

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION
Minutes of April 3, 2011

The PSRDF met on Sunday April 3, 2011 at the Pittsburgh Greentree Radisson Hotel. Six Federations/Associations were represented: Allegheny Valley, Central Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley, Laurel Mountain, Susquehanna Valley, and Western Pennsylvania.

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

Secretary's Report: Copies of the October 3, 2010 meeting 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. Motion – Tony Rock Second – Carol Graham

Treasurer's Report: Period 10/01/10 to 03/31/11

<u>Checkbook</u>	
Balance (09/30/10):	1009.55
Income from 10/01/10 to 03/31/11:	3815.15
Expenses from 10/01/10 to 03/31/11	1445.88
Balance as of 03/31/11	3378.82
Income:	
Convention:	3815.15
Total	3815.15
Expenses:	
USDA Dues:	100
New Dancer Program:	750
Radisson Green Tree (meeting expense):	247.08
New Caller Program:	200
BMI (licensing):	140
Stamps(treasurer):	8.8
Total Expenses:	1445.88

<u>CD's</u>	
1 year CD (Due 05/04/11)	10000
6 mo. CD (Due 05/04/11)	4000
6 mo. CD (Due 05/10/11)	5000
6 mo. CD (Due 04/25/11) new	2500
Total:	21500

TOTAL ASSETS 24878.82

Respectfully submitted by Ken & Carol Graham, PSRDF Treasurers

Motion – Donna Earnest Second – Larry Gorski

President's Report: Greetings across the State. As we near the end of our tenure as presidents of PSRDF, we would like to use this last message to say thank you. First, we thank the officers who served with us Barrett and Donna Earnest, Bill Flick, Ken and Carol Graham and Tony and Diana Rock. Good luck as you serve in new positions.

Second, we thank the Association/Federation officers who have worked to help square dancing clubs across Pennsylvania and into neighboring states. Also, communication has been greatly aided by our Webmaster, John and Joyce Simchick. Unfortunately, they have submitted their resignation. We thank them for years of service.

Third, we thank the membership collections persons: Al & Jessie Pezzuto, Tom & Phyllis Boesch, Ted Rotwitt, Larry and Lynn Crone, Norm & Gail Diefenderfer, and Ralph and Kathy Weigand, for helping to collect and process PSRDF membership data. Thank you also for Scott Brown who accepted the job as State Membership Chairman. This group has improved the accuracy of the records of PSRDF members.

Lastly, we thank you all for supporting us as we strive to help make square dancing in Pennsylvania a vibrant, growing activity, and working to bring dissimilar clubs and dancers across the State into closer harmony.

NOTE: This report was inadvertently not read at the meeting but appears here for your review.

Association/Federation Reports:

Allegheny Valley S&RD Federation: AVSRDF held their meeting March 13th 2011, with 15 delegates representing 6 clubs. Reports from those clubs represented were for the most part positive. Our federation is averaging 3 squares per dance. Clubs that border other federations are still doing very well.

Once again we will be canvassing for a new slate of officers in September. New Castle Paws & Taws experimented with casual dress in July and August, and have decided to continue with conservative casual dress for July and August. (That club has always been traditional dress all year round). Shenango Valley Sashayers voted and agreed to have round dancing from May through October on the first dance of each month. Two of our six clubs in our federation will have some graduates.

AVSRDF did establish a Google Group .We presently have 40 members, although we have not used it as often as we should. I have encouraged our members to post information. There was some misconception that only I can post information. I would like to thank Tony Rock for helping me to set up AVSRDF Google Group and working out some of the bugs that I have encountered. **Thank you Tony!**

AVSRDF is preparing for our 46th Annual Dance to be held at the Salvation Army Hall located at 660 Fisher Hill and Hall Street in Sharon Pa; and will be hosted by Shenango Valley Sashayers. It will be held Saturday, September 24th from 6:30-9:30 PM. Our callers will be Howard Williamson and Larry Frosbrink with cuer Donna Williamson. See flyers and watch for Google postings.

Thank You, Al & Jessie Pezzuto, Presiding couple for the AVSRDF

Central PA S&RD Association: There was an election of officers for the Association on October 11, 2010. Those elected were as follows:

Thomas & Phyllis Boesch-----PRESIDENT
Truman & Diana Hershberger--VICE PRESIDENT
Joseph & Barbara Allis-----SECRETARY
Michael & Patricia Matsko----- TREASURER

These Officers will serve until the election at the next meeting on October 10, 2011.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show Dance was a success for CPSRDA. There were 4 clubs and 8 squares represented. Everyone had a great time.

The CPSRDA has 2 benefit dances scheduled. The Heart Dance is to take place on Sunday April 10, 2011 and the Cancer Dance on Sunday October 23, 2011. The dances are from 2:00-4:30 PM at the Devine Providence Hospital in Williamsport, PA.

The Callers for the Heart Dance are Carter Ackerman, Bob Avery, Jeff Bobst, Glen Paulhamus and Glenn Stuck. The Cuer is Earl McKibben. The Callers & Cuer are donating their time.

The Central Pennsylvania Square & Round Dance Association will again be donating a basket to the Chinese Auction and they will also put a display in the Showcase of Ideas at the 2011 Pennsylvania Eighteenth Annual State Square and Round Dance Convention.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas & Phyllis Boesch

President, Central Pennsylvania Square & Round Dance Association

Federation of Delaware Valley: No report submitted

Laurel Mountain Square and Round Dance Federation: The Laurel Mountain Federation met on January 23, 2011 to possibly disband our federation. Our officers for 2010 had tried to have dancers step up to take an office. At this meeting the current officers, Presidents Ken & Carol Graham, decided to stay on as well as Secretaries Larry & Lynn Crone. We did have Grace & Leon Carey agree to take the Treasurers place and a newer square dancer couple, Dwight & Donna Shank agreed to be Vice Presidents. We all hope and pray that our federation can get members interested in taking offices in the coming year.

Clubs made reports on what activities and dances they have been participating in and what is happening in their clubs. Many clubs have slowed down for the winter months with their dancers going away for the winter.

Plans are being made for our first Sophomore Dance hosted by the Wheelers & Dealers club in Somerset. It will be held Sunday, May 1, 2011 at The Faith Lutheran Church, 667 Glades Pike (Rt. 31) East of Somerset. All new and old dancers are invited to attend.

We are trying to find another hall to have our yearly federation dance for 2011. The date is Saturday, November 5th from 2:00-5:00 PM. with details to follow.

We are trying to remind dancers about the state convention in August and to get their registrations in ASAP. A bus may be available for our area if enough interest is shown. Donna Williamson is asking dancers to sign up as she travels to the various clubs.

Our next meeting will be held May 1st before the Sophomore Dance at Wheelers & Dealers. Our officers and club representatives left the meeting with positive thoughts and a good feeling about our federation continuing on for another year.

Respectfully, Carol & Ken Graham

Susquehanna Valley S&RD Association: NOTE—The secretary was to read this report at the PSRDF meeting but it was accidentally left at home. We must give our apology to Susquehanna Valley. We mentioned that a report was submitted and directed the delegates to read it here in the minutes.

Christmas & New Year's Eve dances proved festive with many dancers attending various clubs.

The beginning of the year brought the Farm Show at Harrisburg with its great arena dances with over 500 dancers from across the state participating. Susquehanna Valley carried the lion share of the load by manning the State booth. Over 700 pieces of literature promoting square dancing were passed out during this 10 day event. Two local callers, Dave Kreiter and Dan Prosser provided demos with spectator participation. John & Mim Martin were very instrumental in assisting with the State booth.

A number of Susquehanna Valley Squares and Rounds started new classes. Two clubs reinforced this with a one day teaching event (called a Blast). This is an all day and evening event with dinner provided for a nominal fee for the dancers. The program proved to add new dancers to the existing classes.

February 13th was the Benefit Dance for the Heart Association hosted by the Do-Pas-O club held at the Otterbein United Methodist Church in Lancaster, PA. SVSRDA dancers supported this event, with the leadership provided by Steve Zweifach & Eileen Kropp, who gained notoriety thru a local TV and newspapers rising over \$3,000 for the Heart Association. New class members were invited and a number of tips were called at the class level. A great time was had by all.

SVSRDA is completing its 2010-2011 Visitation Program which will be ending March 31. This has been one of the best success stories for all of the clubs, which was implemented by Ruth & Bill Buehler. A "Winning Plaque" will be awarded at the President's Ball to the club with the highest total number of dancers visiting other clubs, and the results of visitations from all clubs will be announced. Friendship Dangles will be available to dancers who participate in five or more visits for one club during the visitation year.

The 43rd annual President's Ball and Dinner will be held at the Mechanicsburg Middle School, 1750 S. Market St., Mechanicsburg, PA on April 17. This Ball is being sponsored by the Do-Pas-O club. Butch Adams will be calling and Linda Prosser cueing. "Yodeling" Bill Gordon will be calling for the New Dancer/Mainstream dancers. All dancers are invited. For tickets contact Bonnie Hemperly at 717-392-0169 or tickets may be ordered online at www.dopaso.org. The dance & dinner is \$25 per person and dance only is \$10.

The 2011 Graduation Ball will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 2 – 4:30 P.M. hosted by the Swing Thru Square Dance club. The Graduation Ball will be at the Neffsville Fire Hall, 200 East Oregon Rd., Neffsville, PA. Multiple Callers & Cuers provided by the South Central PA Association will be participating in this event. For further information, contact Dave & Doris Kreiter at 717-626-5964.

The SVSRDA Association is meeting to discuss several summer dances for the new graduates to help them improve their dancing skills and become more confident dancers for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Tom & Dee Kern

Western Pennsylvania Federation: The WPSRDF held their Fall Festival last October with the Williamsons calling and cueing. There was a DBD workshop from 3:00 to 5:00 and early rounds from 7:30 to 8:00 pm. The evening dance was held from 8:00 to 10:30 pm. It was truly a fun filled festive dance. The WPSRDF was asked to hold a square dance demo at a diabetes conference on November 6th at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. This demo was a great success because we had a large number of audience participation. The dance was open to all square dancers including our current new dancers and square wear was optional. The Callers Association was reestablished in our area. Since our federation has several callers regularly attending both meetings, they will provide reports to the WPSRDF and vice versa so that both groups may be on the same page and not have conflicting activities. They are hosting a special Spring Fling dance on May 21st. The WPSRDF is excited to announce the birth of a new square & round dance club, The Butler Squares.

Resulting from our special meeting held last July committees were formed with the following conclusions: 1. Due to fewer and smaller clubs, we are revising our guidelines for banner capture and retrieval within our federation so that clubs will be more encouraged to visit each other. 2. We conducted a survey of dancers. 3. We are investigating a simplified approach

to ensure that all of our federation clubs are incorporated. 4. We are changing the requirements to obtain our friendship bars. 5. We hope to make future changes to the way we do student lessons and dances. 6. We have looked in to the dress code and no changes were made except that it is left to the individual clubs. 7. We plan to hold a follow-up all federation meeting in May to address these and new issues.

Tony & Diana Rock: Presidents, WPSRDF

Committee Reports:

18th Convention Report: Since the secretary is out of town, we do not have the minutes from the March 6 meeting. We can only relate the reports from the committees.

Business Manager (Joe Nardi): 3 Requests for sound system bids were sent out in January. 2 bids were received: one for \$2,800.00 with no added costs and one for \$3,200.00 plus hotel rooms for 3 nights. The low bid was \$200.00 higher than the estimate in the budget. The lower bid was voted on and accepted.

Joe had taken on the task of finding a solo director. Sue Hogan from the WPSRDF has agreed to serve as the solo director this year.

Housing & Registration (Bob & Ellen Williams): As of March 6 we had 130 total registrations. Bob Williams said at the time he was getting several a day but we are way behind previous years.

Square Dance Program: Tom Miller had some issues and he got behind in sending out caller invitations but he is now up to date and receiving responses.

Round Dance Program: Carter Ackerman reported that his invitational letter had gone out February 1 to 40 cuers. He requested a reply by April 1 and has received 7 acceptances so far. He will now start to work with the Square Dance Program Chairman to develop a coordinated dance program. He plans on 2 round dance halls presently.

Publicity and Tours: Clyde and Judy Miles will be taking fliers to the Ohio Convention and the Star Spangled Banner Festival. We are advertising on our Google and on Eastern's Google. They are also contacting West Virginia, Virginia, New York and Delaware to exchange advertisements. A tour to the Carnegie Science Center is scheduled for Thursday at 1 PM, and a tour to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh History Center is scheduled for Friday at 9:30 AM with lunch included at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Transportation is provided for both tours. Thus far they have only received 7 reservations for the Science Center tour, and only 3 for the Heinz History Center. They stressed the need to promote the tours.

Social & Special Events: Bob & Janet Wilson are working on getting brochures local to this area. They are getting volunteers to cover all of the fund raising positions. A follow up letter of solicitation for the theme baskets will be sent in May or June.

Education (Larry & Margie Gorski): Scheduled seminars: Anita Smith will give a sewing seminar, Tom Miller & Corbin Geis will speak on a yet undetermined subject, Penni Flick & Karen Breen will give a first aid seminar, Ed Foote will host a seminar on smooth dancing. They have sent letters to federation presidents to see how many tables will be needed for the Showcase of ideas.

Additional Topics that were discussed:

- The Radisson will supply flooring for one round dance hall. Additional flooring is very expensive and would have to be rented by the Convention. Since registration is low it has been decided to wait to see how many round dancers register before we commit to renting the additional flooring.
- A motion was made and passed to hold a competition dance at the convention. Clyde Miles volunteered to organize it.

- Tony Rock requested a room for an hour for the Handicapable Dancers from the North Hills Squares. The committee approved this and Carter Ackerman confirmed this would be part of the dance program.
- Updated guidelines for committee responsibilities are to be submitted to the Advisory Committee.
- The General Chairmen are working with the Radisson to develop a menu and set up the Grab and Go. The Radisson does not have the facilities to provide an ice cream social, but we are requesting ice cream at the Grab and Go. We are developing a list of local restaurants along with a map to be included in the registration envelope.
- Bill Flick reminded us that ad order forms and booster sheets are due June 15.

Mick & Susan Hopf, General Chairmen – 18th PSRDF Convention

19th Convention Report: Planning has begun for the 19th Convention in 2012. Since the convention will again be held at the Pittsburgh Greentree Radisson Hotel many logistical concerns such as the floor plans have already been addressed for the 18th convention in 2011. However, we will be vigilant to observe any problem areas and take the necessary corrective actions for the 2012 Convention.

The committee chairmen have been selected and e-mails have been sent to obtain their written acceptance, confirmation and update contact information. Those having directors will be providing the names so the final committee list can be completed.

A meeting has been planned to revise the registration form for printing and the publicity chairmen is working on tours and flyers.

Our convention shirt color has been chosen, dark purple, and the order form is already available. Please see Diana if you would like one to begin wearing yours during the trail out dance on August 21st.

Tony & Diana Rock, General Chairmen 19th PSRDF Convention – 2012 Pgh, PA

Caller/Cuer Report: No report submitted

State Folk Dance: No report submitted

Showcase of Ideas: The Showcase will be going to the National Convention in Detroit and to our PSRDF Convention in Pittsburgh, both events to be held in the summer of 2011. John & Mim submitted a letter of resignation that will be effective beginning September 1, 2011. They stated that they have enjoyed their time with the Pennsylvania Square & Round Dance Federation. The PSRDF thanked the Martins for their many years of faithful service to the dance community through their involvement with the Showcase of Ideas. If anyone is interested or would like more information on what is involved in this position, please contact one of the PSRDF officers.

Membership: I have updated the master membership list with all updated membership lists provided by the regional federations, with the exception of the Delaware Valley Federation. I have not received an updated excel file from them and have been unable to reach the contact person for this federation. A final update will only take a few minutes once the final list is received, and copies will be sent out by email. All checks were held to be forwarded to the treasurer at today's meeting as instructed. Bill Flick advised that he will communicate with the contact person of the Delaware Valley Federation regarding their membership information. Scott was asked for the total amount of checks received as well as the membership count but did not have that information available at the meeting. Scott did report however that it appears that

there is an increase of membership since last year. The president advised that it may look bad but since the federations are each using a central membership coordinator who knows their clubs, as well as an electronic reporting method to send the information to the PSRDF, we will ultimately have a more accurate membership accounting.

Scott Brown Membership Chairman

Historian: No report submitted

License Plates: No report submitted

Computer Coordinator/Webmaster: No report submitted. The President advised that John has requested to resign from this position. Thank you, John, for your excellent work at keeping up the PSRDF web site. If anyone knows of a person who has the skill and is willing to maintain this site, please inform a PSRDF officer.

Ways & Means and Publicity: No report submitted

State Outfit: No report submitted

Special Reports:

USDA: (presented by Bill Flick) We do believe that many dancers and leaders have limited or no knowledge of the United Square Dancers of America {USDA}. It is essential that we place more emphasis on explaining the purpose, objectives, programs & publications USDA offers in support of the enhancement of the Square Dance activity.

USDA publishes a quarterly report called the *USDA NEWS* that includes information covering all aspects of the Square Dance activity. Each issue of *USDA News* averages 32-36 pages, and is provided FREE to all known dance publication editors, leaders of state, national, and international organizations; and USDA affiliates, officers and directors.

USDA NEWS is available to all others at a yearly subscription rate of only \$6.00. The publication keeps readers abreast of square dance events, programs offered, leadership and educational articles, and to maintain your awareness and knowledge of the total activity. To subscribe for the *USDA NEWS*, the form is located on the last page of each issue of the *USDA NEWS* or you can locate it on the website at www.usda.org/usdanews.htm

Thanks, Mike & Pat Matsko

Bill Flick showed the 30th anniversary edition of the above mentioned publication and provided an overview of it. He mentioned that there will be a 30th anniversary party at the National Convention in Detroit.

17th PSRDF Convention Financial Review: The Treasurer reported that he reviewed the financial records for the prior convention and they were shown to be accurate and in good order.

Farm Show Exhibit: (presented by Ruth Buehler) The activity for the PA Farm Show consisted of the following:

- Completing the contract requirements for the Farm Show and securing the required insurance
- Selecting handout materials promoting all sections of the state with a contact person, email or phone numbers. This phase was very successful in encouraging Clubs to

promote new classes in January and February. A number of the classes were successful in obtaining new dancers thru the materials that were utilized.

- Scheduling and managing the booth was time consuming, but a “special thanks” to Susquehanna Square and Round Dance Association and to all who made it possible. We covered the time slots with over 110 dancers and passed out over 700 pieces of literature. This will require additional brochure printing for next year.
- We also conducted two demo dances next to the booth which proved very successful with spectator participation. Thanks to Dan Prosser and Dave Krieter for their calling.
- The big arena was very successful with over 57 squares involved with demos and competition. Thanks to Tom Miller, Dan Prosser and Fred Strang. The program was televised and it may be wise to capitalize on it with the ARTS to develop an ad for marketing.

A special thank-you goes out to John & Mim Martin for the setting up and dismantling of the booth.

Respectfully, Tom & Dee Kern, PA Farm Show Coordinators

ARTS: Bill Flick reminded us of the promotional web site www.you2candance.com. Bill Buehler advised of the ARTS email tree requesting assistance for the Japan earthquake relief.

Old Business:

20th & 21st Contracts: It was reported that the contracts for these two conventions have been signed. The 2013 convention will be at the Radisson Penn Harris and the 2014 at the Penn Stater. The dates have been posted on the PRSDF website. This led to a brief discussion regarding the date change for the 2012 convention. It was noted that the change was made after our last PSRDF meeting and a Google message went out notifying the dance community.

PSRDF New Dancer, Promotional, and New Caller programs: Barrett and Donna Earnest

- New Dancer—Fully federated PSRDF clubs who have at least three new dancers who have never previously danced may request a reimbursement of \$50 per dancer up to \$200. Information and applications are available on the psrdf.org web site.
- New Caller/Cuer—New callers and cuers may make a one-time request up to \$200 reimbursement for expenses to attend caller/cuer school. They must submit their certificate of completion along with an itemized list of expenses (including documentation) and be licensed or calling with a licensed caller/cuer.
- Promotional program—Fully federated PSRDF clubs may request reimbursement of 50% of the cost for a public promotional event up to \$100. Examples of such expenses are copying of promotional material or payment of a caller. Clubs should submit a description of the event along with verification of expenses.
- Information is available on the PSRDF web site. Since the beginning of these programs, the PSRDF has returned to clubs \$332.50 for the Promotional program, \$1,000 for the New Caller/cuer Program, and \$7,050 was reimbursed for New Dancers.

New Business:

19th PSRDF Convention seed money: A motion was made by Donna Earnest and seconded by Tom Boesch to advance \$1,000 seed money to the 19th Convention for initial expenses. It was also noted that unlike this year, \$750 is not required in advance by the hotel for the 2012 Convention.

Acceptance of 19th Convention Assistant General Chairmen: The letter of acceptance and resume were read from Tom and Dee Kern who were chosen and accepted this position. A motion was made by Bill Flick and seconded by Ken Graham for approval.

Nomination and election of PSRDF officers: Nomination for each office was requested for President, 1st VP, and 2nd VP but there were no additional nominations from the floor and the individuals were elected. Barb MacDonald was nominated and elected for Secretary. Diana Hershberger had been nominated previously and Christopher (Chi Chi) Hoffner was nominated from the floor at this meeting. Resumes were read for both. Ballots were distributed to eligible voting delegates and Chi Chi was duly elected. The slate of officers follows.

President: Barrett and Donna Earnest
1st Vice President: Bill Flick
2nd Vice President: Larry and Margie Gorski
Secretary: Barb MacDonald
Treasurer: Christopher (Chi Chi) Hoffner

Convention dress requirements: There was considerable discussion regarding the requirement to wear traditional square dance attire at all times during the PSRDF convention except for the trail end, early bird, and the trail out dances. Tony Rock made a motion that was seconded by ChiChi Hoffner and approved to allow casual dress except for the evening dances during the 19th PSRDF convention in 2012. Since casual dress is already permitted for the Thursday evening dance, the Friday afternoon dance, and the Sunday morning trail out, this change would also allow casual dress on Saturday morning and afternoon making it easier for dancers to participate in tours. Tony Rock made another motion that was seconded by Barb MacDonald and approved to allow his committee to explore the cost and availability of adding an additional room for evening plus level square dancing casual attire at the 19th convention.

Handicapable Dancers: The question was raised whether the handicapable dancers should be permitted to march in the parade of banners since they are not a federated club. The PSRDF officers and long time members advised that there has never been a requirement for a club to be federated to march in the parade of banners. Clubs from other locations are and have been welcome to march if they wish.

Next Meeting: Sunday October 2, 2011 at the Pittsburgh Greentree Radisson Hotel at 1:00 PM. Executive Committee meeting at 11:30 AM.

Adjournment: As there was no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tony & Diana Rock
Secretary