

Volume XXXVII

April - July 2025

Issue 2



USDA News

Newsletter of the World's Largest
Square Dance Organization

Square Dancing Official Folk Dance of North America
Published by United Square Dancers of America

YIPPEE!! We Are



TENNESSEE

50!

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

**LIVE
BAND!!**

**WOOD
FLOORS!**



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/>

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Cover design by Paige Wolka

Inside this Issue

Messages from our Presidents and Vice Presidents

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

Look forward to the 74th National Convention in Shreveport, Louisiana, June 25-28, 2025. See information about how to register, tours, and USDA education presentations,

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

Check out the special invitation to the British Columbia Festival in Vancouver Canada.

Read the inspiring poem “External Truths of Spring on page 19

Did you miss one of the informative Beyond the Dance Floor sessions on Zoom? Check out the list of this years presentations. Past sessions can be found on the web site: USDA.org

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



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

ELLERY AND KAREN GULBRAND

“Happiness held is seed; Happiness shared is the flower/.”
– John Harrigan

The biggest part of our Wisconsin Winter is hopefully behind us as we prepare this message. Bright sunshine and clear blue sky are quickly melting the snow from our storm two days ago. Spring is in the air as we watch the birds and backyard critters become more active. The daffodils and crocus are bravely peeking through the snow. It all brings to mind the saying, “Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush”!



The winter season has not hampered us from staying in touch with the square dance world. We have been blessed with weather which thankfully coordinated itself with traveling and dance plans. Karen and I have been able to travel to club dances, club lessons, area festivals along with other state dances. In January we took a road trip to Tucson, Arizona, for the USDA Winter Meeting. It was a wonderful trip, a fruitful meeting, along with the fun Tucson Square Dance Festival we attended. We were blessed with great weather (no snow) the entire trip. At this point we are looking forward to the Iowa State Square Dance Convention and the 74th National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, Louisiana. Karen and I are also busy as Co-General Chairman of the Wisconsin State Square and Round Dance Convention to be held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in August.

As we turn our minds to the spreading of the love for square dancing, we would ask clubs to inform dancers about USDA and the abundant information they can assist with. Please visit the USDA website www.usda.org for the Webinar Sessions bringing you and your club workshop information from the series “Beyond the Dance Floor”

We look forward to a wonderful summer and hope to see floors full as we all take part in this great activity. May the dance floors be full and may we meet “somewhere” in a square .
“A flower cannot blossom without sunshine and man cannot live without love.”

Sincerely and God’s blessings,
Ellery & Karen Gulbrand
USDA President

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.” -- Virgil A. Kraft

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

ART AND LILLY HARDIN

It will be spring when you read this issue, but here it is still snowing. In fact, there is a blizzard going on outside my window, 6-10" are predicted. We like the snow, but we also like to escape from the snow.

In January we had an opportunity to escape and visit Disneyland. It is a fascinating place born out of the imagination of Walter Elias Disney, the same person who created Micky Mouse. And today Mickey Mouse and friends are a key components in the success of Disney.



Disney is famous all over the world and is worth billions. So, while we were walking, we got to thinking. Has anyone ever called your square dance club or council organization a Micky Mouse operation? Was it supposed to be an insult? Disneyland is a Mickey Mouse operation. It is the happiest place on earth, it is visited by millions of people from all over the world. Over 700 million people have visited Disneyland since the initial opening. The original concept for Disneyland was called "Mickey Mouse Park". Mickey Mouse is a symbol of Joy and imagination. His brand is worth billions. Mickey Mouse's image is synonymous with Disney making him the most recognizable character in history.

If anyone ever calls your club or council a Mickey Mouse operation, say Thank You! How amazing to think our square dance organizations are happy places, entertain millions from all over the world, are worth billions of dollars, and are associated with one of the most recognizable characters ever.

"Whatever you do, do it well. Do it so well that when people see you do it, they will want to come back and see you do it again and they will want to bring others and show them how well you do what you do." Walt Disney

We hope every square dance organization is successful as they strive for excellence, joy, and financial stability.

Thank you for reading the USDA News. We hope you enjoy the articles and have an opportunity to attend some of the dances shown in the flyers and the conventions on page 30.

See you in a square.
Art and Lilly Hardin

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

As most winters go, square dancing is not quite as active in the Central Region, except in Florida. Be sure to brighten your winter by going to Florida's state convention every January. If you make a vacation out of it you will find dances all over Florida due to the snow-birding dancers. I hope everyone is ready for Spring to start with the Mississippi State convention in March. Unfortunately, by the time you read this that convention will be in the past. Put it on your calendar for next year.

Another thing that will likely be in the past when you get this... The CALLERLAB Convention in April is being held in the Central Region this year, in Greenville, SC! We will be in attendance and hope to see y'all there. One important note is that there will be a Pre-Con Caller Clinic this year. This may be a great tradition starting and we need new callers for our activity to survive.

Summer in the Central Region usually starts with the Ohio Convention in May. Following close behind, in June, is the 74th NSDC in Shreveport, LA! We hope to see everyone at these two events, too!

In the heat of summer, the first weekend of August, is my favorite state convention, Tennessee! It is not just our favorite because it is our home state, but more because it is an extremely well run and well attended convention. It is in Gatlinburg again and there may be over 1500 dancers this year!

We would be remiss if we did not mention the passing of R.G. Pratt. RG has been the Tennessee State Convention Chairman and/or Co-Chairman for 12 years. He is largely responsible for the success and growth of the Tennessee Convention and for facilitating the survival of square dancing in East Tennessee through the COVID years. The vast majority of Tennessee square dancers, and a whole lot of dancers around the country, knew RG. Those that knew him, loved him. We cannot think of anyone that ever said a cross word about RG and we do not recall a negative word ever coming from RG's mouth. RG was "Mr. Square Dance" in Tennessee and many other parts. He was a huge asset to the Central Region and he will be greatly missed. If I ever grow up, I want to be like RG!

IHS, 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

Spring is in the air! Happy Spring showers, May flowers, and Summer planning to our USDA officers, committee members, and all our affiliates, associations, and clubs! Hope your year is off to a swinging start. USDA 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.

I was so excited to make new friends during my travels to a few Western regional dance festivals. 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:

May 9 – 11, 2025 – 78th Annual Silver State Square & Round Dance Festival, Circus Circus at the Row, Reno, NV

May 16 – 18, 2025 – 76th New Mexico Square & Round Dance Festival, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM

May 23 – 25, 2025 – Golden State Round Up, Lodi Grape Festival Event Center, Lodi, CA

May 23 – 26, 2025 – 2025 Montana State Square & Round Dance Festival, Ronan High School, Ronan, MT

Jun 13 – 14, 2025 – 2025 Idaho State Festival, Jerome County Fairgrounds, Jerome, Idaho

Jul 3 – 6, 2025 – 2025 Alaska State Square and Round Dance Festival, Farthest North Square and Round Dance Center, Fairbanks, AK

Jul 11 – 13, 2025 – Load the Boat 2025 Summer Festival, Blanchet Catholic School, Salem, OR

Details of more amazing events are posted on these affiliate websites:

[Alaska Square and Round Dance Federation](#)
[Square & Round Dance Association of Southern Arizona](#)
[Arizona Federated Square Dancers](#)
[California Council of Square Dancers](#)
[Colorado State Square Dance Association](#)
[Hawaii Square Dance Federation](#)
[Idaho State Federation of Square & Round Dance Clubs, Inc](#)
[Yellowstone Square Dance Council](#)
[Las Vegas Square and Round Dancers](#)
[New Mexico Square and Round Dance Association](#)
[Oregon Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs](#)

We also hope to see you all at the 74th National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, LA Jun 25 – Jun 28, 2025.

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

LIVE AND LOVE DEEPLY

Questions like that one are good to ask ourselves occasionally. Especially when it is so easy to get caught up and lose sight of who we are in today's unforgiving society. Is your love limited in its depth like "The Great Lake Sibley", or does the depth of your love go beyond all limits, triumph over all negatives, have no restrictions, overcome, and go beyond and above all that is in existence and become totally unconditionally true? "Teacher which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:36-39

Is your love reserved only for those few individuals you choose to love or those few individuals you choose to forgive the wrongs they have done? Or, is your love deep enough to allow you to love all people and to forgive all of those who have wronged you? Jesus responds to unheard of sin not with judgment or revenge, but with forgiveness and unheard of love.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13.

In our own time, our culture is running away from the principles of the love that Jesus life and teachings offered to teach us while he walked the face of this earth, over 2000 years ago.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs,

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Pray to love as Jesus loves.
"How deep is your love?"

Mark and Bina Krebsbach



USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Elizabeth Sanders

Greeting Everyone,

We are off to a great start in 2025. Lots of clubs having classes, new clubs are being formed and more clubs are opting to join the USDA Insurance program.

Are you having trouble with the insurance portal. Not receiving the rosters when you add members. Here are some of the reasons why you may not be receiving a roster.

1. Is your email address correct. If you did not receive a roster from the portal, email me and request a copy. (Don't worry I still receive a copy even if you didn't.)
2. Did you check your spam/junk folder? It may be there.

It's not too late to register for the next NSDC in Louisiana. Make sure you plan to attend one of the insurance educational sessions.

Have you checked the website lately? You need to as I am updating forms often. You don't want to be using an outdated form. If you save the forms to your computer, it is very important that you review the website regularly to check for new versions of the forms.

As always, you can call or email me with questions you may have. My telephone number is for a landline phone so I can not receive texts.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sanders

USDA National Insurance Coordinator

P O Box 417, Stephens, GA 30667

Insurance@usda.org

706-759-3642



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.

New England: 67th New England Square and Round Dance Convention, April 25th and 26th, 2025. More information: www.nesrdc.org

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

Powered by



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.

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 **check it out at**

http://www **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).



Registration # _____

Dangle ☐

Ribbons ☐

Pre – Registration
76th National Square Dance Convention®
Loveland, CO June 23-26, 2027

REGISTER ONLINE at www.76nsdc.com

This form expires on January 11, 2026

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Partner's Last Name (if different): _____ First Name: _____

Email Address (if different): _____

Youth Names & DOB: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Alt Number: (____) _____

☐ Check if you want to opt out of email sharing. Email addresses shared only with the NEC for upcoming National Square Dance Convention® information.

Pre-Registration Prices (US currency only)

\$70 each x until 1/11/2026 = \$ _____

Youth born after June 27, 2010

\$30.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Sub Total: \$ _____

Credit Card Processing Fee \$3.00 \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Cash Received \$ _____ Check # _____ (Payable to 76NSDC Inc)

Credit Card Type: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ Security Code: _____ Name of Cardholder: _____

Statement Mailing Address (if different): _____

Authorized Card Signature: _____

If Registering by Mail: 76 NSDC
PO Box 2301-307, Silverthorne, CO 80498
Or Email to: registration@76nsdc.com

PLEASE HELP US PLAN!

Please CIRCLE levels you wish to dance

Dancers: SSD Only, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Contra, Lines, Rounds (____), Handicapable, SOLO

Leaders: Squares, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Education Presenter topic: _____

\$10.00 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2027. **This form and registration rate is void after Jan 11, 2026.** Registration Long Forms will be mailed in November 2025 for selection of hotel or RV park and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on Jan 11, 2026.

DANCE IN THE HEART OF THE ROCKIES

(Internal Use Only) Accepted by: _____ Date: _____ Registration Location: _____

Receipt Sent: _____ Date Sent: _____

Jan 2025



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

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

Visit our Website
76NSDC.com



Loveland Colorado

An Invitation from our friends to the North. Here is a great opportunity to dance in Canada!

Hello to you, our square and round dance neighbors. It is a New Year, with new opportunities for fun, friendship, and festivity. Our area, including Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and Langley, is gearing up for the dance party that will keep your feet hopping and happy, so get involved.

It's the BC Square & Round Dance Festival 2025. Wouldn't it be great to join a fun-filled dance vacation from July 31 to Aug. 2, 2025? It will be one week after the USA West Convention in Spokane, Wash.

Langley is just 120 miles north of Seattle, an even shorter distance from Spokane, WA., and within an hour's drive of the Vancouver International Airport. Fun themes like a Sock Hop, Under The Sea, helicopter dance, are planned and a cruise after the Festival to enjoy our west coast even more.

What a wonderful way to keep our dance tradition alive, and showcase it to our friends, wouldn't you agree? Come see how many new friends you can meet, and try out the local restaurants. To paraphrase a well-known TV theme, "you want to go where friends all learn your name", right? We plan a feast to satisfy your dancing appetites, so be prepared! For more information, check out our website at squaredance.bc.ca. Thank you for your time and consideration. – Jean Galbraith, Advertising, BC Square & Round Dance Festival 2025

Festivals, especially square dance festivals, focus on meeting and making friends from regions other than your own, don't they? Remember the fun you had on your last square dance vacation, and the memories of the host dancers and their town. Wouldn't it be great to duplicate and maybe surpass those memories in Langley, BC, Canada?

The Langley area of the Fraser Valley has a number of interesting sights to take in while you enjoy the BC Festival 2025. The Fraser River, the longest river in British Columbia, starts in the Rocky Mountains and flows through Langley on its way to the Pacific Ocean. On its banks are many trails for sightseeing, the major one being the Riverside Tour of bird life in the area and this trail extends from Langley to Harrison Hot Springs. In August, expect to see such species of birds as the Bald Eagle, Rufous and Anna Hummingbirds, Black Headed Grosbeak, Barn Owl, Violet-Green Swallow, and Belted Kingfisher. Best time for you photography buffs is early morning or late evening.

Self-guided tours of the Langley Circle Farm Tour are always fun. The farms and markets provide samples of award-winning fruit wines, and grape orchards, fresh pies, berries, local cheese, specialty turkey meat, bee hive demonstrations, an alpaca farm, and various equestrian events. Plan to take in these sights and sounds while you are visiting here, and help our Festival organize a few special tours and events for us all to share.

And how about following the Gold Rush Trail to Fort Langley Historic Site. In 1827 the Hudson's Bay Company founded a fur trading post on this site, where British Columbia was proclaimed. 1858 saw its rural life style changed from trade of beaver pelts and salmon to where 30,000 gold prospectors came searching for the mother lode. Located in Fort Langley, beside Langley Township, it is worth some time to explore.

And there are many other activities and events. The Langley Museum of Flight is an experience you won't want to miss. The BC Buzz Honey farm is always fun to learn about these marvelous creatures. Over a few dozen restaurants feature the fresh produce that comes from the region, and the gift shopping for artful souvenirs is always a treat. Find the perfect souvenir to take home as a great memory of your square dance vacation in Langley.

For more info, contact Tourism Langley, and enjoy your Festival experience.



WE WANT YOU



to come Dance on the Wild Side

74th National Square Dance Convention[®]

Shreveport Convention Center • June 25-28, 2025

Sign up today: www.74nsdc.com/register-online

Join our Facebook group for the latest news and events!



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.*

ETERNAL TRUTHS OF SPRING

The season I love is truly the Spring
When the spirit of youth is in everything
To take in the Spring is good for the soul
It renews one's spirit and makes it whole
Through the earth the violets do peep
Upon the hill tops the crocus will keep
Across a field wild daisies are spread
With the morning dew each flower is fed
The air is filled with lilacs sweet smell
For we know our Lord makes all so well
The songbirds return in a chorus to sing
Praise to our God for the beautiful Spring

Spring is my favorite time of the year. When animals, plants and even some folks like myself, arise out of dormancy. I love the Great Plains where the prairies have the sweet smell of new flowers. The beauty of new life is truly one of the Lord's miraculous wonders that brings peace and fullness to the soul.

Yes, I have been quite isolated and hunkered down all Winter, nursing a total knee replacement back to health. I'm grateful to medical science for regenerating my earthly mobility, as my hope is getting back on the dance floor soon. Hopefully we will be able to start visiting our assigned states and attending the Festivals & Convention.

In 2024 we completed our 3rd time around dancing in all 50 states and got started on round number 4. There is always something to look forward to!!

The USDA continues to seek someone to fill the position of Vice President for the Eastern Region, if you or someone you know might be interested, contact anyone on the back cover of the USDA News.

Hope to see you in Shreveport, LA., in June.

Do what needs to be done for the good of all.

God's Blessing

As Ever Square Dancers

Mark & Bina



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 been 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 handicapped 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)



The United Square Dancers of America's Social Media Committee



Proudly Presents Our Webinar Series

Beyond the Dance Floor

DATE	TOPIC	FACULTY
January 15, 2025	No Webinar	
February 8, 2025	Encouraging Social Connections: The Key to the Growth, Success and Fun in Your Club and Association	Mike & Lisa Seastrom, International Square Dance Caller
March 8, 2025	The Biggest Party of the Year - What's Waiting for you at the National Square Dance Convention in Shreveport, LA	Ted & Tonia Hofmeister, General Chairmen, 74 th National Square Dance Convention
April 5, 2025	The Wonderful World of USDA: The Benefits, The Programs, The Resources	Sally Schmidt, USDA Information Officer
May 17, 2025	Dancer Down! Is Your Club Prepared in Case of a Medical Emergency?	Renee Trevao, Member, Jackson Claim Jumpers, Jackson, CA
June 14, 2025	The Proposal: CALLERLAB's Idea for the Future of Square Dancing	Ted Lizotte & Teresa Berger, CALLERLAB
July 12 or 19, 2025		
August 9, 2025	Leadership: Being Someone Who Makes Our Hobby Better	Tom Miller, Keynote Speaker, 74 th National Square Dance Convention
September 20, 2025	USDA's 501(c)3 Not for Profit Group Exemption Program	Jim Maczko, Pat Inglis & Jim Taylor, USDA Exec. Committee Members
October 11 or 18, 2025		
November 8, 2025	USDA Insurance – Making Sure Your Clubs and Dancers are Covered	Elizabeth Sanders USDA Insurance Director
December 13, 2025	Youth Programs and the USDA's Founders' Memorial Youth Fund Scholarship Program	Dan Reedy, USDA Youth Advisor



United Square Dancers of America at the 74th NSDC

*Are you traveling to Shreveport, LA for the National Square Dance Convention®?
If so, why not join us for some of the following USDA-sponsored activities?*

USDA ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, June 25 – 1:00 PM

Convention Center Auditorium

ALL DANCERS WELCOME!

*Learn about how USDA supports dancers and
promotes dancing across the country.*



USDA-SPONSORED SQUARE DANCE AFTER PARTY With the Ghost Riders Live Band!

Friday, June 27 – 10:00 PM

Live Band Hall

USDA-SPONSORED EDUCATION SESSIONS

How to Be an Insurance Coordinator (Elizabeth Sanders)

Thursday, June 26 – 2:30 PM – Room 201

Friday, June 27 – 12:00 PM – Room 202

Toolkit for Club Leaders (Scott & Sandy Ebright)

Thursday, June 26 – 3:45 PM – Room 201

Saturday, June 28 – 1:00 PM – Room 202

USDA 501(c)(3) Group Exemption Program (Jim Maczko, Pat Inglis, Jim & Judy Taylor)

Friday, June 27 – 3:45 PM – Room 202



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2025 USA West registration: www.usawestwa.com

75th National Square Dance Convention[®]



June 24-27 2026

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Take a tour with the 74th NSDC!

The 74th National Square Dance Convention® invites you to explore Shreveport, LA, June 25-28, 2025 or take an exciting pre-convention tour in historic New Orleans. To view the 74th NSDC tour brochure, visit <https://www.74nsdc.com/tours>. To make a reservation, go to <https://74nsdc.cloudreg.us>. Click on the tour(s) that you would like more information on and scroll down for the tour(s) details. Choose your tour(s) date, select the quantity (number of persons registering for the tour), read and checkmark the Terms of Service, provide payment information, and then click on "Submit Registration." It's that easy! If you have questions, please email Tours74NSDC@gmail.com.

EXPERIENCE NEW ORLEANS - JUNE 22-25, 4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS

Arrive early to experience the city of New Orleans before the NSDC starts in Shreveport. Take a steamboat dinner cruise upon your arrival in the historic French Quarter. The next day, enjoy a city tour followed by a visit to Mardi Gras World and the WWII Museum. That evening, partake in a fine dining experience at Mulate's and a jazz show at Preservation Hall. The next day, explore a Southern swamp on an airboat trip followed by a tour of Oak Alley Plantation. In the evening you will have some time to relax and take in the sights and sounds of the French Quarter on your own. After a farewell breakfast, the air-conditioned coach bus will transport you and your luggage to Shreveport for a fantastically-wild convention. Cost varies from \$770-\$1,050 per person, depending on room accommodations.

BOWLING AFTER-AFTER PARTY - JUNE 27, 10:30 PM-1 AM

Just because the dancing is over for the night on Friday, the fun doesn't have to end! Join us at Holiday Lanes for an After-After Party night of fun, games and bowl with Elvis. This package includes unlimited bowling and shoes, karaoke, a snacks and ice cream sundae buffet, arcade and two full-service bars. With its wild "luau" theme, prizes will be awarded for the best dressed and theme-related games. This great event is available for just \$40 per person. Ample parking on-site. Shuttle transportation will also be available for an additional \$5 fee to and from the convention center to the bowling alley. The shuttle will run continuously throughout the evening so you can come for an hour or stay the entire evening.

HISTORIC NATCHITOCHES - JUNE 25 or JUNE 26, 8 AM-5:30 PM

Visit Natchitoches, the oldest permanent French settlement in Louisiana. Established in 1714, this town is full of old-world charm. For our first stop, enjoy a guided tour of Fort St. Jean Baptiste, a replica of the original fort erected in 1716 that served as a military outpost. We've even been promised we can do a bit of dancing on the wild side at the fort. Afterward, we will venture downtown where you can eat lunch on your own and explore the shops and historic sites or the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. We will conclude with a two-hour city tour focusing on the history of Natchitoches as well as some of the filming locations for the movie "Steel Magnolias," which starred Dolly Parton and Sally Field. The tour package is \$75 per person.

GATORS & FRIENDS - JUNE 25, 26, 27 or 28, 10:30 AM-3:30 PM

For a truly wild experience, explore Gators & Friends, a family-friendly attraction in Greenwood, just outside of Shreveport. This tour offers visitors a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with our convention mascot – the alligator, and a variety of wildlife, including exotic animals and more. You can even grab a ride on a zip line over the alligators, for an additional fee. Refreshments will be available on site. The package price is \$27 per person.

DOWN ON THE FARM - JUNE 26, 9 AM-1:30 PM

Take a trip to Morell Dairy Farm, Northwest Louisiana's premier local dairy farm for Jersey milk, chocolate milk and butter. Start the morning off by learning about the inner workings of a dairy farm, including milking the cows. After the tour, you have an opportunity to purchase some of the Morell Farm's quality products. Enjoy a boxed lunch with the cows on the farm grounds. We will dance a tip or two on the farm before we head home, but no cow tipping! Receive a special cow dangle for this one-time event. Space is limited and lunch is included in the tour. The cost is \$39 per person.

SHREVEPORT CITY TOUR - JUNE 25, 26, 27 9-11 AM & 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, JUNE 28 9-11 AM ONLY

Take a two-hour tour of Shreveport's history and culture on an air-conditioned coach bus. The story begins with the Caddo people and includes exploration of slavery and cotton, the war and post-war Jim Crow era, steamboats, oil and civil rights, music, food and architecture. Our explorations include a visit inside the Calanthean Temple, a circle out to Logan Mansion and Oakland Cemetery. The cost is \$45 per person.



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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.

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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.

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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.



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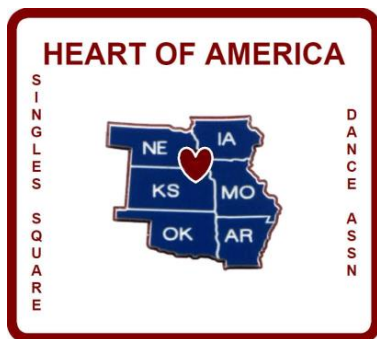
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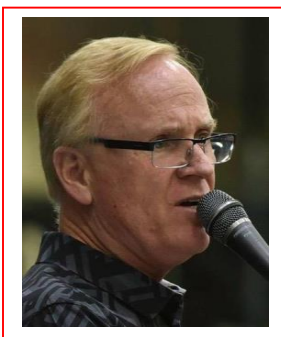
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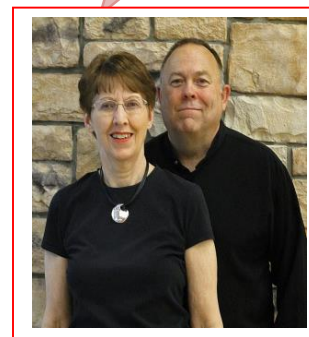
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Dance registration provides a complimentary membership to HASSDA for adults (18 years of age & up**) from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026.**

(Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

Make Checks Payable to: HASSDA Festival 2025

685 Newman Road

Havensville, KS 66432

Festival Contact: Maye Wegner ~785-806-8314 or HASSDA-FESTIVAL@wesquaredance.com

Square Dance Attire Admired, Not Required

Cancellation Policy:

- Full Refund will be given if cancellation notice is received prior to July 15, 2025.
- One-half Refund will be given for cancellation between July 15 and August 1, 2025.
- No Refund will be given for cancellation after August 1, 2025.

All requests for cancellation must be in writing or e-mail to HASSDA Festival Contact.

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Youth ☐ (under 18 = ½ price)

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

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

Apr 25-26 **North Dakota State Festival**
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
1420 7th St. N. Fargo, ND
More Info at: squaredancenorthdakota.com

Apr 25-26 **67th New England Square & Round Dance Convention: "Circulate the Bay State"**
Westford, MA
For more information: <https://nesrdc.org>

May 16-18 **76th New Mexico Square & Round Dance Festival "Dance at the Diamond in the Desert"**
Albuquerque Square Dance Center (ASDC)
4915 Hawkins St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
<https://www.nmsrda.org>

May 23-25 **72nd Golden State Round Up**
Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds
413 Lockeford St., Lodi, CA 95240
Register at: www.NCSDA.com

Jun12-15 **63rd Annual - Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival**
Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center
3303 N. 3rd St., Temple Texas
For more info: <https://www.squaredancetx.com>

Jun 13-14 **Colorado State Square Dance Festival GATSBY'S ALIVE IN 2025**
Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO
More info at: coloradosquaredance.com

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.marylandsquaredancing.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.

Aug 8-9 **Heart of America 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

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

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