

# DANCERgram

July 2025



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

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## FCA President's Message



Summer is upon us and the heat is on! It's pretty warm in Florida almost everywhere. If you're traveling this summer, I trust you are heading for the cool spots. While you are traveling, I'm hoping you either take or make some time to do some square dance research. In this case research means visiting square dance clubs or just visiting with square dancers or callers to learn what they are doing. It's a great time to see what other parts of the square dance world are doing. Are there recruiting ideas that are working to bring new dancers into our fold? Are there teaching and calling plans that are attracting and keeping new dancers in the activity? Could one of the ideas

work for your club and your area? Research is just a fancy word for discovering what is happening in other areas and at other clubs and bringing possible new and different ideas back to your area and clubs.

When I said the 'heat is on' I didn't mean just the warm summer temperatures. The heat is on all of us callers to increase the square dance numbers. We must find a plan that will encourage new dancers into our square dance activity and keep them dancing.

I'm not convinced a new name or a new list of calls is the answer. If you examine the history of our activity, you will see that several times in the last thirty or forty years there have been new names for lists, revisions to lists by taking calls away and putting calls into lists. We've shortened lists, divided lists, renamed lists and the like. None of the new names or new lists have been terribly successful in attracting new and younger dancers to our hobby. And if you look closely none of them has been much of a real change. Maybe what we need is a radical change. I don't have one, but maybe you do or can find one in your travels. If and when you find it, please share it with all of us.

We are each 'under the gun' to come up with a plan will work for our activity. I'm hoping if and when you are traveling this summer, you will take or make time to have conversations with dancers and callers in the area you visit Research what is happening elsewhere. Search for and hopefully find, that idea that will bring success to our recruitment and retention of new dancers.

Have a great rest of the summer and enjoy your research.

Keith Stevens  
President

## FLORIDA HISTORY



Blaum, Gordon Stephen, Sr. – born Sep 29, 1924 (dec'd 7 Feb 2023) & Edna Mary Avedisian – born Jan 20, 1926 (dec'd 28 Jun 2003)

Gordon was once of the first callers in the Miami area. Obit from Van Orsdel Funeral and Cremation Services, Coral Gables, FL on 10 Feb 2023: "Gordon S. Blaum, Sr., 98 years old, of Lakeland, Florida, died peacefully on February 7, 2023. Gordon was born Sept. 29, 1924 in Jeffersontown, Kentucky. In high school, he enlisted in the Coast Guard and was proud to serve in WWII as a Signalman 3rd class and was third in line to load ammunition for guns. His ship was part of the landing on D-day that took place July 1, 1945.

After he returned home, he completed his High School degree at Lake Worth High School. He met and married the love of his life, Edna Avedisian. They lived in Miami most of their lives and attended University Baptist Church. Gordon received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Miami and a Masters degree from Florida. He taught at Merrick Elementary, Coral Gables, and later taught at the University of Miami. Gordon and his wife Edna enjoyed his passion for square dancing. He was the 1st square dance caller in Florida. He was most well-known for his square dance calling and even had a record that went platinum!

As an avid sportsman, he enjoyed playing in shuffleboard tournaments and also participated and earned medals in many events of the Senior Olympics. Gordon loved golf and has enjoyed walking and following his grandsons playing golf over the years.

Gordon is predeceased in death by his wife Edna. He is survived by his daughter Rosemary Olivia Blaum, his son Steve Blaum (Nancy), grandsons; Ryan Blaum (Ashley), Brent Blaum (Madeline), and Travis Majors, as well as 2 great grandsons; Bodie Blaum and Brooks Blaum.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, February 15th, at 12 noon at Miami Memorial Park. The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association."

Obit from Miami Herald dated 5 Jul 2003: "Edna Blaum, formerly of Miami, FL, died on Sat. June 28, 2003 in Winter Haven. She will be fondly missed by her husband, Gordon; children, Rosemary and Steve; and her three grandchildren, Ryan, Brent and Travis. Services will be held 2:00 p.m. at Miami Mem. Park, Saturday, July 5, 2003."

Obit from Lakeland [FL] Ledger dated 30 Jun 2003: "Clothing Store Owner – Winter Haven [FL] - Mrs. Edna Mary Blaum of Winter Haven died of heart failure Saturday (June 28, 2003). She was 77. Born Jan. 20, 1926, in Brockton, Mass., she came here from South Miami 17 years ago. She was the owner and operator of a western wear clothing store, a trainer for the National Sales Co. and a homemaker. She was a member of University Baptist Church in Coral Gables.

Mrs. Blaum is survived by her husband, Gordon S. Blaum, Hendersonville, N.C.; son, Charles S. Blaum, Jr., Coral Gables; daughter, Rosemary O. Major, Orlando; brother, Oscar Avedisian, Fort Walton Beach; and three grandchildren. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Miami Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 225 N. Michigan Ave. 1700 Chicago, Ill. 60601-7633. Oak Ridge Funeral Care, Haines City."

1985 - inducted into the **FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS HALL OF FAME**  
1954-1955 - Florida Callers Association President

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

Make your plans now to attend the 71<sup>st</sup> Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention in Deltona on January 16 – 17, 2026! The tag line is Survive the Curse of the 71<sup>st</sup>. It's a Halloween dance so start working n your costumes!

The registration form and online registration is now available at <https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/index.html>. You will also find information on hotels. There are several new hotels for this convention and there are links to each one and a special square dance rate at all of them.

Committee Chairpersons are still needed –

- Association Liaisons (C, NE, NW, and SE) – promote the convention in your respective areas, sell ways and means items, coordinate a convention benefit dance in your respective area, accept registrations and forward to the registration chairperson
- Entertainment – Coordinate the after party on Saturday night after the dance
- Flooring – make arrangements for the portable flooring to be laid in the appropriate halls
- Friday night Dinner (there will not be a show at this convention) – identify a caterer, establish the menu
- Hospitality – schedule greeters for one hour at each of the exterior entrances and distribute printed copies of the program book
- Publicity – write press releases for the state publications, exchange ads with the surrounding states for their state conventions
- Secretary – attend all committee meetings, take minutes, and send copies to the entire committee, maintain a current roster of all committee members and their contact information

## **77<sup>th</sup> (2028) National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>**

The bid session has been completed and Florida has been accepted as the site for the 77<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>! It will be held at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.

Work has started over the past few months, but now we really get to work! There are still committee positions open. Even though it's going to be in Florida, I only recognize 13 Florida dancers on the organizational chart. It seems to me that if we are going to host this convention, there should be a lot more Florida dancers participating on the committee. There are very specific instructions as to what needs to be accomplished by each committee. The current vacancies and job descriptions are as follows:

- **Assistant Business Vice Chairman**

- Reports directly to the Business Chairman
- Works closely with the Business Chairman to ensure your ability to assume the position of Chairman in case the need arises during the planning of your Convention.
- Attend all Business Committee meetings and other Convention Committee meetings as directed by the Business Chairman.
- Attend as many Conventions and Pre-Conventions as possible prior to your Convention to observe the activities of counterparts.
- Be available for the entire 4 years planning for the Convention to assist the Business Chairman.

- **Assistant Education Chairman**

- Maintains close working relationship with Education Chairman. Be able and willing to assume position of Education Chairman if need arises.
- Loyalty, congeniality, and a willingness to follow advice, direction and chain of command are important.
- Responsible to conduct the Convention's Leadership Certification Program (LCP) and assist Chairman on special projects and duties as Chairman designates.
- Is required to be at all meetings of Education Committee, Convention meetings called by the General Chairman, attend Pre-Convention Meetings, and National Square Dance Conventions® to be informed and an effective member of the Education Committee and the Convention.

- **Assistant Registration and Housing Vice Chairman**

- Answers directly to the Registration & Housing Chairman.
- Works closely with the Registration & Housing Chairman to ensure their ability to assume the position of Chairman in case the need may arise during the planning of your Convention.
- Attend all Registration & Housing Committee meetings and other Convention Committee meetings as directed by the Registration & Housing Chairman.
- Attend as many Conventions and Pre-Conventions as possible prior to their Convention to observe the activities of counterparts.
- Available for the entire 4 years planning of the Convention to assist the Registration & Housing Chairman.

- **Clogging Vice Chairman**

- Responsible for scheduling and conducting Committee meetings applicable to "your particular phase" of the Convention.
- Responsible for ensuring that official minutes be taken at all meetings, regardless of how large or small. These minutes must be forwarded to the General Chairman and Convention Secretary in a timely manner (no later than 3 weeks after the meeting). The minutes will go through the Convention approval and distribution process.
- Responsible for attending Social & Special Events meetings for "your particular phase" of the Convention as scheduled and other Committee meetings as directed following your Chain of Command.
- Responsible for proper and timely flow of information regarding "your phase assignment," up the Chain of Command, to the Social & Special Events Chairman.



- Attend as many Conventions and Pre-Conventions as possible prior to your Convention and Pre-Convention to observe and participate/volunteer for activities of counterparts.
- Attend your own Pre-Convention held approximately 15 months prior to the Convention and your Convention.
- Availability to include the entire planning phase of the Convention and through completion of Final Report for of the Social & Special Events Committee.
- Responsible for developing a timeline applicable to your committee to meet the requirements for Convention and Pre-Convention.
- Responsible to ensure each of areas are handled for the Wrap-Up Meetings held during the Convention. These meetings should be scheduled so they do not conflict with scheduled events the NEC members are required to attend, such as the Media Recognition Event, Keynote Speaker, Friday morning and afternoon Open and Closed Bid Session, Opening or Closing Ceremonies, Fashion Show, etc.; therefore, the Wrap-Up Meetings should be scheduled in conjunction with your General Chairman, NEC Advisors, and the NEC President.
- Responsible for the Social & Special Events Final Report sections from the beginning of the Convention through publication of the Final Report. This report must be sent out by the General Chairman no later than 90 days after the Convention.

- **Education Computer Coordinator**

- The Education Committee shall have a Computer Coordinator Liaison who will work cooperatively and coordinate with the Convention's Computer Coordinator. The Education Computer Coordinator Liaison is someone who has knowledge of computer office software programs and skills. This person will assist in the preparation of working calendars, planning materials, and database information for the Education Committee. In addition, the Education Computer Coordinator Liaison shall be a resource for Committee members seeking assistance with computer-related matters.
- The Education Computer Coordinator Liaison will gather and compile information about all scheduled events of the Education Committee. Information will be provided for the following purposes: advance publicity in cooperation with the Publicity Chairman, Convention Program Book, and daily booklet layouts in cooperation with the Program Committee, and for actual Convention time promotional materials and room assignment sheets.
- Along with program administration, the Education Computer Coordinator Liaison will aid the Committee in developing those computer tools necessary to provide reports and statistics in a process as efficient as possible. Outlines and specifications for these tools will be included with the Education Committee Final Report for review by future Conventions.
- Develop a thorough understanding of the National Convention Operating System (NCOS) scheduling system. This is the National Convention database for collecting Dance Leader Profiles, Registrations and Housing, Education Sessions and Program schedule assignments, etc.
- The site is <https://www.sdconvention.com/ncos/index.php>
- The Education Computer Coordinator Liaison will have a computer system in the Education Coordination room at the Convention for inquiries concerning Education Committee activities, providing printouts, and for timely statistical input.

- At the end of each Education Session, the Director (or a representative) for that session will hand carry the statistics and the evaluation report to the Coordination Room and give them to the Education Computer Coordinator Liaison (or a representative) who will enter them into the computer.
- To ensure the availability of data, the Education Computer Coordinator Liaison will be responsible for ensuring that all statistics are entered into the computer within an hour following the Education session. These statistics will include name of the Education session, name of presenter(s), and number in attendance; plus, any comments to be brought to attention of the Education Chairman.
- On Saturday of the Convention, following the final Education sessions, the Education Computer Coordinator Liaison will be responsible to ensure that all final statistics and reports have been entered into and/or generated from the computer in the Coordination Room.
- The Education Computer Coordinator Liaison will be responsible for ensuring that USB Flash Drives containing the files of the statistics are given to the following individuals at the Wrap-Up Meeting, which is scheduled on Saturday following the final Education sessions:
  - Education Chairman of the three upcoming Conventions (3 copies).
  - NEC Phase Advisors for Education Sessions (1 copy).
  - NEC Phase Advisors for Organizational Round Table and Bid Session. (1 copy).
  - NEC Phase Advisors Sew & Save (1 copy).
  - General Chairman (1 copy).
- The Education Computer Coordinator will be responsible to complete any other assignments that may be given by the Education Chairman.

● **Fashion Show Vice Chairman**

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- **Social and Special Events Chairman**

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## 75<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention

**75th National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>**



**June 24-27 2026**  
**DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Now that the 74<sup>th</sup> is over, it's time to focus on the 75<sup>th</sup> convention, which will be in Waco, Texas, June 24-27, 2026!

Go to <https://75nsdctx.com/long-form-registration/> and register!

Or a fly-through tour of the facility

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1057245875261846&rdid=qgxB6fa8is7f9gwr>

**75<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL** Wednesday Night Entertainment  
*Square Dance Convention®* Featuring

# The Malpass Brothers

Enjoy a night of listening to classic country and bluegrass music by The Malpass Brothers, a genuine country duo who have a love for music, while enjoying a locally cooked dinner.



**When?**  
**Wednesday,**  
**June 24th,**  
**2026 at 4:30 pm.**




**Premium \$55 or Standard \$45 seating. Brisket or Chicken dinner options available.**

Sign up on our website ([75nsdctx.com](https://75nsdctx.com)), scan the QR code, or on your 75th NSDC long form.


## Florida Federation of Square Dancers

The Official Site of the  
**Florida Federation of Square Dancers**  
[www.floridasquaredance.com](http://www.floridasquaredance.com)


**Your Source For Current & Historical Florida Federation, Association and Club Information**  
*with links to Club, Association, National Convention and more websites and Facebook pages*  
*.. please keep your Club and Association information up to date ..*

**To Find A Florida Club**  
Visit our Site Page -- [FFS - Still not a Club Page](#)



**Florida Federation of Square Dancers**  
[FFS - Still not a Club Page](#)



**FFS - Still not a Club Page**

The Florida Federation of Square Dancers is a non-profit organization that promotes the square dance hobby in Florida. We provide a variety of services to our members, including a directory of clubs, a calendar of events, and a newsletter. We also provide a variety of other services, including a website, a Facebook page, and a Twitter account.

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**...AND MORE...**

### DANCERgram Magazines

**Planner** (weekly)

**Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies** (as needed)

**Directory** (as needed) • WC Key Contacts • WC Dances • SCCA • Links

**This and That** (monthly) • Reprint of articles • New Articles

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