

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION
Minutes of April 11, 2010

The PSRDF met on Sunday April 11, 2010 at the Holliday Inn Downtown in Johnstown, PA. Six Federations/Associations were represented: Allegheny Valley Federation – 5 members, Central PA. – 4 members, Delaware Valley – 1 member, Laurel Mountain – 7 members, Susquehanna Valley – 8 members, Western Pennsylvania – 7 members.

Call to Order: Bill and Ruth Buehler, Presidents, called the semi-annual meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Bill Flick opened with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Copies of the October 4, 2009 minutes were previously sent to all attendees of the meeting. There were no additions or corrections from the membership and the minutes were accepted as sent. Secretary's minutes of Oct. accepted
 Motion – Carol Graham second – Clyde Miles

Treasurer's Report: for period 10/1/09 to 3/31/10

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION						
	Treasures Report for period 10/01/09 to 3/31/10					
		<u>Checkbook</u>				
Balance 10/1/10					\$2,156.83	
Income from 10/1/09 to 3/31/10					\$10,853.48	
Expenses from 10/1/09 to 3/31/10					<u>\$8,217.08</u>	
Balance as of 3/31/10					\$4,793.20	
	<u>Income</u>					
CD cashed		\$3,007.47				
return of seed money		\$1,000.00				
memorial collection		\$57.00				
convention profit		\$5,072.98				
2010 dues		<u>\$1,716.00</u>				
Total		\$10,853.45				

<u>Expenses</u>						
supplies		\$22.58				
memorial for Cindy Vanetta		\$157.00				
United Sq Dancers of America		\$100.00				
Radisson Hotel (deposit)		\$750.00				
Investment Savings (CD)		\$5,000.00				
BmI General Licensing		\$140.00				
Dan Prosser (farm show)		\$25.00				
Promotional Program		\$272.50				
New Dancer Program		\$950.00				
Caller Assist. Program		<u>\$800.00</u>				
		\$8,217.08				
<u>CD's</u>						
1 year CD (Due 5/4/10)		\$10,000.00				
6 mo. CD (due 5/26/10)		\$4,000.00	renewed			
91 day CD (due 9/2/09)		(\$3,000.00)	deposited	3007.47		
18 mo CD (due 5/10/11)		<u>\$5,000.00</u>	new			
		\$19,000.00				
Total Assets					\$23,793.20	

President's Report: It's so wonderful to see all of you here on this spring day to do planning and make decisions that will hopefully, have a positive impact on our favorite pastime – square and round dancing. Welcome everyone and thanks for making the trip.

After having had a new and exciting experience two years ago at the State Convention in Pittsburgh, we are now looking forward to a new adventure in Johnstown this August. We know that you are looking forward to the fun and excitement of this new adventure.

We are pleased that forty-five club and four individual applications have been received for the incentive programs. \$4,952.10 has been paid to date. We hope that as spring graduation approaches we will receive more requests.

The 59th National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky this June. More than 4859 dancers have preregistered for this event. This is less than 500 miles from Johnstown, PA and the trip can be driven in seven hours. Take along your state outfit (navy and gold) to wear at the Parade of States.

An interesting summary of State Federation membership has been provided by our Membership Committee. Out of approximately ninety known clubs in Pennsylvania, forty-eight clubs have ten or more State Federation members for 2010. The average number of members of these forty-eight clubs is thirty-one. Eleven clubs have fifty or more members; six clubs have sixty or more members. The largest club has one hundred fifteen PSRDF members.

We are looking forward to hearing from Associations/Federations and clubs about your efforts in the retention of dancers. Sharing your experience can be helpful to others.

Thank you everyone, for all the effort that you have put into this organization and the square and round dance activity. You provide much of the glue that helps this activity to exist.

Your Presidents
Bill & Ruth Buehler

Association/Federation Reports:

Allegheny Valley S&RD Federation: AVSRDF held their meeting March 14th, with seventeen delegates representing seven clubs. Reports from the clubs represented were for the most part positive. Our federation is averaging three squares per dance. Clubs that border other federations and clubs are keeping the average at a reasonable level.

Lessons for new dancers are not doing very well except for one club. They started with seventeen new dancers and recently graduated eleven. Of these eleven dancers, seven have joined the club and four have chosen to be independent. Perry Squares, which is a callers club that has advanced & DBD dancers, is holding their own

Once again not all the news is good. Star Promenaders had their last dance March 20th. It was not because of funds but because of the lack of participation from their club members. There was no one interested in holding an office and participation at the club dances was down to eight active members out of thirty-nine registered dancers.

We are now in full swing preparing for our 45th Annual Dance to be held at Sarah Reed Retirement Center, 227 West 22nd St. in Eire Pa. The date is Sept. 26th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Our callers will be Tom Mohny and Al Pezzuto last years' winner of the \$250.00 raffle. Our cuers will be Vonda Hardik & George Wisniewski. If you would like an opportunity to win 1st prize of \$250, 2nd prize of \$100 and 3rd prize of \$50 tickets are six for \$5.
(Thank You Al & Jessie Pezzuto, Presiding couple for the AVSRDF)

Central PA S&RD Association: The election of officers was held at the October, 2009 meeting and are good until October 2010. Those elected were: Mike & Pat Matsko, Treasurer; Barb & Joel Alles, Secretary; Jim & Pat Carson, Vice-President; Tom & Phyllis Boesch, President

The Pennsylvania State Federation put in place a program to clean up the membership list. I am pleased that the seven clubs in the CPSRDA responded very promptly to the challenge.

Bill Hilborn, who put this project together, was the key to this project. CPSRDA was able to send a completed roster to Nancy & Jerry Beckner, Membership Chairman, by November 1, 2009. CPSRDA sent a check to pay for the members dues for 2010.

The Central Pennsylvania Square & Round Dance Association held a benefit dance on February 20, 2010. This dance was to benefit the cardiac unit at the Divine Providence Hospital in Williamsport, PA. The Club Callers donated their time. There were four squares and \$438.00 was collected. (Respectfully submitted by Thomas & Phyllis Boesch, President, Central Pennsylvania Square & Round Dance Association)

Federation of Delaware Valley: No report.

Laurel Mountain Square and Round Dance Federation: Our first meeting was held January 17, 2010. President Joe and Patty Hincerick opened the meeting with a pledge and prayer. We had four clubs out of six represented. We discussed ways to get people interested in taking classes and also how our demonstrations at the Cambria County Fair have not aided our clubs in increasing their membership. We don't think we will participate this year or we may only volunteer to go one day and not all week. Our main discussion was to set the date for our Federation dance. We will have the dance on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Patton, PA. A committee will select the menu. We will need to increase the meal price, but those coming just to dance will be charged the same. Our presidents are moving to Virginia area in April, so Ken and Carol Graham will be in-charge for the completion of 2010. We wish the best to Joe and Patty Hincerich and hope they will be able to come and join us for the Federation dance. The next meeting will be held June 6th at the Arena Restaurant in Bedford, PA. (Respectfully, Carol & Ken Graham)

Susquehanna Valley S&RD Association: Square dancing continues at a steady pace. New classes are progressing with success, although smaller.

SVSRDA took a very active role in the Farm Show Program. This included many volunteers supporting the square dance booth, dance demos with spectator participation, and Dan Prosser's program—the arena demo and competition. Other creative activities, such as First Nighters and demos, continue throughout the Association.

The Visitation program was very strong and helped the smaller clubs' finances. As a side note, SVSRDA recommends the plan initiated by Bill & Ruth Buehler be utilized. This is a wonderful program, and truly a great support to smaller clubs.

The 42nd Annual Presidents Ball will be held Sunday, April 18, 2010 at Mechanicsburg Middle School, 1750 S. Market St., Mechanicsburg, PA, where the Presidents of each club are recognized for their commitment to square dancing. The Presidents of PSRDF will be our guests at this special occasion. The club with the most visitations will be awarded a plaque and all clubs participating will receive monetary awards.

The Graduation Ball will be hosted by Fair Squares and Gad-A'bouts on Sunday, May 16, 2010. This is a great way to end the year and plant seeds for next year's programs.

The one sad issue, we received notice that Rainbow Strollers Rounds & Squares dissolved effective January 1, 2010.

(Respectfully Submitted by Tom & Dee Kern, SVSRDA Presidents)

Western Pennsylvania Federation: The WPSRDF Fall Festival was held on October 17, 2009 at Bakerstown Methodist Church. There was an afternoon DBD workshop and dance with Ed Foote as the caller. Ed Pabst called a very nice dance in the evening and Claire and John Miller cuing an equally enjoyable round dance. This dance was hosted by Tea Cup Squares. There were twenty-five dancers at the afternoon workshop and seventy-eight for the evening dance. Everyone had a great time. The dance however produced an \$89.55 net loss.

North Hills Squares has agreed to host the 2010 Fall Festival. It will be held on October 16, 2010 at the Parkwood UP Church. Further plans remain to be made and more information will follow by the next PSRDF meeting.

Our new dancer's Sophomore Dance will be hosted by Happy-Go-Lucky Squares and is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the Ice Garden on Route 51 with Brad Deibert and Norm Shaffor calling. Fortunately though their roof recently collapsed as a result of our severe weather conditions we are assured that the dance will go on there as scheduled.

Speaking of inclement weather, many of our clubs were forced to cancel their regular dances during the first few weeks of February. This really demonstrated the effectiveness of the Google Group list for quickly getting the information out to dancers.

Regarding the WPSRDF Google Group list there are now more than 165 email addresses for participating dancers. We have also designated Roy Nagy as a coordinator for our WPSRDF web page updates. This allows one person to gather information from all of the clubs in our federation so that a consolidated report may be sent to John and he will know that the requested changes are valid.

A few dancers from the WPSRDF were able to go to the PA Farm Show in Harrisburg and help staff the square dance booth.

The WPSRDF was able to complete the electronic PSRDF membership list after some difficulty, but with the coordination of Mick Hopf it was accomplished.

The WPSRDF looked into scheduling a tour bus from the Pittsburgh area to the National Convention in Louisville, KY but the plan was cancelled because of very minimal interest.

Footloose Squares held their final dance on Saturday, December 19, 2009. It was a snowy night but those in attendance had a fun time dancing.

Our regularly scheduled WPSRDF bimonthly meeting for February 8, 2010 was cancelled due to yes, the weather again. Our next meeting will be held on April 12th.

(Respectfully Submitted by Tony & Diana Rock, WPSRDF Presidents)

Committee Reports:

17th Convention Report:

- Registration: Bob & Ellen reported there are 236 registrations including Committee, Callers, and Cuers
- Hotel: Econo Lodge is full and Holiday Inn has filled 86 of the 130 rooms.
- Tours: Donna and Barrett reported the tour on Thursday has 6 openings left and the Friday tour has 28 registered. Ryan's Restaurant has been picked for the dinner after the tour on Thursday. The bus being used for the tour will take us up to the Galleria and bring us back. The cost for that will be \$2.00 per/person.
- We will be back by 7:00 PM to do the stuffing of the envelopes at the Conference Center, then Tom Miller and Carter Ackerman will be calling for dancing from approximately 8:00 PM till 10:30 PM. There will be a \$5.00 per person charge to cover Tom and

Carter's expense for staying the extra night. This dance is casual dress so you can help out at the packet stuffing party.

- **Grab and Go Menu:** There will be an area in the back of the round dance hall with tables for the grab and go. Also weather permitting we could have a few tables on the deck out front.
- There will be two \$100 vouchers purchased - one to be given to a Caller and one to a Cuer from a drawing on Friday by the chairman of each committee.
- **Parking:** There is a new city manager and Bill will be talking to her about in-and-out privileges at the parking garage and other camping areas.
- **Camping:** There are five camping spots with two 50 amps and three 30 amps and water hook ups, that could be available at the National Flood Museum off Route 219 in Sidman approximately 8 miles away cost is \$20 a night; it's at a primitive area. Reservations are made through a Township Secretary, Diane Baxter at 814-487-5054 weekdays during business hours. Another camp ground called Mirror Lake is located 17 miles from the conference center; address is 105 Creek Road, New Florence, PA 15944. The phone number 724-235-2115.
- **Program Book:** There is still time to submit ads and booster sheets for the program book. Remember to write legibly for booster lists so your name may be printed correctly. The ad and booster sheets are available on the PSRDF.org website. (Submitted by Bob Vanetta, 2010 General Chairman)

18th Convention Report: Mick Hopf and Susan Mong were nominated as the General Chair Persons for the 18th Annual PSRDF convention to be held in Greentree, PA. They did not submit a report at this time however they provided their qualifications. They each have been dancing for about eight years. They are both very active in their respective clubs. Mick is Treasurer for Teacup Squares and Susan is President of Friendly squares. Regarding the convention Mick advises that about half of the convention committee chairs have agreed to continue with the 18th convention and a \$750 deposit was already paid to the Greentree Radison...

Caller/Cuer Report: No report.

State Folk Dance: No report. A person/couple is needed to chair this committee. There are about 32 states where square dancing is the state dance. There have been prior bills in PA but none have been passed to date. Please consider this project.

Showcase of Ideas: No report.

Membership:

Total Membership 1,654 Members, 193 Life Members, 1,847 Total The Club Count Total would be higher because 93 members have multiple club memberships.

	Clubs Reporting	Annual Members	Life Members
AVSRDA	6	149	21

CPSRDA	8	200	23
DVSRDF	7	308	21
LMSRDF	7	176	20
NPSRDF	-	4	4
SVSRDA	10	428	64
WPSRDF	17	468	52
TOTAL	55	1,731	205

October 2007 58 clubs with 1,656 Members
March 2008 45 clubs with 1,463 Members
March 2009 41 clubs with 1,472 Members
April 2010 55 Clubs with 1,847 Members

	Folded		Not Included in This Report		
	Clubs	Members	"Ind" Members	Clubs	Members
AVSRDA	1	21	-	1	66
CPSRDA	1	20	10	1	1
DVSRDF	-	-	-	8	78
LMSRDF	-	-	2	-	-
NPSRDF	-	-	-	-	-
SVSRDA	-	-	18	1	2
WPSRDF	8	100	6	-	-
TOTAL	10	141	36	11	147

Federations should review their membership to verify life members. They should also reconcile their dues payment with the membership count. It's good news that the membership count is up. It's also very good that the reporting and tracking is much easier with the electronic format. (Respectfully submitted, Nancy & Jerry Beckner, PSRDF Membership)

Historian: No report.

License Plates: Bob and Dottie Elgin will continue with this committee. There is a onetime cost of \$20 and it is not necessary to wait until your license plate is due for renewal. Applications are available on the PSRDF web site and will be available at the convention.

Computer Coordinator/Webmaster: No Report. The PSRDF presidents extend their thanks for the excellent work that continues to be done on our web site.

Ways & Means and Publicity: No report. This committee was in existence to ensure distribution of the PSRDF meeting minutes. The minutes are now available on the web site so there may not be a need to continue this committee. Please consider whether the PSRDF should continue the publicity committee. Also, if you have a desire to promote square dancing, please also consider volunteering to chair this committee.

State Outfit: No report.

Special Reports:

USDA: Bill Flick reported that he has been on the USDA executive committee since 1992. Mike and Pat Matsko also serve as information officers of USDA.. The winter meeting was held in Tucson, A.Z. The insurance program comes from USDA. If callers have insurance it does not cover dancers. Only the caller and his equipment are covered by caller insurance. Prescription cards are available to anyone including non-dancers.

Farm Show Exhibit: The 3rd Annual PSRDF Farm Show Exhibitor's event was held on January 9-16, 2010. There were forty-nine dancers representing fifteen clubs that volunteered and manned the exhibitor's booth. Two square dance demonstrations were held; one on Monday, January 11th and the other on Thursday, January 14th. There were three squares of dancers on the January 11th demo and two squares for the January 14th demo. During the Monday demonstration, there were over 100 spectators that gathered to observe the dancing and some of them joined in to try some basic calls.

We wish to thank those that participated in the activities of this event. A special thanks to Tom Kern for his significant contribution in recruiting volunteers and for working the exhibitor's booth. Also, a special thanks to John and Mim Martin for the booth display setup and removal at the end of the event. We are grateful for the support of callers Dan Prosser and Dave Kreider, for their services in calling at these demonstrations.

We feel that this event is an excellent approach to reach a large number of people. This exposure offers a fine opportunity to talk with people and introduce them to the benefits of square dancing. The offering of a "Free Pass" to people that are interested in trying square dancing has returned positive results. We ask that clubs will report to us any contacts made from persons that used these free dance passes.

We believe that this kind of event should be planned in other areas within the state. Localizing public exposure could offer more opportunity to clubs in recruiting new dancers.

We have incurred some expenses for this Farm Show event. There was a \$25.00 expense for printing of the free dancer "Ticket Passes" to a dance to a club event. The other expense was for postage in the amount of \$15.00. We are requesting post approval of these expenses.

If there is a plan to continue this Annual Farm Show event, we are recommending that an allocation of funds be authorized to pay incidental expenses. We recommended \$100.00 be authorized to pay for parking passes, postage, printing and related expenses. (Respectfully submitted, Mike & Pat Matsko, Chairmen, Farm Show Exhibitor Committee)

ARTS: This is a national organization comprised of other national organizations including USDA, Callerlab, and Roundalab. ARTS is working on a computer program to be available soon. Bill Flick was appointed the voting representative for USDA to ARTS. A new program to consider is the One Hundred Thousand Dollar Club. If 1,000 people donate only \$100 each, this

\$100,000 could be used nationally to promote square dancing. People could contribute for themselves or in memory of someone such as a loved one. There is very limited information on this new program since it is in the infancy stage. Funds are beginning to be raised and policies for using it have not yet been developed.

Retention: This was provided to delegates and will be emailed to each federation/association president to be copied and distributed to clubs. RETENTION of Dancers

I. The Easy Stuff

- A) Help dancers feel welcome and comfortable.
- B) Help dancers be successful in doing figures.
- C) Complement new dancers on their progress.
- D) Interact especially with new dancers.
- E) Encourage new dancers to:
 - 1. Join in doing visitations and attending meetings
 - 2. Accept Club duties
 - 3. Practice skills regularly
 - 4. Learn definition of calls
- F) Avoid negative behaviors
 - 1. Cliques
 - 2. Exclusions
 - 3. Negative comments

II. Callers

- A) Be observant and work to have a successful, well-paced dance floor.
- B) Offer work shop, either before a dance or on a separate night, to assist weaker dancers with troublesome calls.
- C) Offer a hot hash or a higher level tip during or following the dance.
- D) Offer interesting choreography.
- E) If noticeable frustration occurs, to more than a few, consider talking the floor through the sequence.
- F) Maintain excitement and enthusiasm.

III. Now for the WORK

- A) Appoint a retention officer (responsibilities to be determined by the club).
- B) Assign a buddy to each new dancer (couple) (responsibilities to be determined by the club).
- C) Be a friend and promote harmony.
- D) All – set a good example.
 - 1. Contribute
 - 2. Harmonize
 - 3. Encourage
 - 4. Volunteer
 - 5. Be accepting and receptive

Based upon United Square Dancers of America information sheet IS-002 RETAINING DANCERS RMB 4/6/10

Old Business:

Promotional programs:

\$3,900 paid to clubs for graduating dancers.
\$ 252.10 to clubs for promotion e.g. newspaper ads
\$ 800.00 to new callers to attend Callerlab training.
\$4,952.10 TOTAL

Lingering Issue: Regarding the Hosting of a National Convention in Pittsburgh

PSRDF sponsored a bid for the 2011 National SD Convention. Pittsburgh's bid in 2007 was tremendous. We lost to Detroit. We were crushed. In October 2009 PSRDF delegates voted unanimously to not place an intent to bid for 2013. During the 2009 PA Convention and since that time, various PSRDF officers have been contacted concerning Pennsylvania placing an intent to bid for the 2015 National Convention. The Pittsburgh Convention Bureau conducted a conference call to assess interest in this intent to bid. As a result of that call no further action is planned.

New Business:

18th convention seed money: \$1,000.00 will be provided to the 18th convention General Chairpersons to be used for initial expenses.

A letter was received from USDA: The USDA is requesting delegates for the meeting to be held at the national convention in Kentucky. The delegates may serve on a one time or ongoing basis. Also Mike and Pat Matsko are interested in the nomination for Vice President of Eastern Region USDA and were so nominated.

2013 PSRDF 20th Convention – Clyde Miles: Three bids were submitted. The Doubletree in Monrowville, PA and the second from The Hilton in Harrisburg, PA. There is also one from The Camphill PA Radison. Room rates: Camp Hill \$115, Hilton \$129, Monrowville \$139 each gives one free night for every 50 rooms booked.

Harrisburg: It has the following features: three blocks from capital, nearby island in the river with a lot of activity, easy to get in and out of, enclosed walkway to food court and shopping.

Parking: \$10 per day with in-out privileges (the others have free parking).

Payment: Monrowville needs a deposit in advance. The others don't require advance payment. No bid was obtained from the Pennstater in State College. Pennstater significantly increased the cost of hall rental. The Camp Hill location is inadequate due to various reasons including no elevator availability. However, money was made at every convention held there. The tours would be very nice in the Harrisburg location where we wouldn't have them at state College or Camp Hill. Camp Hill is directly across the river from Harrisburg. The suggestion was made to check the Altoona or Lancaster Convention centers. After talking to them it was concluded that official bids from these locations would not be competitive with the existing bids. There was discussion regarding these bids. It was suggested that each area look for possible sights and forward their suggestions to the committee. The conclusion was to check other sights through the summer and finalize the process at the October meeting.

Nomination of officers: Nominations were closed and the existing slate of officers was elected. They include:

President – Bill & Ruth Buehler

1st Vice President – Barrett & Donna Earnest

2nd Vice President – Bill Flick
Secretary – Tony and Diana Rock
Treasurer – Ken & Carol Graham

Memorial Policy / Recognition of Service – PSRDF

Let it be resolved that it shall be the policy of the PSRDF to acknowledge the passing of members of the PSRDF through a donation to a specified cause on behalf of the deceased members as identified below:

- Present and Past PSRDF Presidents – a donation of \$150.00;
- Executive Committee Member or Convention Chairmen– a donation of \$100.00;
- Retired Executive Committee Member or Past Convention Chairmen – a donation of \$50.00;

Upon notification of the passing of a retired committee member, the President shall send an appreciation of service /sympathy card. Moved: Clyde Miles 2nd Tom Kern

Convention wrap up meeting: The convention chairmen for the 17th and 18th conventions, PSRDF officers, federation/association presidents, and special guests are invited to attend. The meeting will be held on Sunday morning of the convention weekend at 8:30 AM.

Convention tour information: There will be a bus to the Galleria for dinner at Ryan's. The bus will hold 48 people. We will have our own room. Cost is \$8.99 and \$8.49 for seniors plus coffee .99 or soft drinks \$1.99 (both refillable). They have a steak station to order your steak plus other carved meats. There are also wonderful desserts.

Next semi-annual meeting to be held on Sunday October 3, 2010 at the Radison Greentree with executive committee at 11:30 AM and regular delegate meeting at 1:00 PM as usual.

Adjournment: As there was no further business to conduct, a motion was made for adjournment at 3:32 pm by Tom Kern. Motion seconded by Donna Earnest. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tony & Diana Rock
Secretary