

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION
Minutes of March 25, 2007

The Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation met on Sunday, March 25, 2007, at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA. Five Federations/Associations were represented. Allegany Valley Federation – 6 members; Central Pennsylvania Association – 8 members; Delaware Valley Federation – 4 members; Laurel Mountain Federation – 8 members; Susquehanna Valley Federation – 6 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 prayer was given by Bill Flick. Clyde Miles led the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Minutes of Oct. 1, 2006: Copies of the minutes were distributed for reading by members. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. John Jacobs moved that minutes be accepted as distributed. Frank Schreiber seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Flick presented the Treasurers report for the period 09/30/2006 – 2/28/07.

<u>Starting Balance 9/30/06</u>	\$ 17,491.54
 <u>Income</u>	
Membership Dues	\$ 1,492.00
Thirteenth Convention (seed money + income)	1,032.36
Dividends (CDs)	<u>401.03</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 2,925.39</u>
	\$ 20,416.93
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Grove Printing	\$ 63.83
John Simchick (computer software)	300.00
The Penn Stater (meeting expenses)	251.10
BMI	<u>5.00</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 622.93</u>
<u>Balance – February 28, 2007</u>	\$ 19,794.00

Location of funds: Commerce Bank

Checking Account	\$ 4,392.97
CD at 5.25% (Due 4-8-07)	10,290.27
CD at 4.00% (Due 5-8-07)	3,066.45
CD at 4.00% (Due 5-8-07)	<u>2,044.31</u>

\$ 19,794.00

Creta Jacobs moved that the treasurer's report be accepted for audit as presented. Mike Matsko seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Association/Federation Reports:

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

The AVSRDF will hold their Federation dance Sept. 29, 2007, at Greenville, PA from 6:00 – 9:30 at the United Methodist Church. There will be 2 halls of dancing with plus, rounds and advanced and DBD.

The Beaver Squares of Corry, PA held their last dance in December 2006. We are sorry to lose this club after 36 years of dancing.

The Lake Shore Squares of Westfield, NY will hold their Apple Blossom Dance on May 20 with Tom Strickland caller and Lois Vandergrift cuer.

Presque Isle Dancers will have caller Tom Roper of Omaha, that's Omaha, Illinois, on Tuesday Sept 22, 2007. (Submitted by Lou and Ruthie Stiles)

Central PA S&R/D Association: Read by Laird Allen

The CPSRDA is a small Association with 9 clubs. Most are surviving with 1 to 2 squares. Some of the clubs have small classes. The Billtown Squares have announced that they will no longer be square dancing but will continue to do rounds.

The Billtown Squares held their annual Heart fund dance in March and raised over \$600.

The CPSRDA hosted their 36th annual Cancer Fund Dance and raised \$900 for the Susquehanna Cancer Treatment Center. Many of the Associations callers generously donated their time. Everyone had a good time.

The Canyon Squares are hosting a Relay for Life dance on May 20th and are fielding a team.

The Country Twirlers are also raising funds for their local Relay for Life and will be square dancing to entertain the walkers.

The Association had 2 squares representing 3 clubs at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. This is a great way to showcase square dancing to the public. This year was the first for a long time that all 60 squares in the arena were booked.

All Clubs in the Association continue to do demonstrations for nursing homes, local fairs, parades and the like. (Submitted by Laird and Judy Allen)

Federation of Delaware Valley S&R/D: Read by Nancy Balogh

The Delaware Valley Federation is composed of two Districts, Pen-Del and Mid-East Penn. The number of members in Pen-Del District has fallen from 450 in 2006 to 364 in 2007, primarily due to the demise of one club, Snapperoots, and a drop of 23 members in another, Rainbow Squares. MEP membership is 274, which amounts to a total of 638 individuals in the Federation. However, those numbers reflect the number insured; there are 7 clubs loosely affiliated with MEP that are not insured through the District, such as camping clubs and callers' clubs. They have other venues for getting their insurance. Not every member of each District is a member of the Federation.

The Federation assists clubs that sponsor classes with an annual grant of \$150 to each club that “graduates” at least 4 new dancers from Mainstream. Most clubs in DeVal dance Plus, so these new dancers need additional lessons before they can dance regularly.

The Delaware Valley Federation is planning to have a display in the Showcase of Ideas at the National Convention in Charlotte in June. The display will be set up on Wednesday of the Convention week and will include back copies of the Delaware Valley Dancer, but clubs are also encouraged to submit items, especially displays of newspaper clippings featuring square dancing and other successful publicity efforts.

The Delaware Valley has been fortunate for a number of years to have a specialized Email service, hosted by one of our callers, Clay Goss. Anyone who has an Email address can be included, and nearly 400 participate. Those on the list can Email the entire list by sending to the list-serve address, and replies go to the originator. Unfortunately, Clay has found that the list is taking too much of his time, so he has asked us to switch the service to a Google group that will perform in the same manner. Our Webmaster, Dane Bragg, has investigated it and we’ve tested it, so the changeover will take place the end of this month, and it should be seamless except for the new name used to address Email to the list. Clubs use it to advertise dances and other events, and Federation officers can use it to get information out to the clubs, though we also have our own personal lists of club contacts. It certainly enhances communications at all levels. (Submitted by Nancy Balogh)

Laurel Mountain S&R/D Federation: Read by Carol Graham

The Federation held their first meeting on Sunday Feb. 25, in spite of the nasty weather that day. We had 4 clubs represented and the Federation officers.

Clubs reported their activities for the year 2006, including banner raids and demonstrations. Plans were made for the 16th LMSRDF to be held November 3, 2007, at the Martinsburg Memorial Park from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Menu for dinner will be turkey with trimmings. Cost will be \$5.00 for the dance or \$18.50 for the dance and dinner. Howard Williams will be the MC and dance scheduler.

All clubs received the calendar of events for the year. Thanks to Cy and Ione Hammaker for their work. (Submitted by Carol Graham)

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

At our January meeting White Rose reported that they expect to cease dancing this summer. The total membership of clubs in the Association will be 15.

Dan Prosser reported that there were 55 competing squares and 15 additional squares demonstrating or alternates at the State Farm Show this January.

The 39th 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. Caller will be Butch Adams; cuer will be Linda Prosser. This dance will held April, 29, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to honor club presidents.

The 2007 Association Graduation Ball will be held on Sunday, May 20, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the New Franklin Ruritan Community Center, Chambersburg, PA. It will be hosted by the Whirley Birds. Callers and cuer will be furnished by the South Central Pennsylvania Callers and Cuers Association.

The Gettysburg Dance, sponsored by the Fair Squares and Flirts and Skirts clubs, will be held on Saturday May 26 from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Community Center. Callers will be Tom Miller, Bill Harrison, Al Groth and Dan Prosser, Linda Prosser will be the cuer.

The Shippen Squares will hold their 30th Anniversary Dance, Sunday, September 23 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Shippensburg Firefighters Activities Center. Caller will be Mac McCall, cuer will be Linda Prosser.

The Gad-Abouts will be hosting their 50th Anniversary Dance on Sunday, October 14 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Washington County Agriculture Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, Maryland. Caller will be Mike Sikorsky from Mesa, Arizona.

John thanked all, especially Creta, for support during 6 years as officers in Susquehanna Valley Association. (Submitted by John and Creta Jacobs)

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

Our federation has been meeting every other month since last April with no major problems. There were some communication problems between clubs but that has been resolved. The change has caused some committees and officers to readjust their procedures but overall everything seems to be working well.

We would like to report that two clubs have disbanded. They are Western Wheelers and Dealers and Acey Duecey. Our federation is losing members and we are trying to determine why. We are currently gathering information from a survey completed by nondancers. We hope to have the results compiled and some conclusions drawn by the end of April. The results will be turned over to the newly elected federation officers in April. Hopefully, they will be able to use the information to begin forming a proactive plan to help square dancing become a viable activity for more people living in our federation area. (A sample of the survey is attached for your information.)

The Federation Sophomore Dance will be held April 15, 2007, at the North Hills Community Baptist Church. Y-Knots will be hosting the dance. The callers will be Jim Yoest, Ron Meisl and Tom Marion. Pat Meisl will be cueing.

The Fall Festival will be held Oct.6, 2007. We are waiting for a host club to volunteer to host this Festival.

This year, for the first time, we had 3 adult squares and 2 youth squares compete in the Square Dancing Competitions at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. All five squares received blue ribbons. It was a great experience for everyone who participated.

The youth who participated at the Farm Show were 4-H students from West-moreland County. These teens are so excited about the experience they had at the Farm Show that they have asked Larry Fosbrink, their instructor, to begin a formal square dancing class for them and possibly for some of their parents. Because of all the time and effort Matt and Maureen Lebo, Larry and Sally Fosbrink, and Sue and Joe Korincak put into this project, we had a wonderful experience and we are now seeing a real interest in square dancing from an unexpected group.

The Federation is still aggressively pushing attendance to the 56th National Square and Round Dance Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in our West Pen 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 National Square and Round Dance Convention. Currently there are 266 dancers from Pennsylvania attending and Michigan has 299 dancers attending. Hopefully, the other PA Federations will encourage dancers from their federations to attend to support the PA bid.

SQUARE DANCING IS HEAVEN IN 2007! (Submitted by Bob and Cindy Vanetta)

Clyde Miles showed a Uniontown Newspaper article showing participation in the State Farm Show.

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 National Convention, and setting it up.

Photography: No Report

Publicity: No Report

Membership: Cy Hammaker reported that as of today's date, the Federation currently has a total reported membership of 1,577 dancers. By Federation/Association:

	2007				2006	
	Total Clubs	Clubs Reporting	Members	Life Members	Clubs Reporting	Members
AVSRDF	17	7	222	38	7	209
CPSRDA	9	5	159	16	8	188
DVSRDF	39	1	209	67	5	120
LMSRDF	7	7	147	19	6	143
NPSRDF	Withdrawn 2004		4	4	4	82
SVSRDA	16	5	162	64	2	30
WPSRDF	22	18	674	45	21	618
Total	110	49	1577	253	53	1390

NPSRDF has withdrawn from PSRDF, with a formal letter dated March 16, 2007.

Several federations have clubs outside Pennsylvania. This is especially true of DVSRDF and SVSRDA. These clubs do not normally participate in PSRDF membership.

We have received no positive feedback concerning the blue annual membership cards, We have received several comments indicating that they were of no value. We would be interested in hearing more comments. (Submitted by Cy and Ione Hammaker)

License Plates: Bob Elgin reported that there have been three requests for the Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Plate since the last meeting in October. He noted that 491 license plate requests have been processed to date. (Submitted by Bob and Dottie Elgin)

Several comments were made regarding availability of front plates.

State Folk Dance: Read by Ruth Buehler

Bills designating the American Square Dance as the official folk dance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are being prepared by Representative Paul I. Clymer (R) and Senator Michael A. O'pake (D). New State Government Committee Chairmen, Representative Babette Josephs (D) and Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola (R) (Submitted by Peggy and Sam Brubaker)

Computer Coordinator/Webmaster: Read by John Simchick

The new website for the PSRDF will be hosted by www.powweb.com. We should start transferring files in a week and the site should be ready a week or two later. All member districts and PSRDF leaders need to check the site for errors or anything that is left out. If they find anything, contact the webmaster, preferably by email and explain the situation. Hopefully you will tell which district member is involved and what page

needs to be adjusted. The webmaster suggests that all personal emails be stripped from the site and use either email addresses provided by the powweb.com site or us yahoo.com or other email services that provides you with a good email filter. This matter will take a little time. The PSRDF leaders need to look at the email service the hosting site provide. All filenames and folders on the site will be changed to lower case. We will be contacting all members when the change has been made. District members may put other information such as maps etc on the site, but they will need to provide the webmaster with the maps or any other information needed for their pages. (submitted by John and Joyce Simchick)

Ways & Means: Edith Myers presented a report including three money maker suggestions:

1. Have a Dance-A-Thon and get sponsors. This could be done every year in conjunction with either the State Convention or Association/Federations Annual Dances. A sample letter is included in the report.
2. Compile a cookbook with dancers supplying all the recipes. This would be a very big project and probably make 5 or 6 dollars per book sold. Sample books were shown.
3. A vendor interested in attending the State Convention in August has furnished samples of personalized Light Blocks and Dinner Plates.
(Submitted by George and Edith Meyers)

Considerable discussion and interest in the suggested projects followed. It was noted that should the bid selection for 2011 be Pittsburgh, the Convention Committee will probably choose to produce a cookbook for raising money for the Convention. The personalized blocks sell for about \$25.00 and the plates for \$9.95.

The Dance-A-Thon could be held at the August PA State Convention.

The PSRDF is not a non-profit as defined by the IRS 501-3C classification. Donations or gifts from supporters are not tax deductible from their annual federal tax return.

Carol Graham moved to pursue a Dance-A-Thon this year at the State Convention. Bill Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pat Matsko suggested that VIP ribbons be given to interested supporters.

Edith Meyers was asked to work with Ruthie Stiles to invite the proposed vendor (for the light cubes and other items) to the 14th State Convention.

Discussion returned to the front license plates. The minimum order for printing should be determined. Also, any one with a supply of existing plates should bring them to the State Convention.

Historian: No Report. Clyde stated that we do need a new Historian.

State Outfit: No Report.

For the Bid, Friday morning, at the Charlotte Convention in June, 29, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. It was noted that a black and gold outfit would be preferable for the bid session. This is different from the blue and yellow PA State Outfit. Your presence is what is important.

Special Reports:

USDA Report: Bill Flick stated that the credit card program will not be continued. 60,000 names and address would be needed to be provided to the new carrier. There were many objections to supplying this list.

At the annual meeting, the Board of Directors of USDA approved participation in a long term care insurance program. USDA members will receive a discount if they choose to take the insurance. In addition, USDA will receive a finder's fee (\$100.00) for each submitted application for quotation. This will be used to Supplement USDA's budget to promote square dancing. Visit <http://usda.org/ltcq.htm> for more information.

The Board of Directors of USDA approved participation in a discount prescription card service where you can obtain savings on the average of about 20 to 25 per cent off the retail price. In addition, USDA will receive a royalty of 25 cents on each prescription filled. This royalty will be used to promote square dancing. For more information visit <http://usda.org/CARDS.htm>.

Bill asked that all those attending the 56th National Square Dance Convention in Charlotte, NC in June, to be sure to visit USDA meeting Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Old Business: The selection of a new Web Site Provider was covered previously.

New Business:

Election of Officers - Handled by Bill Flick

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of Officers:

President - Mike and Pat Matsko; 1st Vice President - Bill and Ruth Buehler; 2nd Vice President - Bill and Sharon Wagner; Secretaries - Tom and Phyllis Boesch; Treasurer - Bill Flick

For each office, in turn, the floor was opened for nominations for each office. There were no nominations from the floor, and a motion for nomination for each office to be closed was made, with a seconding motion, followed by a carrying vote.

The secretary was instructed to cast ballots for the slate of officers.

Farm Show/Vendor Spot for Square Dancing: Mike Matsko noted that the value of the Farm Show for presenting Square Dancing has already been discussed at this meeting. He suggested that we obtain a booth for the farm show for the entire week of the show. This booth would cost approximately \$240.00 for a booth of roughly 20 by 20 feet.

Considerable discussion followed.

Bob Vanetta suggested that a tri-fold brochure be prepared as a handout to visiting spectators.

Bill Flick made a motion that \$300.00 be authorized for Farm Show booth. Joyce Simchick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

14th PSRDF Convention – read by Ruth Buehler

Preparations for the August convention are on track. We need help in spreading the word regarding changes in the program for this year. A booster sign up sheet is being circulated. Additional forms are provided for Association/Federation meetings.

Ads are needed for the program book. Camping space is still available for the Convention. Clay Figures are no longer active and will not be a part of this year's Convention.

New Dancer 50% Registration scholarships will be provided this year. Registration forms should be signed by club caller/cuer that persons registering are new dancers.

A one hour introduction to square dancing is being planned for Friday evening.

Additional polypropylene flooring (112 square feet) is needed for the advanced hall. (Submitted by Bill and Ruth Buehler)

Tom Boesch stated that \$100. has been made available for a matching gift to purchase the remaining needed flooring.

15th PSRDF Convention – PLEASE NOTE: The date of the 15th Convention is August 8, 9 and 10, 2008, to be held at the Omni William Penn, Pittsburgh.

Clyde Miles noted that all Chair positions are now filled. In 2008, side trips will be offered to entice participants to make this into a vacation and not just a Convention. We will also have dancing on Friday 3:00 a.m. – 5:30 & 8:00 to Midnight, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to Midnight and Sunday trail out 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Find the H in Pittsburgh and win a prize. Everyone is invited to join the Scavenger Hunt.

Reduced room rates will be from August 4 through August 12, 2008.

Talk it up to everyone. Let's make this Convention a new experience in a city where it has never been held. Let Pittsburgh Surprise You. (Submitted by Clyde & Judy Miles)

Mike Matsko made a motion that \$1000.00 seed money be given to the 15th Convention. Barb Schreiber seconded the motion. Motion carried.

National Convention 2011 – Clyde read the report.

Bid books are made and have been sent to all the NEC Members, February 15, 2007. We beat Detroit in getting ours out first.

As an incentive to come to our bid session on Friday at 9:00 a.m., June 29, 2007, we will raffle a certificate for a round trip airline ticket to anywhere in the Continental USA for one person. Wear your black and gold and bring your terrible towels if you have them to cheer us on.

We will have an after party dance (mainstream) Saturday night with Tom Miller as MC and approximately 17 other National Callers calling. Please plan to attend win or lose.

If we win the bid in June, be ready to register at the Convention.

Though we have some committees operating, we still need several Convention Committee Chairmen and Directors. Anyone interested or knowing someone who would be interested, please contact us. (Submitted by Clyde and Judy Miles)

For the Bid, Friday morning, at the Charlotte Convention in June, it was noted that a black and gold outfit should be worn. But, if you do not have a black and gold/yellow outfit, come dressed anyway.

Clyde noted that several neighboring State Federations have written to show support for a Convention in Pittsburgh.

The extensive financial details for the planning and control of the 2011 National Convention were presented by Clyde. This was based upon a potential attendance of 7000 dancers and 175 vendors. Considerable discussion followed. \$1000.00 seed money is needed to prepare for advanced registration in Charlotte if we win our bid.

A question of recovery of expenses by clubs assisting in the preparation of say table decorations or other items was raised. Clyde said that clubs should submit a bill of items furnished.

Bob Vanetta moved that \$1000.00 seed money be provided for the National Convention Committee. Ruthie Stiles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bids for 2009 Convention – Clyde Miles presented the details of bids from: The Penn Stater, State College; Omni William Penn, Pittsburgh; The Hilton, Harrisburg and The Raddison, Camp Hill. The Raddison bid included a considerable increase in required room nights. The Penn Stater is not available for the second week end in August. Considerable discussion followed.

Bill Flick moved that the Penn Stater be selected for the 2009 Convention. Frank Schreiber seconded the motion. Motion carried by show of cards.

Resumes – Clyde noted that resumes are required for members of the Executive Committee, Convention Committee Chairmen and Directors. Please submit your resumes relative to your involvement in square dancing. Please mail resumes to Clyde.

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

1. The State still needs someone for Showcase of Ideas, Historian and Photographer.
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 wish to thank all of the officers and Committee Chairmen for a job well done. It has been a pleasure working with you. We would also like to thank all the officers and Delegates of all the Federations/Associations for making our meetings meaningful and productive.
(Submitted by Clyde and Judy Miles)

Next meeting of PSRDF is 1:00 p.m. Sunday, October 7, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA.

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Tom Boesch moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 P.M. Frank Schreiber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
William L. Buehler
Ruth M. Buehler