time to dance to this group on the floor before the Opening Ceremonies begin.



ARTS Travel The Dancer's Online Travel Web Site



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

Turn your Vacations & Dance Travel into Donations

Book your personal and business and
dance travel on our new
travel website,
www.arts-dancetravel.com !

Every time you do, Alliance of Rounds
Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS)
will receive a portion of the travel com-
missions.

You get the same low rates offered by
other travel websites while helping to
raise funds for ARTS.

It's simple!



Book your travel to the
67th NSDC in Kansas City
and support dancing at the
same time.

Logon to

www.arts-dancetravel.com



67th National Square Dance Convention®

June 27 - 30, 2018 - Kansas City, MO



You 2 Can Dance

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

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

- * Detailed Descriptions of Each Dance Form
- * Find a Caller, Find a Cuer, and Find a Club sections
- * High Definition Pictures

This site was created by ARTS-Dance to be a tool for promoting Square Dancing, Round Dancing, and Contra Dancing. Rather than trying to describe each activity on a flyer posted on a bulletin board, you can direct the 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.

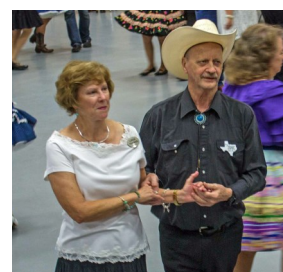


THE ROVING CAMERA

Tomball Sesquicentennial Promenaders 32nd Anniversary Dance
Caller-Ken Bower **Cuer- Martha Koslosky**
Tomball, Texas-suburb of Houston



22nd Evening in Paris, TX - Gary Shoemake, Ken Bower, Mike Bramlett, Darryl McMillan & Christine Hixon



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Send the USDA NEWS Editor your State Association/Federation

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

2018

- Feb 23-24 **64th Florida Square & Round Dance Convention**
Daytona Ocean Center
Daytona, FL 32118
www.floridasquaredance.com
- Mar 02-03 **Grand Canyon Square Dance Festival**
Osborn Middle School
1102 W Highland
Phoenix, AZ 85013
Info: 602 222-9339
www.azsquaedance.com
See Ad Pages 15-16
- Mar 09-10 **63rd Annual Mississippi Square and Round Dance Festival**
Pearl Senior Center
110 Valentour Rd.
Pearl, MS 392308
Info: Connie Wise 662 418-7012
- Mar 15-17 **Virginia—WASCA'S 59th Spring Square & Round Dance Festival**
Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel
Alexandria, VA
Info: Terry Jones 703 220-4872
Arbell Thompson 703 729-2109
- Mar 23-24 **Heart of America Federation Festival**
Osage Trail Middle School
2101 N Twyman Rd.
Independence, MO
Info: Jerry Belgum 816 836-7496
- Apr 13-14 **55th Iowa Square & Round Dance Convention**
Quad-Cities Isle of Capri Convention Center
2021 State St.
Bettendorf, IA 52804



2018

- Apr 20-22 **California State Square Dance Convention**
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Ave
Yuba City, CA 95991
<http://castate2018.org/index.html>
- Apr 27-28 **43rd South Carolina State Convention**
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Ctr
1101 Lincoln St
Columbia, SC 29201
Info: Email—d.goley@yahoo.com
Ken & Darlene Padgett 843 334-8357
- May 04-05 **58th Ohio Square Dance Convention**
Crowne Plaza Hotel North
6500 Doubletree Ave
Columbus, OH 43229
www.58ohdc2018.com
- May 17-19 **30th Virginia State Convention**
Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina Hotel
700 Settlers Landing Rd.
Hampton, VA 23669
Janice Stiles 828 215-3351
Bill Turley 757 236-1403
- May 26-27 **5th Annual Memorial Weekend Square Dance**
Omaha Firefighters Hall
60th at Grover St
Omaha, NE
Info: Jim & Cathy 402 393-4194
email: jrbellinger@cox.net
- Jun 8-10 **63rd Colorado State Festival**
Crowne Plaza, Denver Airport
15500 E 40th Ave
Denver, CO
Info: 303 371-9494
www.ColoradoSquareDanceFestival.com
See ad—page 17
- Jul 6-10 **42 Annual ROUNDALAB Convention**
Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
6808 S 107th E. Ave
71st St. exit, Hwy 169
Tulsa, OK 74133
Info: roundalab@roundalab.org

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Send the USDA NEWS Editor your State Association/Federation

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

Jul 26-28	16th U S Handicapable Convention Omni Hotel Jacksonville, FL Info: Rick Yates 386 734-2110	Sep 21-22	48th Annual Nebraska State Square and Round Dance Weekend Adams County Fairgrounds Hasting, NE Info: Larry Tidyman 308 340-3362 email: tidymancl@bwtelcom.net
Aug 2-4	44th TN State Square & Round Dance Convention W L Mills Conference Center 234 Historic Nature Trail Gatlinburg, TN www.tnsquaredance.org See AD page 18	Oct 20-22	58th Missouri State Square 'N Round Dance Convention Cowan Civic Center 500 Elm St. Lebanon, MO Info: 636 394-0998 www.Festival.SquareDanceMissouri.com
Aug 10-12	59th Wisconsin Square & Round Dance Convention Marshfield Senior High School 1401 E Becker Rd Marshfield, WI 54402 www.wisquaredanceconvention.org Info: 715 574-3246	Nov 2-4	29th Indiana Square & Round Dance Convention French Lick Springs Resort 8670 West State Rd 56 French Lick, IN 47432 www.insquaredanceconvention.com
Aug 17-18	29th Annual NC State Convention Hilton North Raleigh 3415 Wake Forrest Rd Raleigh, NC 27609 www.ncstateconvention.com		

FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2018 – June 27-30 Kansas City, MO

2019—June 26-29 Atlanta, GA

2020—June 17-20, Spokane, WA*

2021—June 23-26, Jackson. MS

*Note-This a one-time date change to avoid conflict with Hoopfest

Continued from page 4

commitment. We want to attract “younger” dancers, yet we make it almost impossible to keep them. Offering me free lessons isn’t an incentive. I’m of the generation that if something is free – that’s about what it’s worth. Since money isn’t the issue – what is? It’s time! If I stay in lessons (assuming they’re short enough – you’ll NEVER sell me on something that’s gonna take ¾ of a year to learn) and graduate, I may be able to come to club dances relatively regularly. However, I won’t be able to do the Tuesday night club, the Wednesday night Plus lessons, the Thursday night review session, and the Saturday night special. I have other things to do – kids, other friends, maybe even bowling. I just want to take my wife out for a fun evening. I don’t want a new lifestyle.

So, to recap: Here are my observations and suggestions. Relax the dress code. Recruit. Get your club involved in the community. Get your club involved in the community and lastly, try something different. Our old way just isn’t working. Be open for change.

Editor: This speech was given almost 15 years ago, yet the problems listed here are still very much evident today. Attendance at last year’s convention was less than 4,000. Clubs are folding at an alarming rate and state conventions are being discontinued. What part of “we’re in trouble” do we not understand? We need to wake up folks. We are running out of time.

Until next time.....Larry D

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.

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