

Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation

Minutes of April 2, 2017

Knights of Columbus Hall, Waynesboro, PA

The regular meeting of the Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation was called to order at 1pm on April 2, 2017 by President Tony Rock.

Attending: Allegheny: None; Laurel Mountain: None; Central PA: Carter and Ruby Ackerman, Truman and Diana Hershberger; Delaware Valley: Jane Styer accompanied by Holmes III courtesy of CCI.org, Ted Rotwitt; Susquehanna Valley: Naomi Fisher, Susan Hein, Bob Lawn, Martha Thompson, Pete Wex; Western PA: Clyde and Judy Miles, Joe Nardi, Tony and Diana Rock.

The invocation was given by Carter Ackerman and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the previous are posted at PSRDF.org and so were not read here. No additions or corrections. A motion to approve was made by Clyde Miles, seconded by Martha Thompson and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report as of March 31 2016:

	April to Sept 2016	Oct 2016 to Mar 2017	Total
Beginning Balance			6,782.21
Income:			
Refund of Seed Money for 2015 Convention	1151.15	91.00	
Lifetime Membership and Club Dues	<u>744.00</u>	<u>2027.00</u>	
Total Income	1895.15	2128.00	4013.15
Expenses:			
Promotional			
Website Upkeep Cost	394.20		
BMI Permissions	150.00		
Keystone Award	53.00		
Convention Drawing Awards	45.00		
Insurance USDA	100.00		
2016 Convention Expense	<u>91.00</u>		
Total Expense	833.20		833.20
Ending Balance			9,962.16

As we are having no 2017 Convention, it was decided not to pay the BMI bill of \$155 this year.

Motion to accept Clyde Miles, Seconded Martha Thompson, vote to accept.

We will allow the reports to follow to be read in the minutes, and will keep them brief here at the meeting. We ask that the reports submitted include ideas to promote square dancing and upcoming events more than past dances.

Allegany Valley April 2, 2017

The spring meeting of the AVSRDF was held at the home of Tom Mohny on March 12, 2017 with President Lou Stiles presiding. A letter of resignation dated March 2, 2017 was received from Pat Loutzenhiser, AVSRDF Secretary. Pat explained that since she can no longer dance and she and her husband no longer belong to an active club, fulfilling all of the duties as federation secretary would be difficult.

ABC Dancers – A meeting will be held soon to determine the club's direction for 2017. They have been dancing 4 times per year but at this time have no dancers scheduled for 2017.

Castle Paws & Taws – Dick and Mary Ruth McCall stated that the club has been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays during the winter months. Currently attendance averages about 7 couples because some members travel to warmer climates for the winter season or may be reluctant to drive if the weather turns severe. Scott Brown and Lisa Mointon have been working with the club to provide a flexible dance format, which would allow dancers of various abilities to participate. Starting in April the club is planning to dance on a weekly basis and hopes to return to the Cascade Park Pavilion in New Castle by May.

Circle Eight – The club has closed as a result of shrinking membership. The last dance was held on Saturday, December 10, 2016.

Fiddle-A-Rounds – Tom Mohny reported that the club met on Dec. 8, 2016 for their annual "Christmas on the River" event at the Allegheny Grille in Foxburg, PA Dinner was served at 6:00 pm with 7 members in attendance. There was no dance following the meal. A club picnic is being planned for Thurs, July 13, 2017 at the Monroe Community Club in Knox PA. There will be an evening meal at 6:00 pm with dancing scheduled at 8:00 pm. The group will decide at that time whether or not to hold any additional events.

Shenango Valley Sashayers – Neal Frick and Ann Taub said the club continues to dance at the First United Methodist Church in Sharon. The facility is on one level and has a large parking lot directly outside the main entrance. Dance night are 2nd and 4th Fridays from 8:00 to 10:00 pm with attendance averaging 2 sets, No students were graduated this year. During the summer (June/July/August) one dance is held each month. A picnic will be scheduled at a club member's home for one of those dances. A similar event in 2016 was very successful.

Copies of the Revised AVSRDF Constitution and By-Laws were made available at the meeting as well as 2017 Newsletters and Directories.

Delegates discussed the Future of the AVSRDF since there are only 2 active square dance clubs within its borders. The topic of dissolution was part of the conversation. The discussion regarding dissolving the federation was tabled until the September Delegates meeting allowing time for the 2 active clubs to investigate joining a neighboring federation

Lou and Ruthie Stiles Presidents AVSRDF

Central PA April 2017

Mt Nittany Squares is an advanced club that dances on Sunday afternoons and is called by Tom Miller or Howard Williamson. Most of their members are PSRDF Life Members and/or members of another club.

In October, CPSRDA raised \$366 for the Cancer Division of Divine Providence Hospital with our annual Stamp Out Cancer Dance. Friendship Squares and Country Twirlers have been invited to be Wednesday evening

entertainment at the Lycoming County Fair for the second year. The dance will be July 19th from 7-9 PM. The Country Twirlers currently have 18 dancers going to Hawaii next year for their dance and tour. Our clubs had to cancel several dances this winter because of weather. Canyon Squares and Centre Squares held New Year's Eve dances. Two of our clubs have new dancers that are truly interested in dancing. They are dancing with two clubs. One of the dancers is going to the National Convention in Cincinnati. CPSRDA has more dancers than ever going to the National Convention. CPSRDA will be holding a Healthy Heart Dance on April 30th for the benefit of the Heart Division of Divine Providence Hospital.

Delaware Valley April 2017

The Delaware Valley Federation President, Bruno Langewouters created a marketing committee to research ways to promote square dancing. We came up with a Google phone number and website to try to promote square dance classes in connection with yard signs. Hopefully starting in fall 2017, volunteers will staff the Google phone to direct inquiries to the nearest class.

Bruno has been working hard to increase attendance at classes as well as all levels of dancing for our Federation clubs. He has also pushed forward the money-saving initiative to have technologically active members receive their Delaware Valley Dancer, our bi-monthly newsletter, by email.

Our Annual Meeting and dance will be held on April 30th, at which time we will be electing all new officers for the upcoming two years. Callers for the dancing portion will be Art LaVigne from Maryland and our own Jim Snyder; cuer will be Lisa Treichler of New York. Dancing will be at the Church on the Mall in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Due to increasing costs and declining treasury, this will probably be the last Annual Meeting where members will not have to pay to attend the dance.

May 7th will be our annual Spring Fling at Warminster Presbyterian Church with Mike Callahan calling and Steve Bradt cuing. June 4th, our Federation Callers and Cuers will welcome new dancers at our Graduation Dance also being held at the Church on the Mall in Plymouth Meeting.

The last two years have accomplished several new proposals in an effort to save money while still working to increase attendance at our clubs. Our thanks go out to Bruno for all the hard, and at times, vexing workload.

If anyone needs a flyer for any of our events, please let me know which you would like and included your email address.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Kluskiewicz and Jane Styer on behalf of the DelVal BOD

Laurel Mountain April 2017 No Report

Susquehanna Valley April 2017

SVSRDA currently has 10 active square dance clubs and three round dance clubs.

Our Presidents Ball will be held on April 30th with Hunter Keller calling the squares and Deb Elser cueing the round dances. Dance will be held in York PA.

Our Graduation Dance to honor our graduates from the just completed classes will be held May 21st with various callers from around SVSRDA. It will be held at the Gad Abouts Location in Hagerstown, Md.

The SVSRDA Visitation program continues to be a very strong program attracting many dancers to clubs throughout SVSRDA. For the 2016-2017 dance year, through the beginning of March there were over 500 individual visits made by our dancers and a total of 55 club visits.

Several of our clubs have participated in special events. At the end of last summer, we had about 100 dancers square dancing on the outfield before a Hagerstown Suns baseball game.

In February, the DoPasO's held a dance to benefit the American Heart Association. There were over 16 squares dancing, and a donation of \$4268 was made to the AHA. That was the largest non-corporate contribution to the AHA in Lancaster County! The AHA is now very interested in promoting square dancing among its members.

April 30th, we have a group going to Wheeling WV to dance on stage as part of the Wheeling Jamboree. Ron Anderson is calling.

Our Gettysburg Festival will be held on May 27th with Tom Miller, Bill Harrison, Dan Prosser and Art Lavigne calling.

We anticipate a great dance year with many of our clubs planning dances with guest callers including Mike Sikorsky, Roy and Betsy Gotta, Howard and Donna Williamson, Tom Miller, Bill Harrison, Clay Goss, Hunter Keller and Gary Shoemake among those scheduled.

Bob Lawn, Secretary, SVSRDA

Western Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation April 2, 2017

Since our last meeting WPSRD Federation has lost 4 clubs. They are Happy Bunch, Butler Squares, Laurel Swingers and Teacup Squares, which leaves us with 11 clubs. They are 8 square dance clubs, 2 round dance clubs and 1 advanced club, the Thunderbolts in Indiana, PA called by Norm Shaffor.

Our Sophomore Dance hosted by Y-Knot Square & Round Dance Club with Jim Yoest, caller and Brad & Lenore Deibert, cueing. The cost is \$8.00/couple or \$4.00/person and dancers currently in class \$3.00. It will be held at the Parkwood United Presbyterian Church, 4289 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101 on the 23rd of April, 2017.

We would like to thank Susquehanna for giving us their Visitation Program. We presented it at our last meeting in February and asked the Delegates to present it to their clubs. We will vote on whether to try it or not.

We now have 35 students at 6 clubs taking lessons. There are 5 clubs having Student Dances; and they are Mountainview Squares, Friendly Squares, Y-Knots, North Hills Squares and Happy Go Lucky.

Respectfully submitted, Clyde & Judy Miles, President, WPSRDF

Carter Ackerman has a list of callers and cuers in PA if anyone needs it.

Showcase of Ideas

It is at Tony's house to go to Cincinnati for the Nationals.

2017 Membership Report for PSRDF

Five Federations/Associations have submitted their membership lists for 2017 and these have been compiled into convenient reports that are available for official use. My understanding is that AVSRDF has decided to fold and therefore there is no report for that Federation. The following table provides summary statistics for the past five years. The 21 members of AVSRDF are Life Members.

PSRDF Historic Membership Summary					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
AVSRDF	95	79	58	67	21
CPSRDA	184	172	169	169	160
DVSRDF	324	397	376	332	226
LMSRDF	137	116	124	140	104
SVSRDA	462	469	420	240	219
WPSRDF	333	348	318	297	257
TOTAL	1,535	1,581	1,465	1,245	987
LIFE	114	107	124	94	89

This table provides the information on the amount of dues payments received for 2017.

2017 Dues Payments Summary				
	Total	Life	Net	Dues Pd.
AVSRDF	21	21	0	0
CPSRDA	160	33	127	481
DVSRDF	226	7	219	444
LMSRDF	104	7	97	192
SVS&RDA	219	12	207	398
WPSRDF	257	9	248	512
Total	987	89	898	\$2,027

Submitted 4/1/2017, A. Joseph Nardi

Historian No Report, No Committee

Specialty License Plate Report April 2017

No new activity since October 2016

Respectfully submitted, Mike Matsko

President's Note: Please return to your associations and club and mention that PA is one of the few states which has a specialty Square Dance license plate. New dancers might be interested in obtaining one! After the initial fee, there is only an annual charge of the regular plate registration. Application is on the website.

PSRDF Web Masters Report April 2017

The following changes were made over the last 6 months.

Removed information for the 23rd State convention.

Updated PRSDF officer's page.

Updates to Home page.

Did requested updates for the Central PA federation pages

Updated SVS & RDA pages as requested

Other corrections as requested.

The average daily visits reported by the Web site host for the last three months is 199 visits per day.

Kenton Adams, PSRDF Web master

President's note: The PSRDF keeps this website for the purpose of information to others who are visiting, and for information across the state too.

Caller Selection, No Report

Ways and Means, No Report, No Committee

State Outfit, No Report, No Committee

There is a question if we can still obtain the yellow blouses and shirts that are the state outfit. Tony will check on this and report at the next meeting.

Flooring, No Regular Report

USDA Report April 2017

USDA Executive Committee held their Winter Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on January 26-28, 2017. At this meeting the committee prepares the topics for the agenda items for the Annual USDA Board of Directors meeting.

The Annual USDA Board of Directors Meeting is held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM., before the National Convention in Cincinnati begins.

All USDA Affiliates are expected to appoint their delegates for this annual meeting. PSRDF has 4 voting delegates. If you are registered to attend the NSDC in Cincinnati, Ohio, we ask that you volunteer as a voting delegate representing our federation at this meeting. If you are unable to accept the appointment as a delegate, we ask for your assistance in recruiting the delegates for our federation.

These USDA meetings will provide attendees an opportunity to learn a great deal of information about the current activities of the national square dance organizations and to meet with individuals that can offer you suggestions and advice in keeping square dancing alive.

With your support, we can strengthen our organization and better resolve the problems we face in the "Future of Square Dancing!"

Respectfully submitted, Mike & Pat Matsko

President's Note: Last update, there were 70 PA people attending the National Convention. If you are going, please consider being a Delegate or an Alternate. We are allowed four voting Delegates. Call or email Tony or Diana Rock before May 1.

Advisory Board No Report

Old Business

We are discussing renting the flooring that we purchased. The committee has come up with drafts of a rental worksheet and a contract. We may not charge by square foot, but consider the total cost to be the mileage, meals, number of our people needed, possible lodging, etc. We have 2600 square feet of flooring available. Renting from PSRDF would be much cheaper than other options. We need to consider a small covered trailer, perhaps five by eight, to store the flooring.

Do we need liability insurance for the flooring and/or the trailer? The committee will check on our needs in that area. A suggestion was made to ask at clubs and Federation/Association meetings for attorneys and insurance agents to look over our documents.

Motion to use the worksheet and contract for rental of flooring by Bob Lawn, seconded by Naomi Fisher, all in favor, none opposed.

2018 Convention

The first order of business before we have a convention is to have a Chairman. We NEED a Chairman! Please step up! Johnstown or Camp Hill? We have bids from a few locations, but we need a Chairman before we choose one.

- Can we have a smaller committee to cut costs?
- Will the format be a "Festival" or a "Convention"? Festivals have a theme and decorations; Conventions have educational seminars.
- Could we only have one or two nights of lodging instead of three?
- How can we improve the dance?
- We need skilled callers. Perhaps a half a dozen good callers can be chosen by the caller committee. Could the callers do their own scheduling?
- Dancers don't want to spend an excessive amount of money for hotels, etc.
- Should we keep the baskets and the program book? Do we make enough money to make it worthwhile?
- 50/50 ticket selling might be turned over to a club for them to make a cut of the profit? In Ohio, the clubs bid on it.

The above items to be decided by the Festival/Convention Chairman and his or her committee. If needed, helpful guidance and advice available from the Advisory Board.

Checking with hotels, Tony found that getting a hotel for our dance is harder in September than in August, as they have more business in September.

Email Tony with suggestions and questions about, or to volunteer for, the dance, as he is the Chairman of the Advisory Board. His email is The-Rocks@verizon.net

Delegates for USDA Annual Meeting

As mentioned in Mike's USDA Report, PSRDF has 4 voting delegates at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM before the National Square Dance Convention. Delegate names need to be turned in to Tony & Diana by May 1, 2017. A couple of dancers will check their calendars and get back to Tony with their availability for this meeting.

New Business:

Incentives

We would like to start up incentives again as a benefit and encouragement to the clubs. We will likely adjust the programs to award those clubs who are able to actually *retain* the new dancers. We would like to help with marketing, but we need a volunteer to rework that incentive. The new dancer program will be reworked and rewritten with the help of Ted Rotwitt and then will be reintroduced. Suggestions welcomed. Clyde Miles made a motion to set aside \$2000 annually for the incentive program, seconded by Joe Nardi, approved by a show of hands, none opposed.

Please enter your club dances on WheresTheDance.com. You can also put flyers on the site. It is free to advertise there. Look for dances there too! It is a great site. Check it out!

Election

Bob Lawn and Martha Thompson are nominated for President. Diana Hershberger is nominated for Treasurer. Tony asked for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations. A discussion followed as to the rules providing for filling the positions.

Jane Styer moved to cast a vote for the slate of officers as presented, seconded by Judy Miles, approved.

The other vacancies can be filled by action of the Executive Committee per Article 9, Section 2, filling of vacancies. If anyone would be interested in the furtherance of square dancing, please let us know.

We are considering “meeting” via another media, such as online Conferencing or a Town Hall by phone. Perhaps we could get better attendance that way. Tony will check out the possibilities.

Motion to adjourn by Martha Thompson and seconded by Diana Rock at 4:51pm.

Respectfully submitted, Diana and Truman Hershberger, Secretary