

DANCERgram

May 2024



THIS &
THAT

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

2	FCA President's Message
3	The 2025 Convention Committee Needs Your Help!
5	The 2026 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention Needs a Chairperson!
6	2025 Convention Benefit Dance
7	"Penny Social" a Silent Bid Raffle
8	2025 Friday Night Dinner/Show
9	What it's like to be a square dance caller
10	73 rd National Square Dance Convention
10	Florida State American Folk Dance



FCA President's Message

Hey all Fellow Callers, Cuers and Square Dancers,

Well after the April showers I now see that the month of May has brought flowers. I just have to look out of my home office window at the flowers my wife Carol has planted and then I see a sea of green grass that means it is time to mow the grass! I guess I can try out some new designs in the yard with some "peel-offs" and maybe finish off with a few more "clover-leafs" around all the flower beds and oak trees. I also found out that May 19th is Plant Something Day please do not tell Carol that means another flower bed!

Now what else is happening in the month of May? Well for all those Kentucky Derby fans we could watch to see if any of the horses decide not to participate in the race and make a "horse-shoe turn" back to the barn!

I want to wish a Happy Mother's Day out there to all the moms ...dancers and nondancers alike. With that in mind how about we start with cold glasses of sweet southern tea as the ladies show us guys how to finish up that "tea-cup chain". We can "chase" the ladies around the ring while they look for the diamonds they can wear on "any hand" as they "diamond circulate" and then we can make those diamonds more affordable as they "cut the diamond" and let the ladies shine as they "swing" and "twirl" and we "promenade" back "home" if we can only remember where that is!

I know many of our snow bird dancers will be headed back to their home states and we wish them all safe travels and that they don't "trail-off" the wrong road. Did you know that May 24th was National Road Trip Day?! Makes sense as everyone starts heading out. Now I have listened to many camper's traveling

stories so when our traveling dancers head out I hope they don't "slip the clutch" and none of the traveling camper's try driving on a "single-wheel". Be safe out there on the highways as you all "scoot and weave" your way back home for that final "left wheel thru" into your driveway.

Finally we come to Memorial Day on May 27th for which we honor all those who have given their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. Let us 'cast a shadow" of remembrance for all of them as they fought on land, sea or air. May we never forget or take for granted all they fought and died for. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

We finish the end of the month with National Smile Day on May 31st. Let's remember when we are in a square or a round dance to smile. That's why we dance, for the fun and the new and old friends we make over the years wherever we dance. Continue to "motivate" the new dancers and the other dancers as well which includes my wife Carol when she can't remember which position she is dancing! We all make mistakes and a smile uses less muscles than a frown and makes us look younger! Until next time.

Yellowrocks,

Rod Barngrover, FCA President



The 2025 Convention Committee Needs Your Help!

We are 266 days from the 2025 Florida Square and Round Dance Convention, and we still have ten open positions on the committee! Please consider volunteering.

The open positions are

Assistant Facilities Chairperson - The assistant facilities chairperson would assist the facilities chairperson with obtaining a contract for the location for the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention, work with the convention chairpersons, discuss issues with the facility, and learn from the chairperson to prepare for moving into the chairperson position.

Assistant Lodging Chairperson - The assistant lodging person would assist the lodging chairperson with negotiating with area hotels for a special square

dance rate and learn from the chairperson to prepare for moving into the chairperson position.

Campers – There is free camping at the Center, but it is dry camping. This person will need to contact area campgrounds and negotiate a special square dance rate for our people. You will also be responsible for promoting the State Convention to the campers.

Dangle Dances – You will need to decide on some theme dances. For this convention, think Circus! Then you will need to discuss with the badge vendor about the design of the dangles for each theme. You will probably want a committee to help you during the dance to hand out props. The caller chairperson will assign the callers for this dance and you will coordinate with them regarding the themes.

Entertainment Chairperson – We have started having a dinner show on Friday night of the convention. This person will need to make arrangements for a caterer and show.

Photographer – It's always good to have photos for historical purposes. You will need to walk around and take candid shots, as well as photos when awards are presented. You do not have to be a professional photographer to do this. If you like taking pictures, we sure could use your help!

Vendor Chairperson – You will contact last year's vendors to ascertain if they want to come back and arrange for other vendors. They do not have to be only dance vendors. We have had crafts, jewelry, purses, t-shirts, etc. There are contracts to be completed and signed and collection of rental fees for the booth space.

Assistant Vendor Chairperson – This position will assist the vendor chairperson and will fill in if the vendor chairperson is unable to finish his/her obligation.

Ways & Means Central Association – This person will promote the convention and take fund raising samples to the dances in the Central area.

Ways & Means Northwest Association - This person will promote the convention and take fund raising samples to the dances in the Northwest area

Ways & Means Northeast Association - This person will promote the convention and take fund raising samples to the dances in the Northeast area

Ways & Means Southeast Association - This person will promote the convention and take fund raising samples to the dances in the Southeast area.

All of these positions can be filled by any dancer, couple, solo, two couples, two solos, any age, male, or female. Your dance level or length of time dancing does not matter.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the 2024 chairpersons, Dawn DeWitt or Charles Tharp at ddewitt03@bellsouth.net or 561-252-7729.



2026 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention Needs a Chairperson!

Even though this convention is two years away, planning needs to start now! A theme needs to be decided on, decorations, and set up your committee. If you like to plan parties, here is your chance! This position needs to be filled now so you can also “learn” from the 2025 chairperson as they coordinate their convention.

If you are interested in this position, please contact the Federation presidents at calvinmaki@bellsouth.net - 561-715-8285 or Ann Maki at anncmaki@gmail.com - 561-715-8286.

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

Don't forget the Convention Benefit Dance

on May 4th in Port Orange!

Details below

**CONVENTION
BENEFIT DANCE**

**70TH FSSRDC
SPIN THE
BIG TOP**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
Port Orange Adult Activity Center
4790 S. Ridgewood Ave.
Port Orange, FL 32127

**MS,
PLUS, *A2
squares and
rounds
7:00-9:30
pm**

**BILL
CHESNUT,
CALLER
CHAIRMAN**

**CONVENTION
REGISTRATION,
MERCH AND
RAFFLE
TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT
THE DANCE**

**EARLY
ROUNDS
6:30-7:00
pm**

**SANDY
STURGIS,
CUER
CHAIRMAN**

**ADMISSION
PRICE:
DONATION
AT
THE
DOOR**

**SILENT
AUCTION
TO BENEFIT
THE
CONVENTION**

Convention Chairman
Dawn DeWitt & Charles Tharp
561-252-7729 & 561-252-6236
ddewitt03@bellsouth.net

Federation Vice President
Linda Tester
904-707-3117
Lindactester@bellsouth.net

**“PENNY SOCIAL”
A
SILENT
BID RAFFLE**

**CIRCUS
THEMED
ITEMS**

**ALL
PROCEEDS
BENEFIT
THE
CONVENTION**

**“BID” ON
ITEMS
WITH
PURCHASED
RAFFLE
TICKETS**

**10
TICKETS
FOR
\$5**

**25
TICKETS
FOR
\$10**

**60
TICKETS
FOR
\$20**

**70 TH FSSRDC
SPIN THE
BIG TOP**

**WINNING
TICKETS
DRAWN
AT 9:00
PM**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

**Port Orange Adult Activity Center
4790 S. Ridgewood Ave.
Port Orange, FL 32127**

Convention Chairman
Dawn DeWitt & Charles Tharp
561-252-7729 & 561-252-6236
ddewitt03@bellsouth.net

Federation Vice President
Linda Tester
904-707-3117
Lindactester@bellsouth.net

There will be other Convention Benefit Dances over the next few months. Watch for one in your area!

**Friday night
Dinner/Show**

**Get your
tickets here!
\$45 per person**

\$45pp



Friday, Jan. 17, 2025
at
The Center at Deltona

4:15 pm to 6:30 pm

**Deadline to
purchase is
1/3/25**

Check back for
details as the
convention draws
near.



**Your purchase will help
support the
2025 convention
SPIN THE
BIG TOP**

What it's like to be a Square Dance Caller

This month I thought I would give you some “BTS” (Behind the Scenes) look at what it is like to be a caller. I have been a caller for just shy of fifty years, and I have often been asked what being a caller involves. So sit back, relax, and maybe you will have a better understanding of what being a caller is like. You might even have a better appreciation for your club call after reading this article.

First and foremost, most callers do it for one reason and one reason only: because they enjoy what they do. Otherwise, they wouldn't be doing it. For some it is the opportunity to stand in front of a group of people and perform. For some, they enjoy interacting with dancers and helping them have a good time. And for some because they enjoy teaching new dancers. I have to admit that teaching people to square dance is what keeps me coming back.

There are a select group of callers who travel to various parts of the country and even overseas to make money by being a caller. Most travelling callers actually have real jobs during the day and travel to call square dances at the time they are away from their day job. The travelling caller has been named “National Caller” because they call over the United States doing festivals and special dances.

For those of us who are “Local callers,” things are somewhat different. Most of us have some sort of real jobs. To be a caller one must invest in a laptop computer or tablet, microphones, MP4 downloaded music, amplification systems, including speakers, lots of different cables and usually some sort of case to carry everything with us. Additionally, we pay our annual dues to Callerlab which includes our BMI/ASCAP license that allows us to play copyrighted music. My membership for the 2024-2025 dance season was \$248.00. Most us have equipment investments of \$2,000-\$3,000 and also have to maintain that equipment. Some of us even have a second set of equipment as a backup, to ensure that the dance goes on even if some of our equipment malfunctions. Each year many of us travel to the Washington State Square Dance Festival to call for the weekend. Those callers who choose to call at our State Festival do without any compensation. Callers and their spouses are required to pay for registration, travel, hotel room and meals just as the rest of the dancers who attend.

So how do we pay for all these expenses? In most cases what we get paid to call dances and teach lessons does not come close to covering our expenses. As stated earlier there are several reasons we are callers, one of which is to make money.

So why have I given you all this information? I want you to remember what our callers and cuers do to make your square dance activity successful. Take a look at what your club is paying your caller and ask if maybe you should consider a pay raise. Show your appreciation to your callers and cuers by always thanking them after the dance. And, if you attend the State Festival this summer, make

sure you thank each caller and cuer who gives their time without any monetary compensation. Words often mean so much more than money.

Reprint from [Caller] Glenn Raiha, *Footnotes*¹ – April 2024

73rd National Square Dance Convention®

The 73rd National Square Dance Convention is fast approaching! It's June 26 – 29, 2024. Have you made your reservations and booked your accommodations?

Did you know you can register online at <https://73nsdc.com/long-form/>?

If you're going to drive to Milwaukee, you might want to check the 2024 chronological list at www.dancergram.com/a-2024/2024.pdf to check for all the Trail Thru Dances that are scheduled before the convention.

The following Florida callers and cuers are registered for the convention.

Callers	Cuers
Jim Davis, Strawberry Square	Cathy Fisher, Strawberry Square
Mark Fetzer, Jacksonville	Roger Latchaw, Strawberry Square
Ted Hughes, St. Petersburg	Terri Wilaby, Florida Panhandle
Ted Kennedy, Florida Panhandle and Alabama	Susan Wolford, Southwest Florida

Florida State American Folk Dance

Square Dance Adopted: May 20, 1986

The United Square Dancers of America, Inc. (USDA) claimed that Florida had designated the square dance as its official folk dance.

However, we could find no evidence of this assertion though we scoured the internet lists of Florida state symbols and archived newspapers available.

This changed when first bits of evidence were found in *The Florida Handbook* and uncovered in the USDA's *Chronology of the History of the United Square Dancers of America, Inc.* where reference to the Florida designation was made in a summary of their annual spring meeting on June 27, 1986 in Indianapolis, Ind.

¹ The official publication of the Square and Folk Dance Association of Washington

It was reported that Florida was the sixth State to designate "Square Dance" as their official Folk Dance. The campaign was chaired by Frank & Nan Habersberger (FL).

With information from *The Florida Handbook 2013-2014* and from the USDA we were able to locate documentation of House Concurrent Resolution No. 740 (HCR740), designating the square dance the official American folk dance of the State of Florida, in the 1986 *Journal of the Florida House of Representatives* and the 1986 *Journal of the Senate*.

We were also able to fill out our understanding of the adoption process by a large amount of information found in the meeting minutes of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Inc.

At this point, you might take a moment to check out a brief article about attempts to have the square dance designated the official state folk dance of the United States of America.

On November 24, 1985, Florida square dancers Nan and Frank Habersberger, in their capacity as chairmen of the USDA's National Folk Dance Committee, made a presentation at a meeting of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers, Inc.

At the time, the Habersbergers, living in Florida, also served as treasurers for the USDA as well as chairs of the USDA's National Folk Dance Committee.

The subject of their presentation was a feasibility study the Committee had concluded regarding the adoption of the square dance as the official American folk dance of Florida.

The USDA had experienced a number of defeats in their attempt to designate the square dance the official folk dance of the United States of America. But in 1982, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure, Senate Joint Resolution No. 59, in the USDA's favor. The measure did stipulate the square dance as the official folk dance of the nation but only for a period of two years.

PUBLIC LAW 97-188—JUNE 1, 1982
Public Law 97-188

Whereas square dancing has been a popular tradition in America since early colonial days;

Whereas the American people value the display of etiquette among men and women which is a major element of square dancing;

Whereas square dancing is a traditional form of family recreation which symbolizes a basic strength of this country, namely, the unity of the family;

Whereas square dancing is a joyful expression of the vibrant spirit of the people of the United States;

Whereas the American people value the display of etiquette among men and women which is a major element of square dancing;

Whereas square dancing epitomizes democracy because it dissolves arbitrary social distinctions and

Whereas it is fitting that the square dance be added to the array of symbols of our national character and ride: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the square dance is dace, designated the national folk dance of the United States of America for 1982 and 1983.

Approved June 1, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY--S.J. Res. 59:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Vol. 127 (1981): Sept. 23, considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 128 (1982): May 11, considered and passed House, amended.

May 19, Senate concurred in House amendment.

Though the USDA had made some progress toward their objective, the designation was not permanent. In response to the legislation, the USDA decided to change their strategy and focus on state level adoptions to accumulate more ammunition for a permanent national designation down the line.



Traditional Square Dance Musicians

The Habersbergers had already contacted Florida State Representative Walter Young and they brought a draft prototype of a resolution for introduction to the Florida State Legislature. They said Rep. Young was on board and ready to go.

They outlined the efforts that the Florida square dancers would need to make to accomplish the goal; square dance, official American folk dance of the State of Florida.

They offered their services to lead the campaign for an official state folk dance in Florida but emphasized that they would need the approval and the support of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers and their five member associations.

They additionally expressed a need for the support of the Florida Callers Association, the Round Dance Council of Florida, and other dance groups that would be considered part of the square dance family.

The Habersbergers made sure to impress upon the meeting attendees that it would take a lot of preparation, publicity and the concerted effort of everybody working together for at least two years to make the square dance the official American folk dance of the State of Florida. Their study also indicated that the time was right for the attempt.

Response from the Florida Federation was positive and the campaign was off and running with Nan and Frank Habersberger at the helm.

It came as quite a surprise to all involved when the two-year project was completed in about six months.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 740 (HCR740) was first presented by Rep. Young on April 8, 1986. On May 14, 1986, less than a month after its

introduction, the resolution was approved by the Florida House of Representatives and forwarded to the Senate for consideration.

Introduced in the Senate on May 20, 1986, House Concurrent Resolution No. 740 was approved, unanimously, on the same day.

HCR 740

A concurrent resolution designating the square dance as the American folk dance of the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, love of state and professions is enhanced by the traditions that have become part of our way of life and the customs of the American people, and

WHEREAS, we have distinctive and meaningful symbols of our ideals in our state's flag and in many cultural endeavors but no official designation of a state folk dance, and

WHEREAS, the square dance, which was first association with the American people and recorded in history since 1651, has consistently been the one dance traditionally recognized by the American people as a dignified and enjoyable expression of American folk dancing, and

WHEREAS, square dancing is the American folk dance which is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, and heritage dances, and

WHEREAS, official recognition of the square dance will enhance the cultural stature of Florida both nationally and internationally, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the square dance be added to the array of symbols of our state character and pride, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, the Senate Concurring;

That the dance known as the square dance is hereby designated the American folk dance of the State of Florida

The approval of HCR740 by the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate went so smoothly and so rapidly that we suspect that its adoption went relatively unnoticed except by those most involved in Florida square dancing.

The square dance is a popular type of folk dance in the United States. This dance for four couples, or groups of four couples, is performed in a compact framework of a square, each couple forming a side. Traditionally accompanied by a fiddle, accordion, banjo and guitar, the couples perform a variety of movements prompted by the patter or singing calls (instruction) of a "caller". Cooperative movement is the hallmark of well-executed square dancing.

Square dancing is to be distinguished from related dances called contra or long ways dance where couples stand double file in a line and from round dances where couples stand in a circle. The origin of the square dance can be traced to English derivation and to the stately French cotillion performed in square formation that was popular at the court of Louis the fifteenth later replace by the quadrille (another square dance).

A brief description of the efforts to declare the square dance the national folk dance of the United States of America can be [found here](#).

Like the Florida [state bird](#) and the [state flower](#), the square dance was adopted as official symbol of the State of Florida and is not recorded in the *Florida Statutes*.

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Copied from https://netstate.com/states/symb/dances/fl_square_dance.htm

The DANCERgram magazines are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include *Planner* (weekly), *This & That* (monthly), *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and *Directory* (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the *Flash*. The Editor reserves the right to edit, condense, or rewrite any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine or on this website are not necessarily that of the Editor. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow. Distribution of the DANCERgram magazines is encouraged via forwarding or hard copies. All of the Magazines, as well as additional content, can be found at www.dancergram.com. If you would like to receive the DANCERgram Magazines via email or you would like to submit information to any of the magazines, please contact the Editor at sqdnfcfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393.

DANCERgram Magazines

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

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