

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION
Minutes of October 1, 2006

The Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation met on Sunday, October 1, 2006, at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA. Five Federations/Associations were represented. Allegany Valley Federation – 6 members; Central Pennsylvania Association – 6 members; Delaware Valley Federation – 0 members; Laurel Mountain Federation – 6 members; Northeast Federation – 0 members; Susquehanna Valley Federation – 9 members; Western Pennsylvania Federation – 4 members.

Call to Order: Clyde and Judy Miles, Presidents called the semi-annual meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A silent prayer was observed and Clyde Miles led the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Minutes of Mar. 26, 2006: Copies of the minutes were distributed for reading by members. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes as distributed. A motion was made that minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sent by Bill Flick for period 06/06/2006 – 09/30/2006

Balance: Received from former Treasurer and Deposited in Commerce Bank – June 6, 2006 \$ 15704.40

Income:

Donation from Commerce Bank	\$ 50.00	
CD - AVFCU	3018.39	
Membership Dues	<u>7.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 3075.39</u>
		\$ 18779.79

Expenses:

Pennsy Reporter	\$ 205.25	
BMI music usage	125.00	
Treasurer's Expense	12.39	
Convention Drawings	95.00	
President's Expenses	42.10	
USDA (Dues)	100.00	
Leadership Breakfast	<u>708.51</u>	
		<u>\$ 1288.25</u>

Balance – September 30, 2006 \$ 17491.54

Location of funds – September 30, 2006

Checking Account	\$ 2491.54	
CD at 5.25% (Due 4-8-07)	10000.00	
CD at 4.00% (Due 11-8-06)	3000.00	
CD at 4.00% (Due 11-8-06)	<u>2000.00</u>	
		\$ 17491.54

(Submitted by Bill Flick)

President's Report: moved to the end of the meeting.

Association/Federation Reports:

Allegany Valley S&R/D Federation: Read by Lou Stiles.

We are pleased that all the officers of the AVSRDF attended the 13th Annual PA State Dance at the Penn Stater in August.

The AVSRDF held their annual dance on Saturday Sept. 30, 2006, at Greenville, PA, with two floors of dancing. Our hardworking Vice Presidents Al and Jessie Pezzuto chaired a fun filled dance with 3 callers and 2 cuers.

Lake Shore Squares of Westfield, NY, are having their Pumpkin Capers Dance on Sunday, October 8, with Jeff Priest of Bradford, Ontario calling and Vonda Hardik of Erie, cuing.

We are sorry to lose the Wattsburg Stompers of Erie Area because of loss of members.

We are very proud of our Treasurers Frank and Barb Schreiber who received the The Circle Of Service Award at the State Convention. (This award is bestowed upon a couple who has been dancing for three or more years and has made a significant contribution to the square and round dance movement.) (Submitted by Lou & Ruthie Stiles)

Central PA S&R/D Association: Read by Phyllis Boesch

Our nine small Clubs seem to be holding steady, but not growing. Some of them manage to get a new class started, but can not seem to keep new dancers once they join the club.

Our Clubs average one to three squares at their club dances. Most of our Clubs are trying to help each other exist.

CPSRDA has resurrected our "Traveler's Dangle" award to get our Clubs to visit each other and earn a dangle by doing so. Our Heart Fund Dance earned more than \$600, and our Cancer Dance raised in excess of \$1000. These two dances draw our Clubs together and are our biggest events. Both events for this year were successful benefits. (Submitted by Laird and Judy Allen)

Federation of Delaware Valley S&R/D: No Report

Laurel Mountain S&R/D Federation: Read by Justina Hall.

The Laurel Mountain Federation held their fall meeting on September 17, 2006, with 18 officers and delegates present. Information from the Pennsylvania State Square and Round Dance Federation, Insurance information and club reports were given. The nominating committee presented a 2007 slate of officers for the election to be held at the next meeting on November 12, 2006. Final plans were made for the 15th Anniversary Dance to be held November 4, 2006, at the Martinsburg Memorial Park. Dinner reservations must be in by October 27, 2006. No reservations are necessary for just the dance.

May was the month for Mother's Day Dances, Graduation Dances and some Anniversary Dances. The summer included Patriotic Dances honoring Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day. One club had a Christmas in July Dance. One club closes for June July and August. One club continued to hold classes during the summer. Several clubs held demonstrations (for example at the Curve Ball Game, Fairs and the Lakemont Park Festival). Some had covered dish picnics. There was quite a bit of stealing and retrieving of banners.

The fall season has started with the clubs holding fun night dances. Pictures and stories of some of the clubs have been in the local newspapers. Halloween, Turkey Shoot, Christmas, Pizza Party, HOBO Night, Pie Night, New Years Eve, some Anniversary, etc. dances are on the club schedules. Demonstrations are being scheduled. One club will close for January, February and March to resume on April 11, 2007. Flyers are available for many of these activities today. Everyone is welcome at our dances. (Submitted by Justina Hall)

Northeast Pennsylvania S&R/D Federation: No Report

Susquehanna Valley S&R/D Association: Read by John Jacobs.

Our Annual Presidents Ball was held Sunday April 30, with Tom Miller calling and John Toll cueing, with 34 squares dancing.

We have launched our 2006-2007 Club Visitation Program. There are 12 out of 16 clubs participating. Jerry and Nancy Beckner are visitation coordinators.

CD's are available for the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Square Dance competition. They may be obtained by contacting Dan Prosser, 19 N. Fileys Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019. Phone 717-432-4488 or 717-697-3462 -- e-mail address jdprosser@juno.com.

The 34th annual President's Ball and Dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn, 2000 Louck Road, York, PA. The dance will be sponsored by the Prettyboy Swingers. All Dancers are invited. For tickets contact Bud and Regina Waller at 410-357-5266.

The 2007 Graduation Ball will be held on May 20 hosted by the Whirley Birds. For further information contact Jerry and Nancy Beckner, phone 717-375-4496. All new dancers are urged to attend this dance. (Submitted by John and Creta Jacobs)

Western Pennsylvania S&R/D Federation: Read by Cindy Vanetta.

The Federation is aggressively pushing attendance to the 56th National Square Dance Convention® in Charlotte, North Carolina in our West Penn News and through the delegates who are encouraging club members to attend. We hope that this will help Pennsylvania win the bid for the 2011 NSDC.

A proposal was made last October by one of our delegates to change our federation meetings to once every other month. Following the procedures of our constitution, the proposal was discussed and read at three consecutive meetings and passed at our April meeting.

The WPSRDF has also passed a resolution allowing a couple to serve as treasurer and secretary of our Federation after following the same procedures listed above.

The Federation Sophomore Dance was held April 30, 2006, at the Faith United Methodist Church in Delmont, PA. Mountainview Squares hosted the dance. The callers were Norm Shaffor, Fred Strang and Ron Meisl with Pat Meisl as cuer. 117 dancers including 25 new graduates attended the dance.

Our Fall Festival will be held on November 4, 2006, at Penn Hills YMCA. Iron City Squares will be hosting the event. The callers will be Barry Clasper of Toronto and Chi Chi Hoffner of Pittsburgh. The cuer will be Steve Staub.

The Federation is supporting a demonstration at the Apple Arts Festival in Delmont, PA. We are using this very popular community event to promote square dancing in our area. Our federation is actively trying to look at old and new venues to encourage people to try square dancing in our area. We are interested in any ideas that others might suggest.

GET YOUR SQUARE DANCING KICKS IN 2006! (Submitted by Bob and Cindy Vanetta)

Committee Reports:

Caller/Cuer Liaison: No Report

Showcase of Ideas: Clyde stated that we are looking for a Showcase of Ideas Chairperson. This entails bringing the showcase to the State Convention and setting it up. Also, it needs to be taken to the National Convention in June. Literature and the State Pin are put out on the table with the Showcase. Bill Flick has been taking the Showcase to National Conventions. Mike Matsko stated that the showcase fits in an average passenger vehicle. It fits in the back seat. The case has rollers to facilitate movement. Bob Elgin noted that UPS or Federal Express can transport the Showcase to a Convention Hotel.

Photography: Clyde noted that we have no photographer other than Phyllis Boesch.

Publicity: Publicity is being handled by the Secretary and all minutes and announcements are being posted on the internet on the PSRDF website: PAsquaredance.org. Minutes are mailed to all attendees (or any other interested persons) that do not have an internet connection (Email). The Pennsy Reporter is no longer being published.

Membership: Cy Hammaker reported that as of today's date, the Federation currently has 1,365 paid memberships. By Federation/Association, a total of 1,416 reported:

AVSRDF – 7 clubs -- 209 members
CPSRDA – 8 clubs -- 188 members
DVSRDF – 5 clubs -- 120 members
LMSRDF – 6 clubs -- 143 members
NPSRDF – 4 clubs -- 82 members
SVSRDA – 2 clubs -- 30 members
WPSRDF – 21 clubs -- 618 members

The difference of 51 is a result of multiple reporting of individuals who are members of several clubs. Only annually reporting clubs are reported in the membership report. (Submitted by Cy and Ione Hammaker)

Pat Matsko suggested that membership cards could be issued annually. Cy noted that this requires a lot of effort to fill out these cards and he is not equipped to do this. It was noted that at a previous meeting it had been voted to eliminate annual membership cards. Mike Matsko then suggested that Federation Presidents or Clubs might help by preparing annual membership cards. Life members receive a card and dangle upon receipt of payment. More discussion followed. Attrition of membership might be attributed to lack of annual reporting of life members by clubs. Dangles for annual membership are not cost effective. Initially dangles were purchased for 10 cents. Now, dangles cost approximately 75 cents.

Creta Jacobs moved that annual membership cards be reinstated. Bill Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried

License Plates: Bob Elgin reported that there has been no activity in the last year for new Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Plates. He noted that two license plates have been stolen. The owners re-applied and received new numbers. (Submitted by Bob and Dottie Elgin)

State Folk Dance: Read by Ruth Buehler - House Bill No. 1260, designating polka music as the official folk music of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and designating the American Square Dance as the official folk dance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was passed on February 8, 2006. There has been no action on this bill in the Senate and none is expected until November. (Submitted by Peggy and Sam Brubaker)

Computer Coordinator/Webmaster: Read by John Simchick

The webmaster requests the PSRDF consider changing web site hosting site. The Tripod web site has fallen behind in their services.

They offer only 50 megabytes of web space, where most hosting sites offer at least 5 gigabytes or 100 times the space. They also offer other services that Tripod does not compete well with. They have not updated their benefits in years. They also have an annoying tracking cookie that my firewall complains about every time I run an ad ware or spy ware check.

One service is email: Most services offer 50 to 100, in some cases more, email accounts. Tripod offers 5 or 10 email accounts. That means that if a PSRDF officer needs to have an email reference on a web page, we can make one up for him. That means the officer will not need to expose his personal or business email address on any web pages. Email could be set up as a regular email address and forwarded to the persons email address of choice. He could even set up Outlook or Outlook Express or go to www.web2mail.com or a similar web mail service and send an email with the new site's email address and the sender would not see his home or business email address. This also means any spam picked up by having an email address on the website will not be connected to the person's home or business email address. Other services not offered by Tripod are 1 or more MySQL databases. Other services are matched by tripod, but most are very limited when compared to what other hosts offer.

One possible hosting site is www.godaddy.com. If we use them, I would like to recommend their DELUXE plan. A 12 month subscription would cost \$6.29 per month plus domain name transfer fees and one year domain name service fee. This plan offers: 100 GB Space; 1,000 GB Transfer; 1,000 Email Accounts; Free Software (PHP 5 plus Java, Python & Ruby with Linux server choice); 25 MySQL Databases; Unlimited Email Forwards; Unlimited External Domains, Sub domains, Multiple Web Sites and Alias Domains; Forums, Blogging, & Photo Galleries; No ads. We have the pick of Windows or Linux server. Some more research for web site hosting is needed.

The Webmaster will be purchasing an expensive HTML writer and graphics editor suite, Macromedia Studio 8 which includes Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash Professional, Contribute and Flashpaper. This package costs \$999.00. I am asking the PSRDF to contribute \$300.00 towards this purchase. (Submitted by John and Joyce Simchick)

There was a question about the cookies that tripod uses as well as questions about what the PSRDF web site contains. Extensive discussion followed. John recommended that each Federation/Association have a designated person that would maintain their site.

Bill Buehler moved that John Simchick be authorized to proceed to change the host server from Tripod to one that offers far more capacity (2000 x) and many more services for about a \$2.00 increase for service per month. Mike Matsko seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bob Elgin moved that \$300.00 be authorized to help John obtain necessary software. Bob Vanetta seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bill Flick will be contacted to make this payment.

Ways & Means: No Report. Clyde noted that we do need a new Ways & Means person. We have not had anything new to sell for several years.

Historian: No Report. Clyde stated that we do need a new Historian. Photo albums were not put out at the last Convention.

State Outfit: Janet Wilson noted that the Official Pennsylvania State Square & Round Dance Outfit may be worn by any dancer. This is not only for State Officers. Creta Jacobs suggested that a picture of the outfit and the specification be shown on the PSRDF website. Phyllis Boesch said that she has a picture of the State Outfit. This picture should be included on the PSRDF web page.

For the Bid, Friday morning, at the Charlotte Convention in 2007, a black and gold outfit will be worn. This is not the State Outfit.

Special Reports:

USDA Report: Bill Flick was absent.

National Convention: Clyde Miles reported that there has been considerable difficulty in scheduling a meeting with the Convention Committee, Pittsburgh Visitors Bureau (due to an unscheduled upcoming delivery of a baby) and the NEC advisors. Part of the problem is the booking of the hotel. This meeting is to discuss bid guidelines and the bid contract, outlined in the planning book, as well as the 20 minute bid presentation of 9 A.M. Friday, June 29, 2007. The advisors are expected to return in

January to review progress of the planning book. Clyde then presented in detail the bid process of Friday at the National Convention.

Old Business:

13th PSRDF Convention – Frank Schreiber thanked all for receiving the Circle of Service award and then read the following: The 13th Convention/Dance is over although we didn't have a large amount of dancers they all had a good time square dancing and round dancing to the great callers and cuers. There were 505 dancers in attendance according to the final report from our Registration Chairmen. Not all of our final reports are in but from those that we have received, everything went according to the plan. Penn State sent out a final bill, but of course, it was incorrect so they will be sending a corrected bill. We want to thank all of our chairmen and their directors for all their help in making the 13th Convention Dance a success for us. (Submitted by Frank and Barb Schreiber)

Mike Matsko, Business Manager for the 13th Convention, reported that according to his understanding of the revised Penn Stater bill, we will have a \$32.60 net profit after returning the \$1000.00 seed money. Clyde noted that from the Program Committee final report more dancers are needed.

New Business:

14th PSRDF Convention – read by Ruth Buehler.

All positions are filled for the Committees. Some of the things that are being planned for next year's Convention are: additional polypropylene flooring to be obtained for the advanced hall, a casual Sunday morning "Late Bird" or Trail-Out Dance (for an hour and one half), and the return of the Clay Figures for our enjoyment. We have applied for a grant from the 33rd National Convention Trusteeship. This is intended to be used for a 50% registration scholarship for new dancers as determined by their caller/cuer. We will report when we know the results of this application. We are pursuing a suggestion to include a Friday Evening Fun Dance for interested potential dancers. (Submitted by Bill & Ruth Buehler)

Pennsylvania State Convention 2008 – PLEASE NOTE: Clyde Miles moved the date of the 15th PSRDF Convention to August 8 and 9, 2008. Notification of this change should go out to Callers and Cuers with the request for participation in the 14th Convention;

National Convention 2011 – to be covered in President's Report

Insurance – USDA Insurance was discussed by Mike Matsko, new insurance chairman. After discussion with Loraine Backus, USDA insurance coordinator, he discovered that for dancers to qualify for the reduced rate (\$4.10) they must be federated (or affiliated) within the state within which they apply for annual insurance coverage. Conditions for membership in the State Federation are specified in Article VI Section 3 of the State Bylaws. An affiliated rate means that PSRDF is affiliated with the USDA and dancers become affiliated with USDA by being a member of PSRDF. Independent or non-affiliated members may obtain insurance by paying an increased rate (\$5.10). There is a minimum payment of \$45.00 for a small club. Note that this only applies to USDA insurance obtained thru Pennsylvania. Dancers who are members of several clubs should have coverage with only one primary club. Independent dancers, who belong to no clubs, may also become PSRDF members as independents and then apply for USDA coverage. Individual Federations/Associations should coordinate the application of USDA insurance. Functions not on the Club schedule at the time of insurance application should apply for specific inclusion. This additional certificate requires from 4 to 6 weeks to obtain the certificate. Five of the seven Federations/Associations have solely USDA insurance coverage. USDA medical coverage is secondary and is up to \$10,000. Liability coverage, primarily of interest to clubs, is up to \$1,000,000. Dancers are covered worldwide.

John Jacobs requested that a clear statement of the insurance position be sent out to all Federations/Associations.

Flooring – Ruth Buehler reported that polypropylene flooring has been provided by an anonymous donor. 288 sq ft have been provided and used for the 13th Convention. This amount fit two squares comfortably and three squares tight. Dancers suggested that enough additional flooring to accommodate four squares be obtained. This would require an additional 112 sq ft, or a total of 400 sq ft in a 20 ft x 20 ft arrangement.

In summary PSRDF owns some floor tiles. If any donors for future purchase come forward please let us know. An additional 112 tiles should cost about \$275. (Submitted by Bill and Ruth Buehler)

Questions arose as to the arrangement of the floor tiles to best facilitate dancers. Arrangement used this summer was 12 ft x 24 ft. Rental of flooring by the Convention Committee was discussed. Estimate of the rental cost for one half of the President's Hall (4432 sq ft at .40/sq ft) is \$1773. Means of raising money for purchase of flooring were also presented. Dancing on carpet was discussed. Use of silicon spray has been discouraged by some hotels. Purchase for flooring by the Federation poses a problem

since all dancers in all halls would expect to have plastic flooring. Obtaining, help to store, transport, lay, and take-up flooring remain as problems.

Bids for 2009 Convention – Clyde Miles announced that the State Federation is accepting bids from different Hotels. The Penn Stater, the Hilton in Harrisburg, the Eisenhower in Gettysburg, and the new Wyndom in Gettysburg have given bids or proposals for the 2009 Convention. The Penn Stater is not available for the second weekend in August. A decision of location for the 2009 State Convention should be made at the March 25, 2007 Semi-annual PSRDF meeting.

President's Report – Clyde Miles read the President's report.

1. The State still needs someone for Showcase of Ideas, Ways and Means, Historian and Photographer. Frank and Dane Neiss have resigned from the position of Publicity Chairperson and editor of the Pennsy Report. Harry and Joyce Colvin have resigned as historian. A letter of thanks has been sent to both Frank and Dane Neiss and Harry and Joyce Colvin for all their hard work.
2. If anyone is interested in being on a committee or Chairperson for the 2011 National Convention being held in Pittsburgh, please contact us. Pennsylvania State Federation did agree to sponsor this national convention, so it is up to everyone to help in one way or another to make this a great success.
3. All Federations and Associations should encourage their member clubs to become members of the Pennsylvania State Federation. Every club member should be a member of the Pennsylvania State Federation like they are in their own Federations. Right now this is our one and only source of income.
4. We are asking all clubs in all our Federations and Associations to write a letter of support for the State to host the National Convention in 2011. Please address the letter to Clyde & Judy Miles, Proposed General Chairmen, 904 Main Street, Harwick, PA 15049, by the end of the year. These must be in our bid book by early January. We have brought sample letters of support for both the Clubs and Federations/Associations to be used as guidelines for your support letters.

Clyde read several letters of support that have been sent in support. He said that even one line from a club saying that they support the Convention will be sufficient.

A letter from the Whirly Birds of Chambersburg stated:

As a member club of the Susquehanna Valley Square and Round Dance Association (SVSRDA), we would like to add our club's support to that of the SVSRDA in enthusiastically supporting PSRDF in its efforts to obtain a National Square Dance Convention® in Pittsburgh in the year 2011. We will cheer for you, hoping that you will win the bid in Charlotte, NC, in June 2007.

If you should win the bid for the 60th NSDC, our dancers will publicize and work to help make the National Convention in Pittsburgh in 2011 a great success.

Announcements:

Ruth Buehler advised that each Federation/Association received an envelope of State Convention Registrations, Booster Forms (please read the directions at the top) and Convention Booklet Advertising Forms. She challenged each person present to send in several Ads for the Convention Booklet.

Bob Vanetta noted that he had registration forms for the Charlotte Convention in 2007 and Wichita in 2008.

Next meeting of PSRDF is 1:00 P.M. Sunday, March 25, 2007, in the Penn Stater Convention Center, State College.

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Frank Schreiber moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 P.M. Creta Jacobs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
William L Buehler
Ruth M Buehler