

# DANCERgram

May 2025



... for the latest news in the square and round dance community.

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## FCA President's Message

The coming of May brings to many of us callers the annual reality that many of our square dancers return to the northland for the summer months. That provides us with a challenge and an opportunity that is one and the same. The challenge is to bring new dancers into our activity from our numbers of full-time residents. It's not as if the challenge were a new one. We've been dealing with this challenge for many years — attracting new dancers to our square dance hobby. In this digital world we've not seemed to find the right communication to our friends outside our hobby. But that doesn't mean we should give up.

It does mean we must keep trying to attract new dancers and trying to attract them in new and different (and perhaps to us strange ways). Once in a while our old methods of invitation to the dance work. Maybe if we could find a way to square dance with thumbs our activity might be more attractive to our younger population. You are aware of the virtual square dancing that is going on. A caller in one location with, via the internet, dancers spread all over the world. It seems to work for the more complicated programs of dancing, but I've not heard of success at the learning stage of dancing. You might be the one to discover the means of success.

We do need some success stories for attracting the more digital audience into our modern western square dancing. I'm encouraging you to try new ways, new means of communication, new methods of teaching, new programs of introduction to our hobby. Be bold and experimental. Be willing to try almost anything. We need your ideas, your experience and your stories of attempts to increase our square dance numbers. Maybe something in your attempt and your story will be the key to the future of our activity.

I've said all this ignoring a large part of our challenge — the cost of venues for dancing. We've not done a good job of marching forward with the economics of square dancing. Owners of venues have been increasing prices in step with the economy while dancers and callers seem to lag behind. Prices for other entertainment have increased steadily -- as you notice when you participate in those other entertainments. Movies, sports events, dining out, and virtually all other forms of entertainment have increased with the years. Adding to our challenge is the necessity to increase the price of our activity for both new and existing dancers.

I'm sorry to say I have no solutions that come with automatic success. I have only encouragement for each of us, and that includes me, to accept the challenges that lie before us and seek a solution we can share with the world of square dancing.

Keith Stevens  
President

## **Attention Florida Callers!**

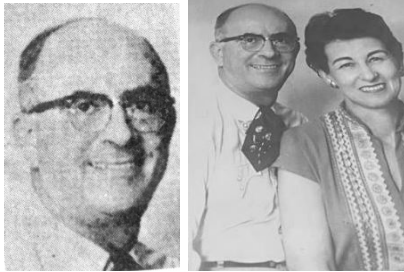
Now's the time to complete your profile to call at the 2026 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention to be held January 16 – 17, 2026, in Deltona, Florida. The deadline to register is July 31, 2025.

To register you must log into the FCA website <http://www.flcallersassoc.org/> click on the link member login, click on your name with your pin# then go to convention profile.

You must be a member of the Florida Callers Association to call at the Florida Convention.

Rod Barngrover, Caller Chairperson  
Jack Lewis, Assistant Caller Chairperson

# FLORIDA HISTORY



Baylis, Gene E. – born 1908 (dec'd 15 Sep 1971) & Ima F. – born 1914 (dec'd 2010) Gene was a caller and a cuer. They were the conceivers of the Knothead Convention. Obit from Bow & Swing, Nov 1971: "Gene Baylis – well known to dancers, died on Friday, Sep 15<sup>th</sup>, 1971, after a long illness. A member of the Florida Callers Association, Charter member and 1<sup>st</sup> president of the Round Dance Council of Florida, Gene contributed to the recreation in many ways. His pet project was the organization of the Square Wheelers, a group of paraplegics who became so proficient in complicated wheelchair maneuvers that it won the group national acclaim. Gene's dedication kept the Square Wheelers active until he became ill and was unable to spend the time with them as instructor. Gene and wife Ima composed many dance routines. One of the best loved is 'Dreamy Melody'. At the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the R/D Council 8 charter member couples honored the Baylises with a demonstration of 'Twilight Waltz' composed by Gene & Ima and taught by them at the 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday for Rounds held in Clearwater in 1959. By profession Gene was an architect, a graduate in architecture of the University of Miami and the University of Florida. He designed the Crossway Airport Inn Motel, the Octagon Tower Apts (across from the Miami Beach Convention Hall) and the James Ave. condominiums, to name a few among many." Both buried in Woodlawn Park North Cemetery & Mausoleum, Miami, FL.

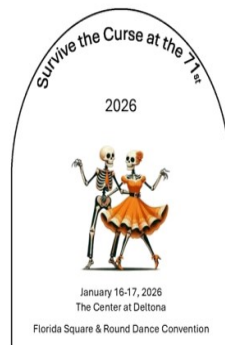
1983 - inducted into the **FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS HALL OF FAME**

1959-1960 – Round Dance Council of Florida Leader (President - Gene)

1956-1957 - Florida Callers Association President

# 71<sup>st</sup> Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention

*71st Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention*



*Survive The Curse at the 71<sup>st</sup>*

*January 16-17, 2026*

*The Center at Deltona  
1640 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Deltona, FL 32725*

*Trail End Dance:  
Thursday, January 15, 2026  
COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!*

Be sure to also register for the Friday night Dinner  
Visit [www.floridasquaredance.com](http://www.floridasquaredance.com) for more information and to register.

The next State Convention is fast approaching! It will be at the Center in Deltona on January 16 – 17, 2026. The theme is Halloween and the tagline is “Survive the Curse of the 71<sup>st</sup>”. So start working on your costumes!

You can start showing your support now by participating in several fundraisers.

There are three different types of “ads” you can purchase in the state convention program book.

1. Business Ad - There are different size ads you can purchase and they don't have to be for a square dance business. Advertise your personal business! Callers, Cuers, and Prompters, why not purchase an ad and help support the convention? Go to [https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026\\_Ad\\_Receipt\\_Invoice.pdf](https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026_Ad_Receipt_Invoice.pdf) for the details.
2. Personal Ad – Do you want to recognize someone's birthday or anniversary, thank the convention committee for a great job, etc.? There's an ad for that! Go to [https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026\\_Personal\\_Ad.pdf](https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026_Personal_Ad.pdf) for all the details.

3. **Booster Ad** – Do you want to advertise your club? Have your members sign up at \$1 per person. For 25 names, you can get a 1/4 page ad; with 35 names, you can get a half-page ad. The Program Book Chairperson will add your club logo. Go here for more information [https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026\\_Boosters.pdf](https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026_Boosters.pdf).

The deadline for all of these ads is December 15, 2025.

Don't wait until the last minute!

Maybe you won't be able to attend the convention this time, but you would like to support it. Donations are always welcome! For a suggested minimum donation of \$5 per person, your name will be listed in the convention program book as a Booster. All the information can be found at [https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026\\_Donation\\_Only\\_Ad\\_Form.pdf](https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/2026AllItems/2026_Donation_Only_Ad_Form.pdf).

The deadline is December 15, 2025.

We still need workers! More hands make less work. Where can you help? There are chairperson openings and openings on committees. There are some openings that will only take one hour! If you can help in any way, please contact the Convention General Chairperson, Carol Douget at 410-952-7408 (C), 321-704-4729 (H) or [dldcpa@yahoo.com](mailto:dldcpa@yahoo.com).

<b>NSDC BID SESSION</b>	<b>Where Are We Going for the 77th NSDC in 2028?</b>
<b>Friday, June 27 • 9 AM Shreveport Convention Center Exhibit Hall 2 (Auditorium)</b>	
<b>If you are participating in the Leadership Certification Program the morning Bid Session is one of two mandatory convention events to attend. The second is the Keynote Address.</b>	<b>Attend the electrifying Bid Session as the potential host city makes their proposal. Hear about this future convention city, facilities, and why you don't want to miss the National Square Dance Convention® in 2028!</b>
<b>An official announcement will be made during the Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, June 28, at 5 p.m. in Exhibit Hall 2 (Auditorium) concerning the results of the Bid Session.</b>	

Florida will be bidding on the  
2028 National Square Dance  
Convention at this Bid Session.  
Make plans to be there!



**CONTRALAB'S  
FREE**

# **ENERGIZER DANCE**

**6 - 7:45 PM  
TUESDAY JUNE 24  
ROOM 205**

**WARM UP WITH  
FREE CONTRA DANCING  
BEFORE THE 8 PM TRAIL END DANCE**

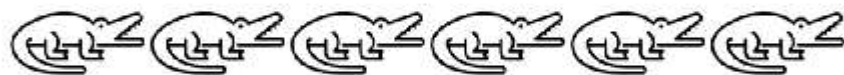
**74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention®  
Shreveport Convention Center • June 25-28, 2025**



**74<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>**  
**TRAIL END ROUND DANCE**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

*Come join us for an evening of round  
dancing to start our convention off on the*  
***Wild Side!***



**Shreveport Convention Center**

Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor • 8 pm to 10 pm

**Sponsored by The Red River Rounders Round Dance Club**  
**Bossier City, LA**





....AND MORE...