

**Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation Minutes
Holiday Inn, Johnstown Downtown, PA
April 3, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by Tony Rock, President.

In attendance were 0 members from Allegany Valley, 2 from Central PA, 3 from Delaware Valley, 0 from Laurel Mountain, 4 from Susquehanna Valley, and 3 from Western Pennsylvania.

Bill Flick gave the invocation and led The Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from October 4, 2015, previously distributed by email were accepted by motion of Bill Flick and seconded by Ted Rotwitt.
Approved.

Treasurer's Report: submitted by Naomi Fisher 3-31-2016

Beginning Balance 10-2015			5002.29
Income	22nd PSRDF Convention	1074.32	
	Club Dues	<u>1397.00</u>	
			2471.32
Expense	Promotional	350.00	
	Insurance	100.00	
	Loss TrailThru Dance DelVal	<u>241.40</u>	
			<u>(691.40)</u>
Ending Balance			6782.21

Motion to accept by Bill Flick; Seconded by Diana Hershberger and approved.

Federation Reports:

Allegany Valley April 3, 2016

The spring meeting of the AVSRDF was held at the home of Tom Mohney on March. 13, 2016 with President Lou Stiles presiding. The AVSRDF will hold a dance on Friday Sept. 16, 2016 hosted by ABC Dancers. Callers will be Corben Geis and Tom Mohney with Nathan Parrot cueing the rounds. The dance will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 73 Clinton St. Greenville, PA 16125. The theme for the dance is Jimmy Buffet.

ABC Dancers - The ABC Dancers dance on the third Fridays of March, June, and September along with December 31st. We dance at the First United Methodist Church, 73 Clinton St., Greenville, PA. We had two squares with Tom Mohney on Friday, March 18, 2016. The next dance will be Friday, June 17, 2016 from 8-10:30 with Tom Mohney. The

September 16, 2016 dance will be the AVSRDF Federation dance with Tom Mohney on squares and Nathan Parrot on Rounds. It will be from 8-10:30.

The New Year's Dance will be Saturday, December 31, 2016 with our caller Tom Mohney. It will be from 9:00-12:15 am. Contact Pat Loutzenhiser for more information at 724-588-8389.

Castle Paws and Taws - Castle Paws & Taws averaged 1-2 sets at their winter dances. Hopefully attendance will improve when the "snowbirds" return. In April we will return to dancing every week at the Lawrence County Career and Technical Center and in May the dances will be held at the Cascade Park Dance Pavilion. Upcoming Special Dances: Red, White and Blue Dance on June 29 with Len Daugherty calling and Nathan Parrott cueing and the 20th annual Black Light Dance on September 28 with Tom Stickland calling and Bruce Haislip cueing. Both dances will be held at Cascade Park from 8-10:30 p.m.

Fiddle A Rounds - The Fiddle-A-Rounds met Thursday, December 10, 2015, for their annual "Christmas on the River" event at the Allegheny Grille in Foxburg, PA. Dinner was served at 6:00 p.m. and dancing started at 8:00 p.m. with 9 members in attendance. Dancers really enjoyed the singing calls with a holiday theme. A club picnic is being planned for Thursday, July 14, 2016, at the Monroe Community Club in Knox, PA. There will be an evening meal at 6:00 p.m. with dancing scheduled at 8:00 p.m.

Circle 8 Square Dance Club - The Circle Eights dance on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month and usually have 2 squares.

Shenango Valley Sashayers - The Shenango Valley Sashayers are dancing on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month until summer. In June, July, and August they will dance once a month on the second Friday. They usually have about 2 or 3 sets at a dance.

Lou and Ruthie Stiles, Presidents AVSRDF

CPSRDA Report March 28, 2016

In November one of our clubs sponsored a Mystery Trip. The trip was to New York City to see the Rockettes Christmas Show and then we danced with a club in Northern Jersey. We had thirty-five people go on the trip. In October and November Glenn Stuck taught two 6th grade enrichment classes to square dance. The classes then put a square together and danced at the Farm Show. They got a blue ribbon. These dancers also danced for the residents of Maria Joseph Manor in Danville along with the Country Twirlers/ Friendship Squares. The residents loved the kids and the dancing. The association had two squares dance at the Farm Show and both squares obtained blue

ribbons. Our association is continuing to hold the Heart Dance in April and the Cancer Dance in October. The October dance raised \$331 dollars for the Cancer Division of Divine Providence Hospital. In an effort to raise more funds we are having a clothing sale and Chinese auction with the April Heart Dance. In July 9 of our dancers will be going to Alaska for a tour of the state and to dance at their 50th state festival. Our association has also been asked to dance at the Lycoming County Fair in July.

Mount Nittany Squares dances Advanced every Sunday afternoon at Foxdale Village, 500 East Marylyn Avenue, State College, PA 16801. Email Ed Welser for information. evw1@psu.edu When Rowdy Williamson calls, the dance is from 3pm until 5pm. When Tom Miller calls, there is an Advanced workshop and a C1 teach from 1-2pm and dancing is from 2pm until 4pm. There are one or two squares dancing each week. After the dance most everyone goes out to dinner together at a nearby restaurant.

DeVal Report April 1, 2016

There is good news in our Federation! With many of our clubs facing a rather bleak future, one of our clubs has won a glorious victory! The Perky Promenaders, under the leadership of Jay Haines and Ted Rotwitt, have started a Mainstream class based on the new CTM method. Thanks to innovative promotion and marketing methods, over 60 people showed up for the initial Open House meeting. A couple of weeks later we still have close to 40 people attending the regular classes on Monday evenings. The future looks very good! Jay, as chairman of our Marketing Committee, will submit to us a detailed report of what precisely was done promotion-wise at a later date when the definite number of students can be established.

However, we have one slight problem in connection with future dances for graduated beginners. While Jay and Ted are teaching square dancing using the new CTM method, a couple of callers have started some classes using the New Wave method. This method doesn't include the same calls as in the CTM method and vice versa. As a result, there may be problems at our graduation dance and when new graduates visit other clubs. We are trying to establish a dialogue between the different parties to see if we can come up with a practical solution.

As far as higher levels in square dancing are concerned, the "A" dances are alive and well, but the "C" levels have as good as disappeared. Two callers are holding "A" classes. The one has 3 student couples and the second one two student couples. Both classes are almost finished with "A-1". Presently we have three clubs that are holding "A" dances on a regular basis.

Our Federation will hold two special dances. The first one is our "Spring Fling" and will be held on Sunday May 1st. It will start at 130pm and end at 430pm. It will be held at the Beth El-Ner Tamid, 715 Paxon Hollow Road, Broomall, PA 19008. The caller will be Tom Miller and the cuer Steve Bradt.

The second dance will be our Graduation Dance which we will combine with our annual Federation meeting. It will be held on Sunday, June 5th at the Church on the Mall, 500 Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. We will start at 130pm with the new graduates dancing Mainstream/New Wave/CTM, followed by the meeting at 330pm. After the meeting we will have Plus Dances followed by "A" dances, each for 45 minutes.

Respectfully submitted, Bruno Langewouters, President DVFSRD

Laurel Mountain – No Report

Susquehanna Valley – No Report

Western Pennsylvania

April 3, 2016

After a mild winter we are looking forward to some great dancing. Coming into our area are callers from out of state and some great ones from PA.

The Y-Knots square dance club will be hosting Howard Williamson calling and Donna Williamson cueing at North Hills Community Baptist church on May 1, 2016 from 2-5 p.m.

North Hills Squares have Rick Gittelman coming from Tucson, Arizona as their caller and Nathan Parrott on rounds on May 3, 2016. Dance will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1965 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. Dancing will be from 8-10:30 p.m.

The Pittsburgh Area Callers & Cuers Association presents their 6th Annual Spring Fling on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4503 Old William Penn Highway, Monroeville, PA 15146. Dancing will be in two halls having Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, DBD and Rounds. There will be two sessions starting at 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. for \$7.00 per person. Then again at 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. for \$7.00 per person. Both sessions \$10.00 per person. There will be 14 callers & cuers for one great day of dancing. All dancers are welcome plus used square dance clothing will be for sale. Square wear is welcome but not required.

On June 4, 2016 North Hills Squares have Jack Pladdys from Ohio calling and Nathan Parrott cueing at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. For information contact Dottie & Chet Kletke at 412-486-8243.

Teacup Squares will be holding their famous Road Kill dance with Tom Miller calling on July 22, 2016. This is a dinner dance with strange names given to the food. Dancing and dinner is 8:00 to 10:30pm. For info: call Barb MacDonald at 412-629-7079.

Our Federation will hold their Fall Festival hosted by Mountainview Squares to be held at Delmont Fire Hall, 2360 Route 66, Delmont, PA 15626. Tom Miller and Norm Shaffor will be calling and Brad & Lenore Deibert cueing. Dancing from 2:00-5:00 p.m. with dinner on your own. Then dancing 7:00-10:00 p.m. with pre-rounds from 7:00-7:30pm.

Hope to see you all at the Convention in Johnstown.

Respectfully submitted, Clyde & Judy Miles, President, WPSRDF

Committee Reports:

23rd Convention Report April 4, 2016

Diana and I would like to thank our convention committee who are working hard to make this convention an outstanding experience for the dancers. Below is a summary of what the committee has done so far:

- 1.) We have made a lot of very nice plans:**
 - a.) Continued with National callers for the trail-in and Saturday evening dances.**
 - a. Jeremy Butler – trail-in**
 - b. Tim Marriner – activities**
 - c. Roy Gotta – national cuer for the trail in dance.**
 - b.) Scheduled dancing and/or workshops all day Friday.**
 - c.) Scheduled a tour of the historic Johnstown Flood area.**
 - d.) Planned two specific solo dances plus other solo activities.**
 - e.) Rescheduled the competition dance in the early evening instead of 11:00 PM**
 - f.) Continued the dancing in the pool as well as the Die Hard Dance**
 - g.) Scheduled some very interesting seminars and workshops including sewing, starting a handicapable group and leadership**
 - h.) Planning some fun workshops such as: 2 couple dancing, 6 couple dancing and hex dancing**
 - i.) Negotiated excellent room rates**
- 2.) Publicity:**
 - a. We have sent several emails to multiple email lists including: AVSRDF, Del-Val, Svsrda, WPSRDF, NNJSRDF, and WASCA**
 - b. Placed ads in Grand Square, the Promenader, the Central PA Assn. Dance List, OH Convention program book, WASCA program book**
 - c. Listed on Where's The Dance and in events list of magazines including American Square Dance Magazine, Bow & Swing Magazine, and USDA News**
 - d. Posted information on the PSRDF web site including: registration form, tour form, publicity flyer, camping locations, list of area restaurants, and an overall square dance schedule (to be posted soon)**
 - e. Printed flyers for distribution at all federation/association clubs and special dances**
 - f. Made announcements at many club dances and gave several complimentary registrations at several large dances**
- 3.) Concerns:**

In spite of all of the hard work preparing for the convention, scheduling excellent national callers, and advertisement, the registration is very low. Our breakeven point is about 325 paid dancers and we currently have 102 dancers including 3 youth. A major concern that has been brought to our attention is that some callers are encouraging dancers to boycott the convention. Another concern relates to future conventions.

Dance space is getting extremely expensive so we have not found a suitable location for 2017. Secondly, we still do not have an Assistant Chairman who would continue forward to chair the next convention.

Please talk up the Convention!!! Again, we need 325 PAID dancers! And we need a Convention Chair for 2017. Please help!

Respectfully, Tony & Diana Rock, General Chairmen, 23rd PSRDF Convention

Caller and Cuers the Ackermans No Report

Showcase of Ideas Help is needed at the National in Iowa to set up the Showcase of Ideas. Please consider volunteering! If anyone is going to Iowa and could help out, please let Tony Rock know.

Membership Report - PSRDF is now at 1245 members. The number continues to decline. One reason for this decline this past year is some clubs are refusing to pay the increased dues which were raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00

Historian – No Report.

License Plates – April 3 2016

Since the October 4, 2015 meeting, there has been no application received for the PSRDF Specialty License Program.

Once again, the PSRDF Specialty License Plate Program was offered as a method to promote square dancing. This license plate is available to all active square dancers that are current paid members of the state federation {PSRDF}. This plate is used to replace the regular issued one by the PA, Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

To obtain this specialty license plate, Form MV-9404S0 {1-15}, Application for Special Organization Registration Plate is to be used. This form can be obtained at the PSRDF Website, www.psrdf.org. The processing instructions are outlined on this form. Be sure that you send the completed, signed application form, along with payment of \$25.00 payable to the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania” to Mike Matsko, Chairman, PSRDF Specialty Plate Program, 219 Mason Lane, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 for approval.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Matsko, Chairman, Specialty Plate Program

Computer Coordinator/Webmaster Report - April 2016

The following changes were made over the last 6 months.

- Updated information for the 23rd State convention.
- Added convention tour flyer and Johnstown city information for restaurants, camping and other points of interest.
- Updated PRSDF officer's page.
- Updated Home page.

- Did requested updates for the Central PA federation pages
- Updated WPSRDF pages as requested
- Other corrections as requested.

The average daily visits reported by the Web site host for the last six months are 220 visits per day.

Membership List Report

Membership data gathered and reports completed.

Kenton Adams, PSRDF Webmaster

Caller Selection: This year we have Jeremy Butler calling and Roy Gotta cueing on Thursday night and Tim Marriner calling on Saturday night. Next year we obtained commitments from Tom Miller for Thursday and Mike Sikorsky for Saturday. If the decision is made to cancel the 2017 convention these callers will be promptly notified.

Ways and Means and Publicity:

We have been promoting the Convention and delivering flyers to several dances each week. I have been so busy with this and other square dancing activities that I see I will not have time to devote to these Committees, nor to the position of Second VP. With this meeting, I must resign both positions effective immediately. Pete Wex, Chairmen

State Outfit: As we have had no changes in quite a while. Tony will call the Chairmen, Bob and Janet Wilson, to see if it might be appropriate to disband this committee.

Flooring Report - April 3, 2016

The going rate for the type of flooring we have is 48 cents a square foot.

I got my prices from Carol Eyre, who is in charge of the 53rd Star Spangled Banner Festival. They use Dancing Delight Rental. She said they do not charge you a fee for a liability policy. If you need to have them help to install the floor, there is a 4 hour minimum charge of \$19.00 per hour.

If we decide to rent out our flooring, this could serve as a pricing guide.

Clyde Miles, Chairman

Special Reports:

USDA- April 3, 2016

USDA will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary June 22, 2016 at the 65th NSDC in Des Moines, Iowa. USDA's Annual Board of Directors Meeting will be special this year recognizing the accomplishments that have occurred since the inception of USDA in June of 1981 at the NSDC in Seattle, Washington.

If you are registered and/or planning to attend the 65th NSDC, I invite you to attend this special meeting that will be held at the Iowa Event Center in the Grand Ballroom B at 1:00 PM on Wednesday.

All USDA Affiliates are expected to appoint their delegates for this annual meeting. PSRDF has 4 voting delegates. So if you are planning to attend this NSDC, this is a one-time event that you will have an opportunity to join in on the celebration. Besides, there will be refreshments, along with a special memorable favor for attendees. And you will have the pleasure to meet the members of the USDA Executive Committee and other Affiliate Delegates.

I encourage you to volunteer as a voting delegate representing our federation. Tony and Diana are not anxious to “Draft Delegates!”

Respectfully submitted, Mike & Pat Matsko

Advisory Board:

The advisory board consists of the past five Convention Chairmen. At this time, we are discussing the possibilities of having or cancelling the 2017 Convention. If registration doesn't pick up for 2016, we will not be able to afford a convention in 2017. Perhaps we will be able to move to a biannual convention. Apparently having national callers does not pick up enough registrants to sustain the expense.

We sent out 700 surveys to get suggestions to improve the convention experience and we got about 70 returned.

Also, if we were to find that we can have one in 2017, we still would need someone to volunteer to be Chairman.

A discussion ensued concerning the possibility of pairing up with New Jersey or West Virginia for a convention. Tony will check into contacting the appropriate parties. Jane will also make some contacts.

A motion was made by Naomi Fisher and seconded by Diana Hershberger to cancel the 2017 Convention. Motion Carried. However, we will revisit in October to consider the future of our conventions after we see how this year's is attended.

After the convention we will also review the Constitution to assess possible amendments which may be needed.

Old Business:

PSRDF Dues: A recommendation was made to keep the dues a \$2 person annually. The Lifetime Membership will remain at \$20 for the present. This is a great time to become a Lifetime Member of PSRDF! Motion made by Ted Rotwitt and seconded by Martha Thompson for this recommendation. Carried Unanimously. Get your Lifetime Membership Now!

64th National Trail Through Report – Bill Flick

This document summarizes the June 22, 2015 Trail-Thru Dance leading to the NSDC in Springfield, MA.

Date

The Monday before the NSDC started, June 22, 2015, was chosen based on discussions with campers who had camped their way to previous NSDCs. This allowed dancers to attend our dance, stay overnight on Monday night, drive to Springfield on Tuesday, and be there in plenty of time for events starting as early as Wednesday morning.

Location

An analysis was made of the Interstate highway system passing through PA for dancers and campers going to the NSDC in Springfield, MA. This included coming from the west on I-68/I-70, or I-76, or I-80, and coming from the south on I-81 or I-95. The Federation of Delaware Valley Square and Round Dancers (FDVSRD, or DeVal) determined that having the dance in the Allentown area would allow us to be convenient to the greatest number of travelers passing through PA.

An analysis of the convention facilities in the Allentown area, especially those with camping facilities as well as hotel rooms and dance halls, led us to select the Allentown Fairgrounds as it was the only facility with a dance-friendly floor, camping facilities, and many nearby hotel choices.

Staff

Initially, Hunter Keller was chosen as the caller, and Russ Booz as the cuer. (Russ Booz was the person who initially had the idea to have a Trail-Thru dance, so we gave him the right of first refusal.) In trying to get a signed contract with Hunter Keller, we learned that he failed to consult his calendar when making his airline reservations to go to Springfield MA, and booked a straight-through flight, rather than planning a stopover in Allentown. He contacted Paul Cote, who agreed to be our caller.

Publicity

At the 2014 PA Square Dance Convention, the Chairman of the 2015 NSDC stated that we should send him a flyer for the dance, and an article, and he would get them into the National Squares magazine to publicize our dance. This was the only way we had to reach dancers who might pass through PA. Our publicity never made it into a National Squares magazine, but did finally appear on the NSDC web site. We also used the DeVal Google group to publicize the dance to local dancers.

It turned out that an entire square of dancers driving to the NSDC from Florida did see our information on the NSDC web site, and attended our dance.

Sound

Two local callers agreed to supply sound equipment for the dance at no charge.

Expenses

Our biggest expense was the Allentown Fairgrounds, which charged us \$475 for the dance hall. While very high, we felt that the availability of camping facilities made for a greater likelihood of attracting campers on the way to the NSDC.

Paul Cote wanted to charge us a minimum fee plus a percentage of the attendance. Because of the high cost for the dance hall, there was no way we could even break even using his formula. When shown the numbers, he agreed to call for \$325.

Russ Booz asked for one-half of the caller's fee. We paid him \$160. We spent \$112.81 on refreshments.

So our total expenses came to \$1072.81.

Income

We charged \$10 per person, and collected \$590 at the door. Thus, we had more than seven squares attending, but needed 13.5 squares to break even.

We had a loss of \$482.81.

Reflections

The biggest mistake was in trusting that we would get free publicity in the National Squares magazine and their web site. Perhaps we should have paid for an advertisement, assuming that option was available to us, to guarantee exposure of our dance. By the time we realized the problem, it was too late to get a mention in American Square Dance magazine, which requests six months lead-time.

Perhaps a less expensive dance hall could have been found. But if we had the publicity we expected, we might have gotten the campers that we hoped would attend.

**Respectfully submitted, Jay Haines
Trail-Thru Dance Committee Chairperson**

Delegates needed to attend the USDA meeting in Iowa:

If you are registered and/or planning to attend the 65th NSDC, we invite you to attend the United Square Dancers of America's annual meeting that will be held at the Iowa Event Center in the Grand Ballroom B at 1:00 PM on Wednesday.

All USDA Affiliates are expected to appoint their delegates for this annual meeting. PSRDF has 4 voting delegates. So if you are planning to attend this NSDC please let us know so we can submit your name as PSRDF's voting delegate.

New Business:

Election of Officers:

The slate of officers for the next year was presented.

President: Tony and Diana Rock

1st VP: Bob Lawn and Martha Thompson

No 2nd VP

Secretary: Diana and Truman Hershberger

Treasurer: Naomi Fisher

There were no nominations from the floor. Election was held and the slate of officers was elected with a unanimous vote.

CallerLab:

CallerLab has initiated a new program for callers to sponsor dances themselves, instead of a club. This program includes learning to dance quickly without a commitment. However, dancers do not learn Plus level as quickly. We should consider whether or not we wish to give support to this method which is also the Condensed Teaching Method, or CTM. It is a different order of teaching calls. For more information, go to callerlab.org

Announcements:

➡ As we have no convention planned for 2017, it follows that we have no meeting location for an October 2nd meeting. We will be looking for a place convenient to attendees.

➡ Tony thanked the Executive Committee member for their work over the past twelve months. Thanks also to those who have attended the meetings which are open to everyone.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Naomi Fisher and seconded by Jane Styer at 4:15pm.

Next meeting October 2, 2016 at 1pm. Location to be determined.

**Respectfully submitted,
Diana Hershberger
Secretary PSRDF**

