

Volume XXXVII
Issue 4
October - December 2025

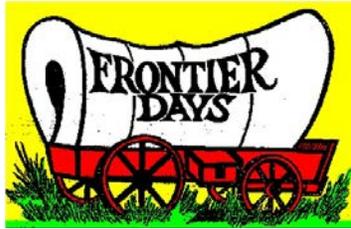


USDA NEWS

**SQUARE DANCING
OFFICIAL FOLK DANCE OF NORTH AMERICA**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATION
PUBLISHED BY UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA**

Good



Times

Good Times Square & Round Dance Club Las Vegas, Nevada Nov 1, 2025



MIKE HOGAN



RON HARTZELL

Advanced 1 - 3 pm

Pre-Rounds 6:30 - 7 pm

MS/Plus/Rounds 7 - 9 pm

Donation: Advanced \$10 Evening \$15

First Christian Church Friendship Hall

2225 Mesquite Ave, Las Vegas, NV

I-11-Rancho Drive exit south to stoplight at Mesquite. Left 200 yards passing the church.

Info: Don Baltz (702) 580-6375 Rita: (702) 526-6192

www.GoodTimesSquareDancers.org

Table of Contents

Las Vegas Frontier Days	2
Presidents Message	4
Message from the Editors	5
Arts Travel Program	6
Events in the Western Region	7
77th National Square Dance Convention®	8
USDA Insurance Coordinator Notes	9
Events in the Eastern Region	10
Events in the Plains Region	10
Dancer Etiquette by Darryl Clendenin, Callerlab	11
Events in the Central Region	12
USDA Travelers Program	13
Square Dance Quiz	14
Follow the Yellow Brick Road to California	15
75th NSDC	16
76th NSDC	17
Desert Squares Holiday Dance	18
Beyond the Dance Floor Webinar Series	19
New! Youth Grant Program	20
2025 USDA Founders Scholarship	21
Support the ARTS	22-23
75th NSDC Diamond Jubilee	24
Come Dance in the Heart of the Rockies	25
You 2 Can Dance	26
USDA News Policies	27-28
Obituaries	29
Convention Schedule	30
75th National Square Dance Convention®	31
USDA Executive Committee Members	32

Cover design by Catherine Paquet

Inside this Issue

Message from our new Presidents - learn how much they love USDA.

Messages from our Vice Presidents - learn about special dances in each area.

Message from the editors - see what they discovered about International square Dance month.

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

Take our Square Dance Quiz, can you get them all?

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

Check out the latest group to bid on the National Square Dance Convention®, the 77th NSDC will be in Daytona Beach FL.

Read about the New Youth Grant Program.

See the 2025 USDA Founders Scholarship presentation.

Read what Darryl Clendenin from Callerlab has to say about Square Dance Etiquette. Can his ideas help your club?

Find out how you can benefit from ARTS, Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square Dance.

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 NEC legend Ernie Stone. He was the general chairman for the 35th National Square Dance Convention® in Indianapolis, IN

Making travel plans? Learn about the USDA Travelers Program.

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

SCOTT AND SANDY EBRIGHT



How much do you really know about the United Square Dancers of America and the people involved with it? Even though we had served as State Delegates to the USDA Annual Meeting several times, we discovered that what we knew about USDA only scratched the surface when we became Central Region VP three years ago. What we found was a dedicated, hard-working group of square dancers who embody the sentiment of this quote from the late Erma Bombeck:

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

These folks truly care about our square dancing activity and are constantly working together to find ways to improve, support, and sustain it. There is a great sense of camaraderie, and no room for pride, self-service, or politics. This is why we are proud and humbled to now be serving as President of this organization.

As we travel around this great country of ours during our term representing USDA, we hope to continue to spread the word about all of the wonderful programs offered by this organization: education about square dancing through printed and digital media, as well as monthly webinars; youth scholarships; the newly established Youth Grant Program; support for handicapped dancers; Centennial Award Program; USA Traveler Program; Dancer Insurance Program; and IRS Group Tax-Exemption Program.

Our travels this past quarter took us to our home state convention in Tennessee, where we proudly participated in the Fashion Show, wearing our official USDA square dance outfits. What a fun time that was, as we got to mingle with over 1,500 dancers in attendance!

Kentucky is our next stop, with future plans to visit the New England area in the spring and the WASCA dance festival in March.

We love to meet new people and talk about square dancing! If you see us out and about, please come up and introduce yourselves. We would love to hear your suggestions and stories and maybe even introduce you to a role you could fill with USDA so that you can also experience working with this awesome group!

Scott and Sandy Ebright



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS



ART AND LILLY HARDIN

September is considered National and International Square Dance month.

Starting in the 1970's many states adopted square dance as their state dance or their state folk dance. This was the result of a campaign by square dancers to make it the national dance. Out of 31 states with a state dance 25 of them have chosen square dancing. When researching National and International Square Dance month, we found a couple of interesting comments.

“Get ready to stomp, spin, and twirl to lively tunes with friends. This dance tradition is filled with laughter, friendship, and toe-tapping fun for everyone.”

“This type of dance has roots that can be traced back to the 16th century England and 18th century France when cotillions and quadrilles were all the rage. As Europeans settled in the colonies, this fun activity of square dancing took on its own flair.”

“Recognized by a number of organizations, International Square-Dancing Month of do-si-do and swing your partner offers a delightful opportunity to either learn how to square dance for the first time, pick up some steps from long ago, or practice for that competition!”

“And don't worry. Those folks who really just love Square Dancing don't have to stop the fun after the month of September is over. In fact, National Square-Dancing Day takes place in late November, so enjoy this month and be sure to keep practicing.”

Many clubs start square dance lessons in September, maybe this is why. For all the clubs that have started or soon will be starting lessons, we hope that all the students have fun, enjoy learning a new activity and stay for the fun and friendship.

Thank you for reading the USDA News. We hope you enjoy the articles and consider attending some of the dances promoted by our advertisers and listed on page 30.

See you in a square
Art and Lilly Hardin



ARTS-Dance Travel



Plan Your Next Adventure with ARTS-Dance Travel!

ARTS-Dance Travel provides:

- Exceptional service tailored to your needs
- Professional travel knowledge and local expertise
- Exclusive deals and perks not available on public booking sites
- Real humans providing assistance when issues arise

Create a donation through your travel:

- Booking with ARTS-Dance Travel automatically supports the Alliance of Rounds, Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS)!

Travel with a purpose:

- Visit our website and complete the quick and secure form
- Let our travel experts craft your perfect getaway – while giving back to the ARTS!

Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS)

Travel smart. Dance often. Support the ARTS

www.Travel.ARTS-Dance.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

Salutations to our USDA officers, committee members, and all our affiliates, associations, and clubs! I hope everyone had an amazing Summer. This Summer was filled with several exciting dancing events, festivals, and many other activities that I hope everyone had an opportunity to partake in one or two between vacations and traveling. USDA also presented several new webinars as part of their "Beyond the Dance Floor" series to increase awareness and enjoyment of square dancing that I am sure inspired you and your fellow dancers.

Among my many stops across the USA I connected with many friends and made new ones at the 74th National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, LA. If I missed you, I hope to catch you as you pass through Tucson, AZ or perhaps at a regional festival. 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:

Oct 3 - 5, 2025 – 66th Annual Jubilee, Santa Clara Valley, Hoover Middle School, San Jose, CA
Oct 4, 2025 – Pioneer Day Demonstration, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond, NV
Oct 13, 2025 – Oktoberfest Dance, 4231 S Pauline Ln, Tucson, AZ
Oct 13, 2025 – Come Dance With the Stars, Caldwell Senior Center, Caldwell, ID
Oct 16 – 19, 2025 – Fly High and Dance, ISRDA Round Dance Festival, Boise Valley Square Dance Hall, Boise, ID
Oct 24 - 26, 2025 – 64th Harvest Hoedown, Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, Yuba City, CA
Oct 24 - 26, 2025 – Cornucopia Jamboree, Senior Center 107 N. Chestnut St, Cortez, CO
Oct 31 – Nov 2, 2025 – Southeast Swing, Colorado State Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO
Nov 1, 2025 – Good Times Frontier Days, First Christian Church Friendship Hall, Las Vegas, NV
Nov 1, 2025 – Veteran's Dance, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Nov 14 - 15, 2025 – Dance the Weekend Away!, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Nov 14 - 15, 2025 – Fall Jubilee, Boise Valley Square & Round Dance Hall, Boise, ID
Nov 22, 2025 – Annual Holiday Food Drive Square Dance, Ballroom of Reno, Reno, NV
Dec 3 - 8, 2025 – Hawaiian Dream Getaway, Queen Kapiolani Hotel, Oahu, HI
Dec 5 - 7, 2025 – Jingle Bell Rock Weekend, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Dec 9, 2025 – Desert Squares Holiday Dance, Bob Ruud Community Center, Pahrump, NV
Dec 30, 2025 – Desert Squares Eve of New Year's Eve Dance, Bob Ruud Community Center, Pahrump, NV

2026

Jan 9 - 10, 2026 – Pre-76th National Convention Dance, Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center, Loveland, CO
Jan 16 - 18, 2026 – Tucson Square Dance Festival, Casino del Sol, Tucson, AZ
Jan 23 – 24, 2026 – Hummingbird Hoedown, Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, Sierra Vista, AZ
Jan 23 – 25, 2026 – Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival, Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR

Hope to see you soon and dance with you sooner!

Nina Grigsby



***ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE
77TH NSDC
IN DAYTONA BEACH , FL?***

Register Now at



77nsdcfl.com

USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Elizabeth Sanders

USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Greeting Everyone,

I will be hosting the USDA Webinar on Sunday, November 9, 2025. I will present the information that I presented at the NSDC in Shreveport, LA. I will also give the 2026 rate and other new information. The login information for the webinar will be posted to the USDA website (usda.org). Please join me then.

I have updated a few forms on the website. PLEASE make sure that the form you are using is the latest version of that form. Most of the forms should have a revision date later than 2023.

Let's address some problems that have occurred this year.

1. Insurance portal – There is one time during the year when you can delete a facility or a name from the roster and that is the ONLY time that you can delete names and facilities. That time is when you are registering your club for the first time each year. After you have paid for your club, you cannot delete any names or facilities. That includes any members that passed during the year, left your club for another club or who just stopped dancing.
2. New or Replacement Certificates – You can go into the portal to add new facilities at any time during the year. However, you will have to send me an email letting me know that you need a new certificate. If you have misplaced your certificate DO NOT go into the portal and enter the information again. Send me an email letting me know that you need a replacement certificate.
3. 2026 Rate – No, I do not have the rate yet, but tune in at the November USDA Webinar and I am sure I will know the new rate for 2026. What you can do now is get your clubs to update their rosters and facilities ON PAPER – not in the portal. As soon as the insurance company releases the 2026 portal, I will let you know. I expect that to be in November. Prior to that I will also be sending all the insurance coordinators new instructions for 2026.

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 (landline)

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

We are looking for a representative to help us support the Eastern Region. Could this be you?

If you live in the Eastern Region and are interested in helping spread the word about USDA please contact our president's Scott and Sandy Ebright at: President@usda.org, or call 937-830-1480.

Upcoming events in the Eastern Region include:

New England Square and Round Dance Convention

April 24th & 25th 2026, Westford Regency Hotel, 219 Littleton Rd, Westford MA

Washington Area Square Dancer's Cooperative Association's Square and Round Dance Festival

March 26 - 28, 2026, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, Herndon, VA

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

Upcoming Events in the Plains Region include:

54th Nebraska State Square and Round Dance Convention, Hasting, NE, September 19-20, 2026

Arkansas Fall Festival, White Hall, Arkansas, October 10-11, 2025

Missouri State Square Dance Festival, Cape Girardeau, MO October 10-12, 2025

63rd Annual Square Dance Festival Slidell, LA Saturday November 8, 2025

Oklahoma State Square Dance Festival, November 7th 8th & 9th, 2025

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 N Rockford Rd, Ardmore, OK

DANCER ETIQUETTE

Daryl Clendenin

When we teach our new beginner dancers, it's important to include a few rules of the road (dance floor) along the way. Remember, we are much more than just a dance. We are a social function and have an obligation to deal with others in a way that will facilitate friendship and enjoyment for all. Many of the rules for dancers seem obvious and when dealing with others would be considered "common sense." A few though are peculiar to our activity.

NO ALCOHOL BEFORE THE DANCE: Only another person that is under the influence of alcohol could tolerate someone that is drunk. Aside from the obvious inability to perform the dance movements, the odors associated with drinking are unacceptable. Leave the drinking for after the dance.

CLEAN BODY & CLOTHING: Speaking of "odors," square dancing is a vigorous exercise and can result in a lot of perspiring (by both men and women). Fresh, wet perspiration on "dried sweat" activates the odors. Be sure that your clothes are freshly laundered. It is very important that we begin the dance with clean clothes. Bathe before the dance. Be sure to use deodorants (especially under the arms). Dive Thrus can be dangerous territory without it. Colognes in moderation are also nice, but overuse can trigger some allergies.

FILL THE SQUARES QUICKLY:

When the music starts that means it's time to dance. Enter the dance floor with a partner. If you need a partner, it is acceptable to stand at the edge of the floor and hold one hand in the air indicating that you are ready to dance. Join the first square you come to. It's not polite to pass a square that needs a couple in order to join a square of friends, club members or better dancers. It's also not polite to walk through the center of a square in order to join it. Walk around the outside to the nearest open position. If another couple fills that spot because it was nearer to them, smile and fill a position in another square. If all the square are full, raise your hand displaying the number of couples needed by an equal number of fingers. The caller will see you and encourage others to join your square.

NEVER LEAVE A SQUARE: It is an insult to the members of a square if you leave it before the tip ends and you have taken the time to thank everyone. This is especially bad if you leave one square to join another. Of course this doesn't apply in the case of an emergency. In an emergency everyone will understand. After all, it's just a dance.

SMOOTH DANCING: It is always safe and acceptable to do the moves as they were originally taught. Personal flourishes can sometimes be fun for you but for some dancers, the extras may be clumsy and occasionally dangerous. Extra kicks, stomps and twirls can get in the way of the timing and the space of other dancers. Don't rush. Taking one step for each beat of music should move you through the choreography comfortably and in unison with the other dancers in the square.

BE GENTLE: By using the proper handhold without squeezing, pushing and pulling will ensure an enjoyable dance experience for everyone in the square.

SHHHHH! There should be only one caller giving directions to the dancers. Laughing is fun. smiling is fun. Even the occasional whoop or holler at the appropriate time can be fun but loud talking or making noise that competes with the callers commands is nothing but obnoxious.

At the end of the tip, always take the time to thank everyone in the square. Likewise, at the end of the dance, stop by the stage and thank the caller and cuer.

As always, remember, it's a people thing first and a dance second. "Treat others as you'd want to be treated" (Hmmm! I've heard that someplace before) and everything will be all right.

EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Dan Reedy, Central Region VP

CENTRAL REGION REPORT

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

Hello Everyone,

My name is Dan Reedy and I am the newly elected Vice President for the Central Region. The former Vice President's are now serving as the Presidents of the USDA. I had served as the Youth Advisor for the USDA for the past seven years.

A quick back ground on myself. Grew up in Colorado (Security/Widefield), graduated High School and later college there.

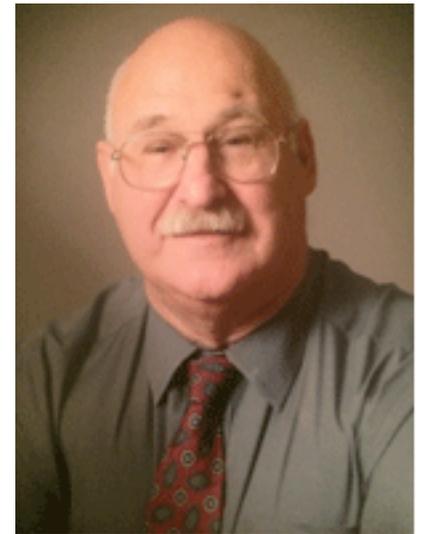
I served in the United States Army for 28 years. Primarily in special operations (Rangers and Special Forces), and as a paratrooper. Upon retirement, I was the owner operator of a Bison ranch in Southwest Missouri, where I raised three children.

We started square dancing in 1999. I was a State Representative, a District President and Missouri State President.

My primary hobbies include traveling (just spent two months in Europe), muscle cars (own a King of the Road Shelby Mustang), and Square Dancing. I attend Mass regularly, and try to follow my Christian beliefs in my daily life. Since taking office as the Central Region Vice President, I have attended the Tennessee State convention in Gatlinburg. I have made arrangements to attend the Kentucky and Georgia conventions, and will schedule others as I become more involved with the region.

God Bless you all, and hope to see you in a Square soon.

Dan Reedy

A rectangular graphic with a decorative border of yellow, blue, and black triangles. It features two green cartoon dinosaurs on either side of the text. The text is centered and reads: "Make a Difference", "Support Our Youth with Your Donation to the FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM", and "visit our website for details—www.usda.org (then Programs—Youth Dancer Information)".

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)



SEE THE USA WITH USDA! USDA's USA Traveler Program



Do you like to square dance? Do you like to travel? Then USDA's USA Traveler Program is made for you!

The program is intended to promote visitation throughout all 50 states by encouraging dancers to attend club dances, festivals, state conventions, or national conventions across state lines and around the United States. **The goal – to dance at an event in each of the 50 United States!** Dancers participating in the USA Traveler Program carry a form to be signed by an official at a club dance, festival, or convention.

As the forms are completed (in sets of 12 states), they are submitted to the USA Traveler Program chair. Upon completion of the first 12 states, the dancer receives a USA Traveler badge and a bar denoting 12 states visited. New forms can then be completed for subsequent sets of 12 states (no duplication permitted), with new bars awarded at 24, 36, 48, and 50 states. Each participant who reaches **48 and 50** states will also be **awarded paid admission** to the next National Square Dance Convention. Then it's time to start again for a "second time around" award!

If you haven't yet started the USA Traveler Program, now is the time. Download a form from the USDA website at www.Traveler.usda.org, get it signed off at a local dance, then start traveling! For further information, check out the website or contact the USA Traveler Program chairman Jerry & Donna Robey at Traveler@usda.org.



Jerry & Donna Robey
Cell phone: 352.284.791
Email: Traveler@usda.org

SQUARE DANCE QUIZ

To complete this quiz, you need to answer with a word that is common to square dancing.

1. Baseball field _____
2. Surfer's medium _____
3. Butter, e.g. _____
4. Measures time _____
5. Conservationists credo _____
6. Lengthen _____
7. In the playground _____
8. On the Hollywood Walk of Fame _____
9. Crease _____
10. Use a loom _____
11. London Eye, e.g. _____
12. Good luck charm _____
13. Exchange _____
14. One of the 5 senses _____
15. Door's pivot _____

1. Diamond, 2 Wave, 3. Spread, 4. Hourglass, 5 recycle, 6. Extend, 7. Swing, slide, or See say, 8. Star, 9. Fold or Bend, 10. Weave, 11. Ferris Wheel, 12. Clover Leaf, 13. Trade, 14. Touch, 15. Hinge.

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

Enjoy the Sights and Sounds of Texas at the 75th National Square Dance Convention[®]



Waco Convention Center • June 24-27, 2026
Scan the QR Code to Register Today



Register Online at www.76nsdc.com

76th National Square Dance Convention



Embassy Suites and Conference Centre
Loveland, Colorado

June 23-26, 2027

Holiday Dance



with Mike Sikorsky

December 9, 2025
Mainstream & Plus

COST
\$10 per person

TIME
7:00-9:00 pm

WHERE
Bob Ruud Community Center
150 North Highway 160
Pahrump, Nevada



For more Information Contact

Pat Jackson
at (305) 301-1914



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)



NEW!

Youth Grant Program

It is with great enthusiasm that the USDA announces that, effective August 1st, 2025, the USDA has partnered with a private company to set up a Youth Grant Program. The funds are supplied by a third party, and the USDA will administer the program in accordance with the guides established jointly by the donor organization and USDA.

Currently the available funds for grants for the calendar year are/is \$5,000.00 (this could change if more funds are donated). These funds are to be used to promote and assist with developing youth dancers and youth dance programs.

Applications can be submitted online at the USDA website , or by mail. Paper applications/forms are available starting August 1, 2025 from all USDA Regional Vice Presidents and on the USDA Website.

Once an application is submitted the selection committee will determine the validity of the request and if approved issue the funds within 30 days. The application is fairly simple and straightforward. The program is set up to be as responsive as possible for needs of the requesting organization(s).

For more information contact the current Committee lead :Dan Reedy, Vice President Central Region (479)312-7408, or the USDA Presidents: Scott and Sandy Ebright (865)466-5514.

How the Grant Program Will Operate:

When a club or Affiliate has a shortage of funds for a specific activity involving Youth, a request for a Grant to ASSIST in the shortfall may be sent to the USDA Youth Advisory Committee (www.Committee.usda.org). The Affiliate or Club agrees to use the funds as outlined in their request. Several examples of needs would be to help offset the costs for a group of Youth taking lessons (assisting their families), helping a group attending a State or National Convention with identified shortfalls, and help in identifying shortfalls while developing a Youth Program.

The Purpose of the Grant Program:

The Youth Dancing Grant Program was developed to Assist in the Involvement, Recruitment and Fostering of Youth Growth within the Square Dance Community. The Grant is funded by outside source(s), but will rely on the USDA to Administer. The program will run each calendar year from January to January annually as long as there are funds available for the program.

The Application Process:

A Club or Affiliate will need to submit an application for a grant when they anticipate that they will have a shortfall financially for their Youth activity. The application, once received, will be reviewed and approved or denied within 30 days of receipt. The Grant is not a free pass, the requesting organization needs to show what they have done to offset the identified shortfall. The Grant funds will be dispersed in the following incremental amounts: \$250.00, \$500.00, \$750.00 and \$1,000.00 as deemed necessary, per the Grant request. The applicant will need to explain the shortfall, what they has done to address the shortfall, what the funds will accomplish in offsetting the shortfall, and how many youth will be affected. There will be only one Grant per event, however an organization can apply for, and be considered for, any other grant needs that arise.

The Financial Process:

Once a Grant is approved, funds will be issued by the USDA Treasurer to the requesting organization.

2025 USDA Founders Scholarship

Each year United Square Dancers of America (USDA) awards a scholarship to an applicant who is a senior in high school or a first-year student in college. The applicants need to complete the application form and secure documentation from their State Affiliate, along with an essay on how square dancing has been an influence on their life.

As announced at the 74th National convention in Shreveport, Louisiana, the 2025 recipient of this scholarship was Elizabeth Herdt, from Merrill, Wisconsin.

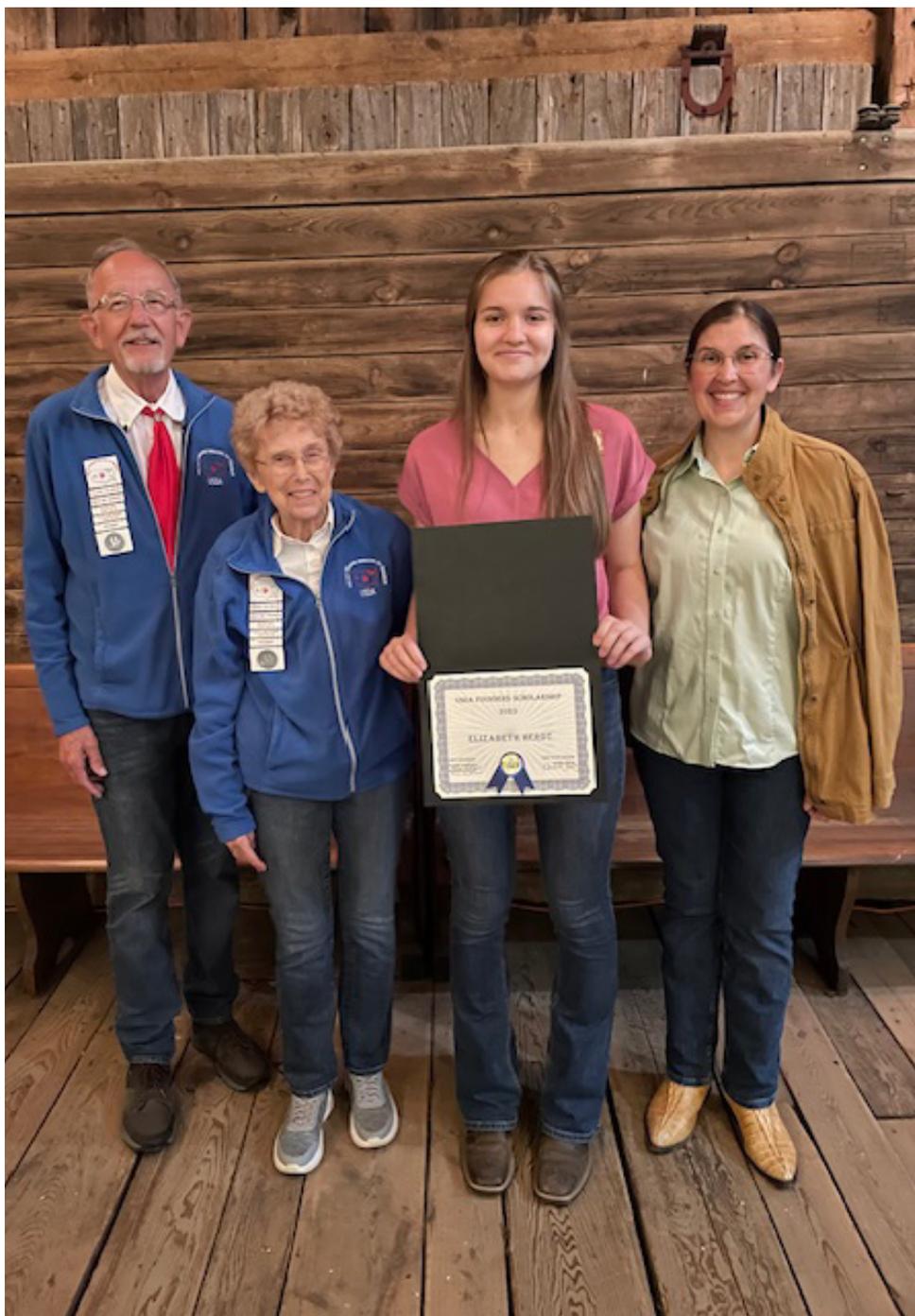
On Friday, August 29, 2025, we had the honor and privilege to make the in-person presentation to Elizabeth at her home club, Square Em Up in Merrill, Wisconsin. It was a beautiful fall evening and a lovely setting for a “Barn Dance.” Their club is mostly young people, so there was a lot of energy going on.

Elizabeth will be starting her education at the University of Oshkosh nursing program.

We wish Elizabeth good luck in her studies. This kind and caring young lady will make an “awesome” nurse.

Wisconsin is proud of Elizabeth!

Ellery and Karen Gulbrand



Support the
ARTS



ALLIANCE OF ROUND, TRADITIONAL AND SQUARE-DANCE, INC.

The ALLIANCE of ROUND, TRADITIONAL and SQUARE-DANCE, INC. (ARTS-Dance) is a cohesive group of nine major National Dance Organizations representing all facets of our Dance activities. Leaders from these groups have come together to generate public awareness and promote the growth and acceptance of contemporary Square, Round and Traditional Folk Dance.

Governing Board Members

All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.

CALLERLAB – The International Association of Square Dance Callers

CONTRALAB – The International Association of Contra Dance Leaders

IAGSDC – International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs

NEC – National Executive Committee of the National Square Dance Convention®

NSDCA – National Square Dance Campers Association

ROUNDALAB – The International Association of Round Dance Teachers

USA WEST – USA West Square Dance Convention® Policy Board

USDA – United Square Dancers of America

Auxiliary Governing Board Members

Canadian Square & Round Dance Society,(CSRDS), Guild of Pride, Lloyd Shaw Foundation, Square Dance Foundation of New England

Find more information at

www.ARTS-Dance.org

ARTS You 2 Can Dance Website

You 2 Can Dance is our marketing website that promotes Square, Round, and Contra Dancing. We offer a high-definition video clip of each dance form with professional voice-overs. The website includes sections which will assist you in finding a caller, a cuer, or a dance club in your area or an area where you are visiting.



Contra 101

ARTS partnered with CONTRALAB's Jeff & Cathy Smith in the development of Contra 101. This book is a guide for those who want to introduce the public to the simplicity and excitement of Contra Dancing. It

provides detailed descriptions for teaching and calling 20 delightful contras. Additional information can be found on the CONTRALAB website at www.contralab.org

ARTS Grant Program

Want to share information about dancing and ARTS, while earning money at the same time? Then apply for an ARTS Grant! Developed to encourage dance organizations to conduct educational seminars relating to our dancing activities, this grant program helps promote ARTS-Dance while benefitting your organization and participants. For more information download a grant application from www.ARTS-dance.org, or contact info@ARTS-dance.org.



Square Dance Logo & Slogan



The ARTS endorses and promotes the new logo and slogan "Live Lively - Square Dance." Visit the ARTS web site for more information and samples of the logo, slogan, and combination logo/slogan: www.ARTS-Dance.org.



ARTS Add-A-Buck

ARTS Add-A-Buck encourages organizations holding Festivals or Conventions to add a small optional amount (\$1) to their registration fee, so the dancers can voluntarily make a donation to "ARTS-dance."

ARTS Email Tree

The ARTS Email Tree is an Internet Communication Network System which helps disseminate information directly to all dancers. Email tree representatives for over 22 states have agreed to serve as contact points for the ARTS Email Tree. Are you on the list? If not, contact your regional or state representative to get your club or association involved, or go directly to the top by sending your e-mail address to info@ARTS-dance.org.

ARTS-Dance Travel Website

Turn your dance, vacation and other travel into a donation to support dancing. Visit ARTS-DanceTravel.com.

ARTS Historical Fact Sheet



This concise and attractive media tool provides a historical timeline on the establishment of our dance formats in the United States; the health benefits of dancing and fun "factoids" to tickle your trivia funny bone. This Fact Sheet is a vital tool to share with your media outlets, including radio, television, web and print publications.

75th National Square Dance Convention[®]



June 24-27 2026

DIAMOND JUBILEE

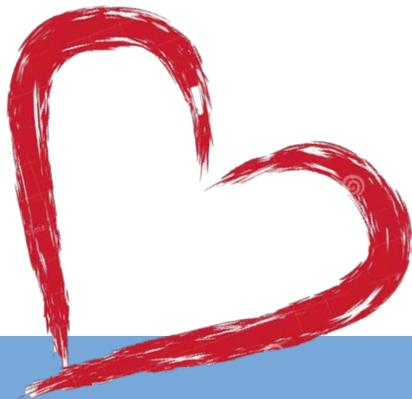


76th

National Square Dance Convention®
June 23-26, 2027

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

Visit our Website 76NSDC.com



Loveland, Colorado

You 2 Can Dance

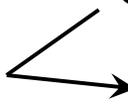
**A BRAND NEW MARKETING WEB SITE
PROMOTING
SQUARE, ROUND, AND CONTRA DANCING**

*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

 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) or the ARTS-Dance web site (arts-dance.org). It doesn't cost you a thing and is there for you to use to help promote our dance forms.

LEADERS and CLUBS

Email info@You2CanDance.com to have your info included in the site.



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



IN MEMORY OF ERNEST EUGENE STONE

Ernest Eugene Stone, age 86, of Columbus, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. He was born on January 6, 1939, in Columbus, Indiana to Lloyd Adam and Thelma Louise (Mace) Stone. He graduated from Hope High School, Hope, Indiana in 1956. He married his high school sweetheart Barbara Rae Waltz on February 2, 1957, they were married 68 and a half years.

He retired from Cummins Engine Company with 30 plus years employment and then received an accounting degree from Indiana University and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) on May 7, 1986. After retiring from Cummins, he opened Ernie Stone Tax & Accounting Services with his daughter and ran that business until his passing.

Ernie loved football, softball, basketball, golfing, camping, and modern western style square dancing. He and Barbara, served as General Chairman of the 1986 35th National Square Dance Convention® in Indianapolis, Indiana with 27,192 square dancers in attendance, some dancers from as far away as thirteen (13) foreign countries.

In July 1979, they went on a twenty-one (21) day trip to Russia and Poland with 157 square dancers most from Georgia. They were able to square dance in Red Square. Can you imagine the excitement and the crowd this must have attracted? Barbara shared many fond memories of this trip with us during the funeral service. The group had a wonderful trip.

On August 2, 1987, they participated by square dancing in the opening ceremony of the Tenth (10th) Pan American Games at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis, Indiana. Ernie & Barbara Stone have served on the National Executive Board (NEC) for 39 years providing guidance to many conventions. They have also served on the Indiana State Convention staff for many years. Ernie will be missed by the square dance world.



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

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

<p>Oct 3-4 Colorado Round Dance Association 63rd Annual Gala Performing Arts Academy, Highlands Ranch, CO For more information: www.crda.net</p>
<p>Oct 10-11 Arkansas State Square Dance Festival 75th Diamond Jubilee Whitehall Community Center</p>
<p>Oct 10-12 66th Annual Missouri State Square & Round Dance Festival 1625 North Kings highway Street Cape Girardeau, MO more info: www.Festival.SquareDanceMissouri.com</p>
<p>Nov 7-8 Georgia State Square Dance Festival Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St NE, Gainesville, GA See: squaredancegeorgia.com</p>
<p>November 7th 8th & 9th, 2025 Oklahoma State Square Dance Festival Ardmore Convention Center, Ardmore, OK</p>
<p>Saturday November 8, 2025 63rd Annual Square Louisiana Dance Festival Slidell, LA</p>
<p>Dec 3 - 8, 2025 Hawaii State Square Dance Festival Hawaiian Dream Getaway Queen Kapiolani Hotel, Oahu, HI</p>
<p>Jan 9 - 10, 2026 Pre-76th National Convention Dance, Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center, Loveland, CO For more info: 76nsdc.com</p>
<p>Jan 16 - 18, 2026 – Tucson Square Dance Festival Casino del Sol, Tucson, AZ</p>

<p>Jan 23 – 25, 2026 Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR</p>
<p>March 6-7, 2026 Mississippi State Festival Latimer Community Center, Biloxi, MS Contact: Bettie Millis 601-260-9133 for more info.</p>
<p>March 26 - 28, 2026 Washington Area Square Dancer’s Cooperative Association’s Square and Round Dance Festival Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, Herndon, VA</p>
<p>April 10-12, 2026 64th California State Square Dance Convention Santa Maria Fairpark, Santa Maria, CA info at: www.squaredance.org/convention/2026</p>
<p>April 24 - 26 2026 New England Square and Round Dance Convention Westford Regency Hotel, 219 Littleton Rd, Westford MA</p>
<p>May 14-17, 2026 New Mexico Square & Round Dance Festival Civic Center, Truth or Consequences, NM More info: www.NMSRDA.ORG</p>
<p>July 15-18 Canadian National Square Round & Clog Dance Festival Penticton British Columbia, CA More info at: squaredance.bc.ca</p>
<p>Aug 7– 9, 2026 66th Wisconsin Square & Round Dance Convention “Get Your Kicks in 2026” Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Brookfield, WI Visit: wisquaredanceconvention.org</p>
<p>August 20-22, 2026 62nd Michigan Square & Round Dance Convention “Where all the dancer mix” Sheraton Grand Rapids Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI. more information: www.squaredance-michigan.com</p>

Get your dance on at the 75th National Square Dance Convention®



What types of dancing can I enjoy at the 75th NSDC?

- Square Dance: Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Specialty
- Round, Contra, Line, Clogging, Youth & Specialty Dance

Watch *National Squares* e-Magazine, Facebook and our website for dance information for the 75th NSDC

75th National Square
Dance Convention®



June 24-27 2026
DIAMOND JUBILEE

Don't miss the fun! Sign up at
<https://75nsdctx.com/register/>



June 24-27, 2026 • Waco Convention Center

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
2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

www.usda.org/Officers.php

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Scott and Sandy Ebright (TN)
(Scott) 937-830-1481
(Sandy) 865-466-5514
Email: President@usda.org

**VICE PRESIDENT EASTERN
REGION OPEN**

VICE PRESIDENT CENTRAL REGION

Dan Reedy (AR)
731-612-1155
Email: CentraalVP@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

Ellery and Karen Gulbrand (WI)
(H) 920-4340669 (K) 920-819-0364
(E) 920-819-3564
Email: Past@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

**HISTORIAN SHOWCASE OF IDEAS,
APPAREL**

Edythe Weber(MO)
816.830.0350
E-Mail: Historian@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,
BADGES & 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

Kati Raleigh (OH)
Phone: 614-906-8898
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