

SQUARE DANCING
The Official Folk Dance of America



Published by United Square Dancers of America

Newsletter of the Worlds Largest Square Dance Organization
Volume XXXVII / Issue 3 / July - September 2025

YIPPEE!! We Are

50!

TENNESSEE

SQUARE & ROUND DANCE

CONVENTION

JULY 31, AUG. 1 & 2, 2025



ROUNDS

Phases II-VI

Waltz	Rumba
Foxtrot	Jive
Mambo	Cha
Bolero	2 Step
W Coast	Swing

SQUARES

SSD/Club 50	DBD
Mainstream	Hex
Plus	Singing Calls
Advanced	Hot Hash
Challenge	Progressive



Tentative Schedule

THURSDAY

Trail-In Dance 8:00-11:00pm
2 Sq. Dance Halls
2 Dedicated Rd. Dance Halls

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

10:00am – 11:00pm
8 Halls of Dancing
*Live Band: Evening Hours



Specials

Contra
Singles Dance
Sewing Clinic
After Party
Fashion Show
Vendors



**W.L. Mills Conference Center
234 Airport Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738**

Facebook: TN Square & Round Dance Convention

<https://www.tnsquaredance.org/>

Table of Contents

Tennessee Square and Round Dance Convention	2
Presidents Message	4
Message from the Editors	5
Events in the Central Region	6
Events in the Western Region	7
Events in the Plains Region	8
USDA Insurance Coordinator Notes	9
Events in the Eastern Region	10
Pharmacy Card	10
You 2 Can Dance	11
75th NSDC presents the Malpass Brothers	12
Callerlab press release	13
Youth Scholarship Award	14
75th National Square Dance Convention	15
Arkansas Diamond Jubilee	16-17
Colorado Southeast Council Southeast Swing	18
Beyond the Dance Floor Webinar Series	19
Centennial Award for Toni Cilberti	20
Come Dance in the Heart of the Rockies	21
Word Find Puzzle	22
Centennial Award for Louis Tippit	23
75th NSDC	24
Centennial Award for Lola Michael	25
ARTS Travel Program	26
USDA News Policies	27-28
Obituaries	29
76th National Square Dance Convention®	29
Convention Schedule	30
California State Convention, plan ahead!	31
USDA Executive Committee Members	32

Cover design by Madison Campbell

Inside this Issue

Messages from our Presidents and Vice Presidents

Check out the fliers and plan your travels and new adventures.

The 74th National Square Dance Convention® is here! Check out the latest edition of the E-Magazine (<https://nsdcnec.com/national-squares-e-magazine/>) for detailed schedules and special information.

Make plans for the 75th NSDC in WACO Texas and the 76th NSDC in Loveland Colorado. Registration information is provided.

Meet our three new Centennial award winners. These 100 year olds are still dancing and having a great time.

Meet our 2025 Youth Scholarship Winner. So many accomplishments at such a young age, congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Find out more about the informative Beyond the Dance Floor sessions on Zoom. If you miss one, past sessions can be found on the web site: USDA.org

We say good bye to Caller Tom Miller and Eager Beavers Square Dance Clubfounder Paul Swenson.

Attend conventions or festivals around the country! Many of these are listed on page 30.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

ELLERY AND KAREN GULBRAND



“Lead with kindness and you will live with gratitude!”

As seasons change so do aspects in our lives.

Writing this article we have changed from the winter season to spring and now to summer.

The summer has brought more beauty with flowers, singing birds, beautiful sunsets, the fresh smell of a summer rain and much more to ponder. At this time, we reflect on the two years we enjoyed the opportunity to serve the square dance world as Presidents of United Square Dancers of America.

An awesome two years will end at the USDA Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Our years serving as President have been enriched, interesting, exciting, and memorable meeting dancers as we traveled. It was meeting new dancers, assisting with concerns, fielding questions, and having a chance to square up with dancers from across the United States and other countries.

So, as we close this “season” serving with United Square Dancers of America, we will move on to a new “season” with the beauty of the square dancing art promoting and assisting where able. “Good people in your life result in grateful feelings in your heart.”

Our enjoyable goal remains spreading the love of square dancing. We continue to ask square dance clubs to inform dancers about USDA and the abundance of information available from USDA. Take the opportunity to visit USDA website, www.usda.org, for the webinar sessions put forth from the series “Beyond the Dance Floor,” for education materials and much more information.

It is our heartfelt hope you have a wonderful summer and as we square up the dance floors are filled with smiling faces!

May we be blessed with meeting “somewhere” in a square.

“ Happiness is not by chance, but by choice.”

Sincerely and God’s blessings,

Ellery & Karen Gulbrand

USDA President

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

**ART AND LILLY
HARDIN**



Summer is such a fun time of year. There are so many things to do. You can be outdoors, you can participate in activities, like biking, hiking, golf, and camping. It is the premier time of year for travel, oh my there are so many places to see in this big world. Summer is also the time of year for conventions and festival's. The 74th National Square Dance Convention® is in Shreveport Luisiana this year. Never thought that we would want to see Luisiana, but they sure make it sound like a lot of fun. There are many other conventions and festivals around the country this summer. Think Luisiana is too hot? Try the Alaska State Festival over 4th of July weekend, it is being held in the "Farthest North Square Dance Hall" in Fairbanks Alaska. Want to stick close to home? Look up all the state conventions and festivals at: https://www.usda.org/Database/Links/Conventions_USA.php. A short list of those events is included on page 30 of this issue. If you don't see your favorite state event listed, send a note to: News@usda.org and we will be sure it is included in the next issue.

Many clubs and regional organizations close down for the summer making it the ideal time to evaluate the programs, get ready for a new round of lessons, to have that famous summer BBQ, and to gather ideas for the coming year. Many organizations have new officers eager to make improvements and try out new ideas. Well, we have an idea that might be worth trying, it's called: "Fill the Floor".

When we were at the Callerlab convention in April, we had the pleasure of enjoying breakfast with a caller from Canada. It won't surprise you to find out that the Canadians are struggling with many of the same participation issues as we are in the US. Everyone agrees that banner stealing is a fun activity it inspires club camaraderie, encourages travel, enhances friendships, increases attendance at club dances and is a good way to get to know dancers in other clubs. At the regional and state level it can also be cumbersome to organize and require a lot of coordination. It does not always increase attendance at regional or state meetings or dances. That being said, no one wants to abolish the practice. In Canada they have come up with an additional activity, they still do banner stealing between clubs, but at the regional level they have created a program called "Fill the Floor". Each club in the region submits a date for their fill the floor dance, all other clubs agree to go dark on that date to encourage everyone to attend the special event. They have been very successful getting each club celebrate a special dance with increased attendance. Just something different to try for next year's program.

Thank you for reading the USDA NEWS. We hope you enjoy it.

Hope to see you at a festival this summer and dance with you in a square.

Art and Lilly Hardin

USDA NEWS Editors

EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Scott and Sandy Ebright, Central Region VP

CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia

We “rolled” right through New Year's and into a promising 2025. For those of you that did not know this, USDA holds a winter meeting in January every year. The location this year for the winter meeting was Tucson, AZ! We had a GREAT time during our trip to Arizona! The meeting was very productive and efficient, leaving more time for checking out the local sites.

I said “rolled” above for several reasons. First, Sandy and I traveled to Tucson via Amtrack. We thoroughly enjoyed the train ride. Sleeping quarters were a bit tight but acceptable. The food was awesome. Best of all, the atmosphere was very relaxing and put us into a great mindset to go into a big meeting.

The meeting was held in the Casino Del Sol. Since it was a casino, we could have “rolled” some dice, too! Sandy and I are not much for gambling so we did not explore that aspect. While in Tucson, we had time to take three app-based self-guided car tours (more “rolling”). We also “rolled” on down to Tombstone where we explored this historic town, on foot for a few hours, then took a stagecoach (more rolling) tour of the town.

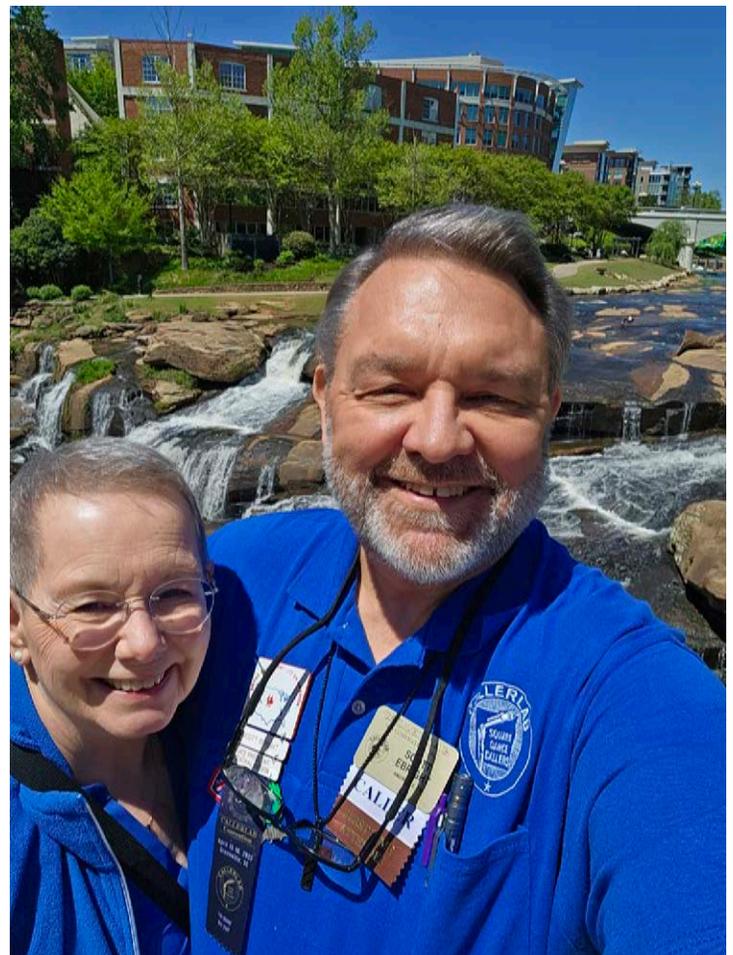
So why am I telling y'all so much about our trip to Tucson? Glad you asked! I want to thank the USDA for taking us into their fold. We may have never visited Tucson if we had not volunteered to serve on the USDA board. Being on the USDA board has allowed us to visit many places such as North Dakota, Arizona, and all 12 states in the Central Region.

The USDA board is filled with focused people who have great hearts, sharp minds, years of experience, and best of all, a true love for preserving and growing the dance activity that we all love so much! If you feel like that is a group that you would like to be a part of, I urge you to step forward and volunteer for one of the open positions on the USDA team. In fact, Sandy and I have reached our term limit as Central Region VPs, so that position will be open soon! We welcome folks with a fresh perspective!

We were honored to serve this year as the USDA representatives to the 2025 CALLERLAB Convention in Greenville, SC. We had a very entertaining and informative experience and would highly recommend that everyone attend a future convention, or two.

I am running out of space on this page so I will not list all of the state conventions. PLEASE look at <https://www.usda.org/Database/Links/Conventions>. You may find that you have a free weekend that coincides with a state convention. Every state convention that Sandy and I have attended has been worth the trip.

Scott and Sandy Ebright
USDA Central Region Vice Presidents
CentralVP@usda.org



EVENTS IN THE WESTERN REGION

Nina Grigsby Western Region VP

WESTERN REGION REPORT

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana,
Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Summer days are here again! Greetings to our USDA officers, committee members, and all our affiliates, associations, and clubs! It was wonderful to see and dance with so many of you at the 74th National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, LA, Jun 25 - 28, 2025. With the results of the USDA 2025 – 2026 elections, I am so excited and honored to begin to serve again as your USDA Western Region Vice President. I look forward to continuing to aid USDA and all our affiliates, associations, and clubs in promoting square dancing, not only throughout the Western United States, but also across the country. We also would like to welcome Interlocked Squares of California (Associate), Inter-Club Square and Round Dance Council of Nevada (Affiliate), Pacific Association of Challenge Enthusiasts of California (Associate), Rolling Wheels of Colorado (Associate), SandPipers Square Dance Club of California (Associate), Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association of California (Associate), and Southeast Area Square Dance Council of Colorado (Associate) to the USDA Western Region.

There are more special dances/activities and festivals for the year ahead planned by several of our Western region affiliates and clubs that I hope everyone will take an opportunity to attend during your many travels. Here are a few upcoming special dances and festivals that I am sure you will enjoy:

July 3 – 6, 2025 – Alaska State Square and Round Dance Festival, Pioneer Park, Fairbanks, AK
July 11 - 13, 2025 – Plus Dancin’ on the Boulder, Legion Hall, Big Timber, MT
July 11 – 13, 2025 – Oregon Summer Festival, “Load the Boat 2025”, Blanchet Catholic HS, Salem OR
July 23 – 26, 2025 – 21st USA West Convention, Spokane Fair & Expo Center, Spokane Valley, WA
Aug 7 - 9, 2025 – 24th Annual “Lolo Stomp”, Yellowrock Campground, Lolo, MT
Aug 15 - 17, 2025 – “Hot August Nights”, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Aug 22 - 23, 2025 – 56th Peach Promenade, Grand Mesa Middle School, Grand Junction, CO
Aug 29 – Sept 1, 2025 – 69th Knothead “Jamboree”, Union Pacific Dining Hall, West Yellowstone, MT
Aug 30, 2025 – Special Dance in Tucson, SARDASA, Southern Arizona Dance Center, Tucson, AZ
Sept 1, 2025 – Special Dance in Tucson (Hexagons and BBQ), SARDASA, Sonoran Stables Dance Hall, Tucson, AZ
Sept 4 – 7, 2025 – Quadra Dangle “Trails End and Buggy Stomp”, Gray’s Gable Building, Laramie, WY
Sept 5 – 7, 2025 – Mountain Dew-ers (Dancing and Camping), Deyo Reservoir & Campground, Weippe, ID
Sept 5 - 7, 2025 – New Mexico Round Dance Assoc Festival, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Sept 19 - 20, 2025 – 4th Annual “September Spectacular”, First Presbyterian Church, Billings, MT
Sept 19 - 21, 2025 – Scootin’ into Autumn, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Sept 26-27, 2025 -- Rendezvous in the Rockies, The Avalon Ballroom, Boulder, CO
Oct 3 - 5, 2025 – 66th Annual Jubilee, Santa Clara Valley, Hoover Middle School, San Jose, CA
Oct 16 – 19, 2025 – Fly High and Dance, ISRDA Round Dance Festival, Boise Valley Square Dance Hall, Boise, ID



Details of more amazing events are posted on affiliate websites.

Hope to see you soon and dance with you sooner!

Nina Grigsby

EVENTS IN THE PLAINS REGION
Mark and Bina Krebsbach, Plains Region VP

PLAINS REGION REPORT

Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota,
Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin

SUMMERTIME

Summer is here and time for fun
A chance to relax and bathe in the sun
Here in the country farming has begun
The soil is warmed by rays from the sun
Seeds have been planted all in a row
With blessings from nature new plants grow
Prayers of good weather for needed relief
As faith is required with great belief

Greetings from the great Lake Sibley up here in North Dakota where life is greener and cleaner. Summer, my favorite time of the year! Lake activity is again quite active as folks have a new set of priorities for their summer time. A bit of a contrast to square dancing in the Plains Region when many states and clubs take a break from the dance floor.

Louis Tippit from Saint Louis, Missouri celebrated his 100th birthday in May. What a grand celebration it was. I was able to fly down and present him with the USDA's 31st Centennial Award for his involvement, dedication and appreciation in square dancing. He also received honors and awards from his 65 years as a Mason and also from the U.S. Navy for his involvement in World War II.

What is square dancing? That is a question that we believe one cannot afford to ignore, because your answer will affect your levels of peace and joy and even influence the outcome of who we are, where we are, and what we are doing. Square Dance enters our hearts only when we open our hearts to receive all of the blessings the Dance has to offer.

When square dancing becomes fundamental to our life and not just a "dance night only" characteristic, then the dance expresses itself in our words, actions, and in our life.

All we have to do in this short life we live on earth, is to decide what to do with the time that is given to us. Be a sign of the 'love of the dance' to all people.

God Bless
As ever square dancers
Mark & Bina



USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Elizabeth Sanders

Greeting Everyone,

As I am preparing this article, I realize almost half of the year is gone. By the end of the convention there will only be 6 months left in 2025. This August will be my 6th anniversary as your National Insurance Coordinator. It has been a great adventure and I have enjoyed getting to know each of you.

I will be keeping limited hours between now and October 1. Saturday and Sunday's I am off; emails will be checked Monday thru Friday and phone calls will be answered if I am at home. If I do not answer then I probably am not at home. Please leave a message and I will call you back as soon as I can.

I will not be available by phone from June 22 thru July 2 as I will be attending the 74th NSDC in Shreveport, LA. I will present two (2) educational sessions discussing how to become an insurance coordinator. The sessions will be Thursday, June 26 at 2:30pm in Room 201 in the Hilton Hotel and Friday, June 27 at 2:30pm in Room 203 in the Hilton Hotel. Please check the schedule to make sure there are no last-minute changes to the location and time.

Did you know that USDA has a Youth Scholarship program? Did you know about the Centennial Award Program? Did you know there is an award program for traveling to other states and dancing there? For more information on these programs and many more that USDA offers check out our booth at the "Showcase of Ideas" exhibit at the 74th NSDC.

As always, you can call or email me with questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sanders

USDA National Insurance Coordinator
P O Box 417
Stephens, GA 30667
insurance@usda.org
706-759-3642



Make a Difference
Support Our Youth with Your Donation to the
FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
visit our website for details—www.usda.org (then Programs—Youth Dancer Information)

EVENTS IN THE EASTERN REGION

EASTERN REGION

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia

Are you interested in volunteering to help out in the Eastern Region? Look at all the fun festivals they have scheduled. If you would like to represent USDA at any festivals or conventions in the eastern region contact the USDA Presidents, Ellery and Karen Gulbrand, President@usda.org.

Here are some upcoming events in the Eastern Region:

The Star Spangled Banner Festival

July 17-19, 2025

Double Tree by Hilton Baltimore North - Pikesville

1726 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville MD 21208

For more information see: <https://www.marylandsquaredancing.com/ssbf>

WASCA'S 2026 "65 and Stayin' Alive"

March 26-28, 2026

Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, Herndon, VA

Sponsored by: Washington Area Square Dance Cooperative Association's
Square and Round Dance Festival

For more information see: <https://www.wascaclubs.org/festival/>

FREE PHARMACY CARD

CLIP AND USE THIS CARD TO SAVE. SHARE IT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

USDA Free Enhanced Benefits Card is a prescription discount card that also offers savings on Hearing & Vision.



BIN: 600428
PCN: 05100000
GRP: 05690001
Member ID: EB22USDA1

Pharmacist's Help Desk: 886.921.7286
Member Customer Service: 800.285.5783

www.usda.ebccard.com

Present This card to any participating pharmacy

At the time of service, you are responsible for payment of your prescription. Accepted at most pharmacies nationwide.

This card may not be used in combination with Medicare, Medicaid, or third party payer programs.

Powered by 

You 2 Can Dance

***A BRAND NEW MARKETING WEB SITE
PROMOTING
SQUARE, ROUND, AND CONTRA DANCING***

*High Definition Video Clip of Each Dance Form
with professional voice-overs*

- ✳ Detailed Descriptions of Each Dance Form
- ✳ Find a Caller, Find a Cuer, and Find a Club sections
- ✳ High Definition Pictures

This site was created by ARTS-Dance to be a tool for promoting Square Dancing, Round Dancing, and Contra Dancing. Rather than trying to describe each activity on a flyer posted on a bulletin board, you can direct the potential dancer to this site to **show them**. They can watch video, read detailed descriptions and then find a leader or club in their area using either the resources page of the web site, or the contact info you have provided on your advertising

check it out at

www.you2candance.com

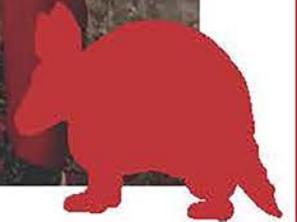
To learn more about using this web site as part of a nation-wide marketing plan go to the Facebook page (You 2 Can Dance.com) or the ARTS-Dance web site (arts-dance.org).

75th
NATIONAL
Square Dance Convention®

Wednesday Night Entertainment
Featuring

The Malpass Brothers

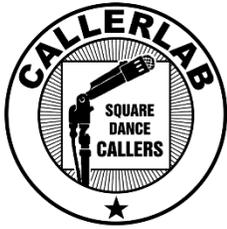
Enjoy a night of listening to classic country and bluegrass music by The Malpass Brothers, a genuine country duo who have a love for music, while enjoying a locally cooked dinner.



When?
Wednesday,
June 24th,
2026 at 4:30 pm.

Premium \$55 or Standard \$45
seating. Brisket or Chicken dinner
options available.

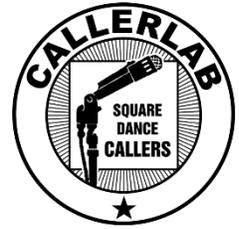
Sign up on our website (75nsdctx.com), scan the QR code, or on your 75th NSDC long form.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(May 2025)



PRESS RELEASE

***** S T A R T *****

CALLERLAB Membership Approves New Program Policy Statement

Effective Immediately • Transition Phase Underway

Full Implementation by September 1, 2026

In a vote of **336 to 112**, CALLERLAB members have officially approved a revised Program Policy Statement as of **May 29, 2025**. This resolution introduces a simplified Program structure, including a newly defined entry-level program and a streamlined path forward for modern square dancing.

The most significant change in Draft E is:

6. Dance Program size is determined by the committees, with the following exceptions:

- a. Mainstream – Must be less than or equal to 50 calls
- b. Plus – Must be 50 calls or greater

What This Means for You, Your Club, and the Future of Square Dancing

This is not a “flip-the-switch” moment. While the policy is now official, we are entering the TIPPP — the “Transitory Implementation Phase of the Program Policy.” Over the next 14 months, CALLERLAB leadership, committees, and members will collaborate to finalize resources, establish teaching orders, and prepare for a worldwide implementation date of September 1, 2026.

What Happens During TIPPP?

- Finalize a new entry-level 50-call Mainstream list and subsequent 50-call Plus list
- Develop a recommended teaching order and full caller playbook
- Update all existing documents with expiration dates and timelines
- Actively involve clubs, callers, and dancers in the transition

2025 Youth Scholarship Award goes to: Elizabeth Herdt

Elizabeth Herdt graduated from Merrill High school in Merrill, Wisconsin in May of 2025 with a GPA of 4.0. While attending high school she also completed dual credit classes at North Central Technical College with a GPA of 4.0. She has been accepted into the honors nursing program at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh starting this fall.

She has been involved in square dancing since she was a baby because she would go to dances with her square dance caller mom (Amanda Herdt). She officially graduated as a mainstream dancer in 2016 along with her three older sisters. She is a member (and co-secretary) of the Square 'em Up club in Merrill, WI. She is also the secretary for the Central North West Square Dance Association of WI.

When she is not dancing, Elizabeth loves making jewelry, drawing, reading, and spending time with her sisters and friends.

Besides Square Dancing Elizabeth is a leader with the following clubs:

National Honor Society: Historian, 2024 – present
Big Brother Big Sister: Big Sister, 2023 – present
Junior Optimist: Member, 2022 – present
Pine River Pioneer Sunrise: Member, 2015 – present
FFA: Member, 2021 – present

In addition to school, clubs, and dancing, she volunteers with Special Olympics and is a Link leader for the Link Crew at Merrill High School.

***Elizabeth was awarded the 2025
USDA Youth Scholarship.***

Congratulations Elizabeth!



For Registration
Information,
Scan the QR Code



75th NATIONAL

Waco Convention Center
100 Washington Ave
Waco, TX 76701

Square Dance Convention®

**DIAMOND
JUBILEE 2026**

June 24th - 27th

We're going to Texas, y'all!



Crystals & Gems

ASSDF Trail End Dance

The **MAVERICK MIXERS SQUARE DANCE CLUB** invites you to come dance with your favorite callers from all over the region.

Thursday – October 9, 2025

7:00 – 10:00 PM

White Hall Community Center
9801 Dollarway Road
White Hall, AR 71602

\$10 Admission at the door

Stay for the **ASSDF DIAMOND JAMBOREE** on
Friday and Saturday!!

Arkansas State Square Dance Federation
 Fall Festival presents a 75th

Diamond Jamboree
 White Hall Community Center

9801 Dollarway Road, White Hall, AR 71602

Friday, October 10, 2025 - Justin Russell
Saturday, October 11, 2025 - Charlie Robertson

**Justin
 Russell**

Arlington, TN



**Charlie
 Robertson**

Sulphur, OK

Mail registration and payment to Lanita Hammett, 1533 Hwy 300, Houston, AR 72070-8307

Early registration must be postmarked by September 30, 2025 - Please ensure checks are payable to ASSDF



Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Club Name _____

Tickets (per person) *Under 18 free with Adult*

Full Weekend (early Registration) \$30 x _____ = _____ Friday Only \$20 x _____ = _____

Full Weekend (after 10/1/2025) \$35 x _____ = _____ Saturday Only \$20 x _____ = _____

October 9, 2025 - Trail End Dance sponsored by the Maverick Mixers
7:00 to 10:00 PM \$10 at the door

The Southeast Area Square Dance Council invites you to

Southeast Swing

October 31 - November 2, 2025

Creative Arts Building, Colorado State Fairgrounds
Pueblo, Colorado



International caller **Jet Roberts** has more than 50 years of experience and is sure to provide a great dance experience.



We'll be dancing on a wooden floor.

Wear a fun Halloween costume on Friday night.

Mitchell and Chelsea Thompson are our featured cuers. With more than 20 years of cueing experience, they are a true joy to dance to.



Dance Schedule

Friday

7:00-10:00 Halloween Dance

Saturday

9:00-12:00 Rounds/SSD/Plus Workshops

1:30-4:00 Plus/SSD/Rounds

6:30-10:00 Rounds/Southeast Swing

Sunday

9:00-11:00 Trail Out Dance

Registration Fees

Early Bird - by 7/30/25 - \$60

Pre-Reg - 8/1 to 10/1/25 - \$65

On-Site Reg - \$75

1 Day Pre-Reg - by 10/1/25 - \$40

1 Day Reg - After 10/1/25 - \$55

Youth (18 and under) - Free

Credit card fee - \$5

Microtel Inn & Suites

The Microtel is offering a discounted rate of \$79 for a double room and \$89 for a suite, plus tax. Located at 3343 Gateway Drive in Pueblo, call the hotel directly at (719) 569-5274 and provide the code 'Southeast Swing'.

Visit our website to learn more.



Camping

Full-service RV camping is available at the Fairgrounds for \$45/night. Contact Ava at (719) 404-2049 to make your reservation.

Southeast Swing Registration Form

Dancer #1: _____ Dancer #2: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

of People Registering: _____ Registration Fee(s) Enclosed: \$ _____ Today's Date: _____

Payment by check: Please make check payable to "SEASDC". Mail your check, along with your completed registration form to: Lynn Boone, P.O. Box 1156, Salida, CO 81201. *Record additional dancers on the back.*



The United Square Dancers of America's *Zoom* Series

Beyond the Dance Floor

Dancing! — While we are so excited to be back dancing after the Covid epidemic, we lost many of our dancers, clubs, callers, and cuers during that time. The great news that came from the pandemic is how well the square dance community all over the World has adapted to and benefitted from the challenges we've were facing and continue to face. How have we benefitted? Remote networking platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom have introduced us to new friends and dance experiences we might never have enjoyed before — from Zoom dance sessions with international participation to opportunities to participate in State, National and International dance events, conventions and workshops.

In October of 2020 the **United Square Dancers of America — USDA** — your National dancers' organization, introduced a monthly series of web-based programs via *Zoom* to support clubs on the business and marketing end of our activity. The programs were used to introduce more dancers across the country to who/what USDA is, the programs and services we provide, and a way to keep square and round dancing in the forefront of people's thoughts even if they weren't able to get together on the dance floor. Since the introduction of the initial workshops, topics have evolved to include Marketing & Promotions, the SSD dance program, square dance resources, promotional information about our National Square Dance Conventions, Social Connections and the recruitment and retention of callers. We've been lucky enough to partner with CALLERLAB, ROUNDALAB and ARTS on several of these programs and look forward to partnering with other national organizations for future program offerings. We've had participation from dancers, callers cuers from all over the world, sharing ideas, program guidelines and coping strategies.



Beyond The Dance Floor – It takes a lot of effort and organizational skills to keep our favorite activity alive and USDA is here to help. From bylaws to event planning, club officer duties, promotion, communications, newsletters, youth and handicapable programs – this series is designed to help groups across the country and across the World build and grow your clubs.

Want Direct Notification of the Next Session? Watch your email, our website and Facebook for links to the actual, **FREE** workshops. If you would like to be added to our email notification list send us your name and email address to Education@usda.org.



For more information or to check on scheduling updates, please contact us at:

USDA Online Education: Bonnie Abramson — Education@usda.org

Or visit our Facebook page and join our Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/314405916617> (United Square Dancers of America—USDA)



CENTENIAL AWARD FOR TONI CILBERTI

Toni was Born April, 12, 1925 in Schenectady, NY. She grew up in Schenectady and still lives there today.

During high school Toni had a best friend named Carmel and her brother, Don, had a best friend named Nick. Toni wanted to be a CPA following high school and applied to Bentley College in Boston. Her application was turned down as women were not accepted at the College. So, Toni worked for GE as a secretary at the pay of \$18.18 A WEEK for 10 years.

In October of 1947 Toni decided to marry Nick and Don married her best friend, Carmel. But before she was able to proceed to the ceremony there was a small matter of the wedding gown!! Where was the gown to come from?? Nick was in the US Air Force and was shot down in the Philippines the day after World War II had ended but the word had not yet gotten to everyone. He survived 29 days with his fellow soldiers. The only article he brought home from his ordeal was a Nylon Parachute. Toni, her soon to be mother-in-law and many others took that parachute apart stitch by stitch; and her mother-in-law sewed the dress. An item that was to become famous!

The wedding dress had been put away for safe keeping, 77 years later, she took it out of the closet and wanted to do something with it. Some of Toni's fellow Masons and Shiners asked if they could see if the dress could be part of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. Toni and her 2 daughters were flown down to New Orleans for the presentation of the dress to the Museum.

Nick passed away in 1992 at the age of 69 at home. Toni was getting older with no close relatives near, so Laurie, Toni's daughter, and her husband moved back to be in the area and Toni made her home with them. Soon after, while recuperating from a fall, she saw a TV ad for square dancing and was immediately interested!! By now Toni is in her 80's, but she learned mainstream and plus within 2 years. She still drives at night, she meets up with Herman, her dance partner, and they drive together to all the local dances.

The story continues: 2017 New York State Senior Olympics.

Toni Carried the Torch -- Lit Over her Head into the Stadium for a Full Lap. She was involved in bowling, tennis, shuffleboard, and event called prediction walking. This is where you predict the speed/time that it will take you to walk a mile. You guessed it; she won a Gold Medal for this event!! At 92 years Young!!!

So, we ask, how do you keep so young?? I take 4 lessons at the Senior Center Every week. I'll leave you with my secret recipe,

I DON'T DO HOUSEWORK AND AT LEAST ONCE A DAY
I DO SOMETHING FUN

I DO FUN

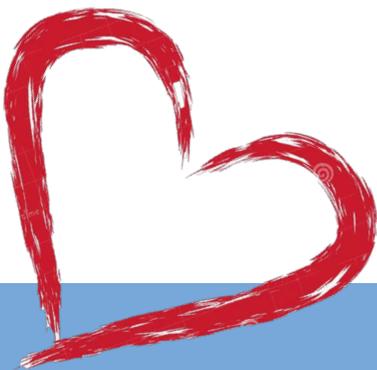




76th National Square Dance Convention®
June 23-26, 2027

*Dance in the **heart** of the Rockies*

Visit our Website
76NSDC.com



Loveland Colorado

Word Find Puzzle

S	Y	E	L	L	O	W	R	O	C	K	C
L	Q	E	G	N	A	L	L	A	H	C	I
C	I	U	B	A	L	N	C	E	K	S	R
S	H	N	A	E	C	N	A	V	D	A	C
S	D	A	E	R	R	O	T	A	T	E	L
P	P	N	Z	S	E	K	C	R	W	E	E
T	O	I	U	O	D	D	Y	U	P	V	E
E	H	T	N	O	O	P	A	N	X	A	D
2	S	T	E	P	R	M	S	N	J	E	A
E	T	A	L	U	C	R	I	C	C	W	N
G	R	A	N	D	T	H	O	S	E	E	E
E	R	A	U	Q	S	D	W	O	L	W	M
E	T	A	T	O	R	I	W	F	E	A	O
R	U	M	B	A	N	Y	R	F	E	L	R
P	L	U	S	G	P	A	S	S	P	T	P
M	A	I	N	S	T	R	E	A	M	Z	K

Instructions: words can be across, down, diagonal, triangle, forward, or backwards. Multi word phrases will be adjacent, but not always the same direction.

FIND THESE WORDS AND PHRASES

Grand Square, Pass, Zoom, Circulate, Rotate, Balance, Circle, Swing, Promenade, Weave, Yellow rock, Balance, Run, Peel off, Spin the top, Mainstream, Plus, Advance, Rounds, Waltz, Rumba, Cha, Lines, Square dance, Challenge, 2 step

CENTENIAL AWARD FOR LOUIS TIPPIT

Louis Tippit was born on May 26, 1925, in Malden, MO. Tip enlisted in the Navy Seabees when he was 18 years old. He completed bootcamp training in Camp Perry VA and advanced combat training in Gulfport, MS. Traveling by train, he headed to Norfolk, VA to board the PA44 Flagship to Hawaii. He was stationed at Camp Red Hill for 7 months working on the Banana Project building warehouses. His battalion traveled for 17 days by ship to Saipan where he worked in the harbor as a pile driver. When the war had ended and he made his way back to the states, he was aboard an aircraft carrier that survived a typhoon. Looking on the bright side of things, he was thrilled to have crossed the international dateline on Thanksgiving Day, resulting in 2 Thanksgiving dinners. The Seabees docked on December 7th, 1945 being greeted with a grand sign saying “WELCOME HOME! JOB WELL DONE!”

Tip was discharged from the Navy on December 14, 1945 and went back to his hometown. Thirteen days later on December 27, 1945 he married his first wife Louise Richie. They had known each other for years and wrote back and forth while he was away at war. They resided in the log cabin with his mother for a short time before relocating to Tracy, CA to be close with Louises’ family. After a year, they moved to St. Louis, MO, driving a Model A Ford the whole way. Tip was hired at General Motors and worked there until his retirement. He and Louise had a son, Louis, born on December 11, 1948. While Tip provided for his family, Louise stayed home with Louis and was a homemaker. Sadly, in June of 1984, Louise passed away after a long battle with heart complications.

In May of 1986, he married his second wife, Mary Brown. Tip and Mary had a fun and happy marriage where they worked hard together fixing things, loved square dancing and traveling all over. They enjoyed spending time with family and friends, making their home the center of every holiday and helping anyone out when possible. After 35 wonderful years together, Mary passed away on April 10, 2021, with Tip by her side.

These days, Tip enjoys attending his Masonic Lodge meetings, having dinner with friends and family, and can still help fix most anything. Tip is very grateful to have lived and loved, having an amazing positive outlook and gratitude on his life. At 100 years old, he is sharp as a tack and still living on his own.



75th National Square Dance Convention[®]



June 24-27 2026

DIAMOND JUBILEE

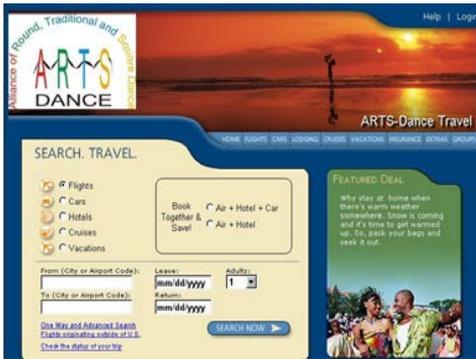
CENTENIAL AWARD FOR LOLA MICHAEL

"Lola Michael from the Rockin' Jokers in San Jose, California was inducted into the USDA Centennial Hall of Fame on April 5, 2025 as she turned 100 this year! What an amazing seasoned square dancer!"



Turn Your Vacations into Donations!

Alliance of Rounds Traditional and Square Dance
Now Has It's Own Travel Website!
That Supports Your Dance Activity!

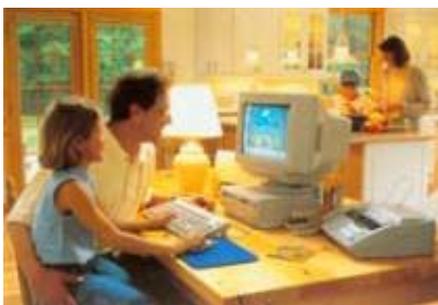


Book your dance, personal and business travel on our new travel website...

www.arts-dancetravel.com

Every time you do, ARTS will receive a portion of the travel commissions.

Receive the same low rates as those other travel websites and help generate \$1,000's for ARTS-Dance



It's that simple!

Just Log on To
www.arts-dancetravel.com

Great Rates On

Air • Hotels • Rental Cars • Cruises • Vacations

Each time you use our new travel website, ARTS the Alliance of Rounds Traditional and Square Dance will receive a portion of the travel commissions from the companies you use.





GOING AWAY FOR THE WINTER? SUMMER? HAVE YOU MOVED?

We don't want you to miss a single copy of USDA NEWS, so please notify us of any change of address as soon as possible. If you go away for an extended period of time let us know the new address and the dates involved and we will see that you continue to get your copy wherever your current address might be.

When you plan a move please send your new address to News@usda.org as soon as possible.

USDA NEWS PUBLICATION POLICY

USDA NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Square Dancers of America, the largest square dance organization in the world. Our goal is to cover all aspects of the square dance activity. USDA NEWS is not copyrighted and we welcome the reprinting of any material by USDA Affiliates and other publications. A credit line is appreciated whenever any of our material is reprinted.

We also welcome articles of interest to the square dance world in general. When submitting articles for use in USDA NEWS please include your name, address, phone number and email address and also indicate the author of the article. The editor does reserve the right to reject, edit, omit, or rewrite all material submitted.

The opinions expressed within the publication do not necessarily reflect that of the USDA or the Editorial staff.

USDA ADVERTISING POLICY

USDA NEWS prefers ads and fliers in digital format. To avoid distortion use 8 1/2" x 11" format with margins for a full page and 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" for a half page.

Make check payable to United Square Dancers of America and mail to the editor. Name and address can be found on www.usda.org/Officers.php. Checks must be received by the publication deadline listed below. Unpaid ads will not be printed.

Deadline Dates are one month before the quarterly. Issue date.

USDA NEWS has two editions; a printed edition and an on-line edition. The printed edition is a black and white copy except for the cover and the four center pages. The four center pages are available for purchase for your fliers. The color ads are sold on a first-come basis. The on-line edition is a full color copy. When submitting copies for black and white advertising in the printed edition you can send a color copy for use. It will be printed in black and white, but the on-line copy will be in color.

ADVERTISING RATES

	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>BLACK & WHITE</u>
½ Page	\$25.00	\$20.00
Full Page	\$50.00	\$40.00

Publication

Deadline

Jan-Mar	Dec 01
Apr-Jun	Mar 01
Jul—Sept	Jun 01
Oct—Dec	Sept 01

USDA NEWS

The USDA NEWS publication is a quarterly publication covering all aspects of the Square Dance activity. Each issue of USDA NEWS, which averages 32-36 pages, is provided FREE to all known dance publication editors; leaders of national, and international organizations; and USDA Affiliate, presidents, vice presidents and insurance coordinators.

USDA NEWS is available to all others at a yearly subscription rate of only \$6.00. The subscription rate does not pay for the newsletter but does assist in the postal costs. To keep abreast of square dance events, leadership and education articles, and to maintain your awareness and knowledge of the total activity, you should be reading the USDA NEWS.

If you would like to receive notice when a new issue is posted on our website, go to www.Subscribe.USDA.org and follow the instructions. As soon as a new on-line edition is posted you will receive an email with a link to the website.

For your own personal copy of the quarterly USDA NEWS, complete the form below and return it with a check made out to United Square Dancers of America and mail both to the USDA NEWS Editor.



USDA NEWS SUBSCRIPTION



Subscription Type -- New Renewal

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
(MUST HAVE + 4 DIGITS)

PHONE: _____ Email: _____

**Please fill in this form and then print. Be sure the form is complete.
Attach check or money order to form for appropriate amount.**

\$6—1 Year

\$12—2 Years

\$18—3 Years

Make Checks payable to: USDA

I qualify for Free Subscription: (must be renewed annually) also complete above information.

Organization: _____ **Office** _____ **USDA Affiliate**

If publication editors, Name of Publication _____ **Email** _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO LILLY HARDIN, PO BOX 4782, DILLON, CO 80435-4782

Obituaries

THOMAS C MILLER 9/6/1958 - 3/22/2025

Thomas C. Miller of Chest Springs, PA passed away on Saturday March 22, 2025 in Huntsville, AL. Tom was born in Spangler, PA to Albert & Virginia (Smithbower) Miller on September 6, 1958. Survived by daughters Candace Householder (Jeffrey), Lindsay Walk (Travis), grandson Brantley Walk, and fiancé Pauline Angress and her family.

Tom started square dancing at the age of 14 and made his hobby into his career. He called square dances for 52 years. Tom dedicated his life to square dance calling and mentoring new callers. He has traveled to 43 states, 7 countries and participated on numerous square dance cruises.

Tom loved spending time with his family, going fishing, and going for car rides to look at wild life while eating ice cream.

PAUL SWENSON 9/15/1921 - 7/2/2024

Our friend and co-founder of Eager Beavers Square Dance Club in Beaverton Oregon passed away July 2nd, 2024.

Paul was a kind, funny, wonderful man, and is missed. He would have been 103 last September. Until a few months ago he would attend dances and visit with everyone. Two years ago he was honored on a float in the Rose Festival Parade as the oldest surviving WWII Oregon combat veteran. Paul was presented with the Centennial award in 2021.



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Send your State Association/Federation Convention dates to News@usda.org and will list it here at no charge.

Jul 3-6 **Alaska State Square & Round Dance Festival**
 Farthest North Square and Round Dance Center
 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK
 Kandie Christian, 907-699-2345,
kjcinak@gmail.com

July 17-19 Maryland Square Dance Federation presents:
The Star Spangled Banner Festival
 DoubleTree Hotel, 1726 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville MD
 For more info: <https://www.marylandsquareddancing.com/>

Jul 18-19 **39th Illinois State Square and Round Dance Convention**
 Sheraton Suites, Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, IL
 For more info: www.ilsdc.dance

July 17-20 **77th Annual Arizona Square & Round Dance Festival**
 1105 Old Hwy 160, Show Low, Arizona, 85901
 email: info@whitemountainsquaredance.com

July 23-26 **21st USA West Convention**
 Spokane, Washington
<http://www.washington.usawest.net/>

July 31 to Aug. 2, 2025
BC Square & Round Dance Festival 2025
 Langley Vancouver, BC Canada
 For more information, check out our website at
www.squaredance.bc.ca.

July 31 - Aug 2
Tennessee Square & Round Dance Convention
 For more information see flyer on page 2 or visit:
<https://www.tnsquaredance.org/>

Aug 8-9 **Heart of America Single Square Dance Association Festival**
 ESU Memorial Union Ballroom,
 1331 Market Street, Emporia, KS
 Visit: HASSDAfestival.wesquaredance.com

Aug 8-10 **65th Wisconsin Square & Round Dance Convention: "Keep Square Dancing Alive in 2025"**
 Oshkosh Convention Center, Oshkosh, WI 54901
 Visit: wisquaredanceconvention.org

Aug 14-16 **61st Michigan Square and Round Dance Convention:** "Dancing's **ALIVE** in '25"
 Doubletree Deaborn/Detroit, Southfield Fwy, Detroit
 For more info: www.squaredance-michigan.com

Sept 4-6 **Kentucky Federation of Square Dancing**
 Center for Rural Development
 2292 S. Hwy 27, Somerset, KY
 For More Information: squaredanceky.com

Sep 19-20 **Nebraska State Square Dance Festival**
 Adams County Fairground, Hatting, NE
 For more Info: www.squaredanceNE.org

Sep 19-20 **Night at the Fair**
45th Alabama Square & Round Dance Convention
 Oxford Civic Center, Oxford, Alabama
<http://www.alabamasquaredance.com/>

Oct 3-4 Colorado Round Dance Association
 63rd Annual Gala
 Performing Arts Academy,
 5690 County Line Pl, Highlands Ranch, CO
 For more information: www.crda.net

Oct 10-11 **Arkansas State Square Dance Festival**
75th Diamond Jubilee
 Whitehall Community Center
 See Flyer on page 17

Oct 10-12 **66th Annual Missouri State Square & Round Dance Festival**
 1625 North Kingshighway Street Cape Girardeau, MO
 more info: www.Festival.SquareDanceMissouri.com

Nov 7-8
Georgia State Square Dance Festival
 Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St NE,
 Gainesville, GA See: squaredancegeorgia.com

See all the state festivals at:
usda.org/Database/Links/Conventions_USA.php

Follow the
*Yellow
Brick
Road...*



64th California State Square Dance Convention

April 10 - 12, 2026

Santa Maria Fairpark

937 South Thornburg, Santa Maria, California 93458

CALLERS



Charlie Robertson
"The Serenading Wizard"
from Oklahoma



Vernon Jones
"The Cowboy Wizard"
from Texas

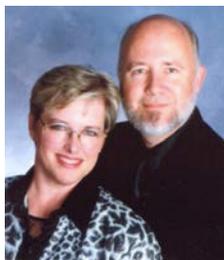


Andy Allemao
"The Dancing Wizard"
from California



Jet Roberts
"The Flying Wizard"
from Alabama

ROUND DANCE INSTRUCTORS



**Sharon & Casey
Parker**
"The Good Witch"
from California



Rikki Lobato
"The Smiling Witch"
from Oregon

TRAIL'S END STAFF



**Lawrence
Johnstone**
"The Bashful Wizard"
from California



Scott Pearce
"The Santa Wizard"
from California
Advanced Tips

Rounds with **Rikki Lobato**

Square Dancing SSD/Mainstream • Plus • Advanced
Rounds Phase II - V • Hex • Workshops

Thursday Trail's End Dance • Friday Caller Clinic with Vernon Jones • Saturday Night Tri-Tip Dinner
Opportunity Quilt Drawing & Silent Auction • and more (education, vendors, sewing corner...)

Lodging Information

Best Western Plus Big America

1725 N. Broadway • Santa Maria, CA 93454 • 805-922-5200
One King/Two Queen Beds: \$105/night
Mini-Suite: \$110/night (each plus 12% taxes and charges)
Rates applicable April 9, 2026 thru April 12, 2026
Reservation deadline: March 21, 2026



Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott

2061 Roemer Court • Santa Maria, CA 93454 • 805-925-8500
One King/Two Queen Beds: \$119/night for Thurs. or Sun. nights
One King/Two Queen Beds: \$159/night for Fri. or Sat. nights
(each plus 12% taxes and charges)
Reservation deadline: March 9, 2026

Co-General Chairmen – **Sally Bennett-Schmidt & Bonnie Abramson**
CAState2026Chair@gmail.com • www.squaredance.org/convention/2026

USDA NEWS
C/o Lilly Hardin
PO Box 4782
Dillon, CO 80435-4782

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit 350

**UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA
2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

www.usda.org/Officers.php

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ellery and Karen Gulbrand (WI)
(H) 920-4340669 (K) 920-819-0364
(E) 920-819-3564
Email: President@usda.org

**VICE PRESIDENT EASTERN REGION
OPEN**

VICE PRESIDENT CENTRAL REGION
Scott and Sandy Ebright (TN)
(Scott) 937-830-1481 (Sandy) 865-466-5514
Email: CentralVP@usda.org

VICE PRESIDENT PLAINS REGION
Mark and Bina Krebsbach (ND)
(M) 701-320-9079 (B) 701-320-5182
Email: PlainsVP@usda.org

VICE PRESIDENT WESTERN REGION
Nina Grigsby (AZ)
240-481-3580
Email: WesternVP@usda.org

SECRETARY
Marilyn Schmit (OR)
503-508-0539
Email: Secretary@usda.org

**TREASURER, PHOTOGRAPHY,
ARCHIVES**
Jim and Judy Taylor (CO)
(H) 303-795-3278 (C) 720-456-0413
Email: Treasurer@usda.org

PAST PRES, WAYS & MEANS
Mark and Bina Krebsbach (ND)
(M) 701-320-9079 (B) 701-320-5182
Past@usda.org, WaysMeans@usda.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS

CENTENNIAL AWARD

Ed and Lynda Willis (NC)
(H) 910-338-1475 (C) 910-616-3639
Email: centennial@usda.org

INFORMATION & SOUND

LPaul and Sally Schmidt (CA)
619-222-0445 (LP) 619-804-5266
(S) 619-804-4197
Email: Info@usda.org, sound@usda.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN, 501(C)(3)

Jim Maczko (CA)
(H) 619-295-2635, (C) 619-840-7791
Email: 501c3Apply@usda.org

GROUP RENEWALS, 501(C)(3)

Patricia Inglis (GA)
(H) 678-684-3886 (C) 404-932-5512
Email: 501c3Renew@usda.org

USDA NEWS EDITORS

Art and Lilly Hardin (CO)
(H) 970-262-6415 (L) 719-440-0945
Email: News@usda.org

INSURANCE COORDINATOR

Eddie & Elizabeth Sanders (GA)
706-759-3642
Email: Insurance@usda.org

**LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION &
PUBLICATIONS**

Doug and Willa Bradshaw (CO)
(H) 303-988-2466, (D) 303-250-2539
(W) 303-250-2542
Email: Publications@usda.org

PRESCRIPTION CARD, HOSPITALITY

Dale and Kathy Worthington (OR)
(H) 503-861-2726 (C) 503-739-1215
Card@usda.org, Badges@usda.org

USA TRAVELER PROGRAM

Jerry and Donna Robey (IL)
(H) 815-977-5763 (C) 352-284-7912
Email: Traveler@usda.org

**FACILITIES, AFTER PARTY &
SOCIAL MEDIA**

Milene McCall (KY)
Phone: 502-525-3356
Facilities@usda.org, Social@usda.org

**ON LINE EDUCATION & SOCIAL
MEDIA**

Bonnie Abramson (CA)
Phone: 916-213-3640
Education@usda.org, Social@usda.org

YOUTH ADVISOR

Dan Reedy (AR)
731-612-1155
Email: Youth@usda.org

HANDICAP-ABLE DANCERS

Alitia Becker (LA)
318-547-9578
Email: Handicap@usda.org

WEBMASTER

Dan and Jean Wheeler (MO)
816-223-0803
Email: Webmaster@usda.org