

INTERCOM

Official Newsletter of Single Square Dancers, U.S.A. - Joe B. Ellis, Founder February 2020 Issue

50TH DANCE-A-RAMA

Cherry Valley Hotel, Newark, OH

September 4 - 6, 2020

We will be celebrating Single Square Dancers USA's 50th and final Dance-A-Rama festival on Labor Day weekend this year at the beautiful, newly remodeled Cherry Valley Hotel. It is located between Granville and Newark, OH. It is just a 30-minute drive from the John Glenn International Airport in Columbus, OH. All of their redesigned, modern guest rooms have either one or two king sized beds, a pull-out sleeper sofa, a mini-refrigerator, a Keurig coffee maker, and either a patio or balcony. Complimentary wireless high-speed internet is available in all rooms. Free parking is available for overnight guests.

If you want to take a break from dancing, you may want to walk through their courtyard and surrounding botanical gardens or relax in the indoor swimming pool or Jacuzzi. A variety of food is available at the hotel's restaurants, coffee shop, bars and grab-n-go area, or if you prefer, you can drive less than a mile to eat at Bob Evans, Wendy's or Arby's. There are numerous other restaurants to try if you want to drive a little further. In our next Intercom issue, I will fill you in on the tours we will offer and attractions in the area that you might want to explore on your own.

Our special nightly room rate before tax is \$109 for 1 or 2 people, \$124 for 3 people, and \$139 for 4 people. We encourage you to stay at our host hotel since the cost of our dance halls is linked to the number of room nights we fill. Besides, it is much more relaxing and FUN to be close to where the dancing takes place.

It would be worth enjoying a vacation at this

hotel even if we were not going to be spending our time dancing with an outstanding line-up of square dance callers and cuers. **Jack Pladdys (OH), Tim Tyl (TX), Tom Davis (OH) and Travis Cook (KY)** have agreed to call for us. **Phyllis Burdette (OH) and Bonnie Lawrence (IN)** will be our cuers, and Bonnie will also teach and lead line dances. Jack and Tom will be the callers and Phyllis and Bonnie will be cueing rounds at our Trail In dance on September 3rd. We will be programming for squares from Mainstream through A2 and for rounds from Phase II through V or VI. Our dance halls are all on the main floor and close to each other, and none of the dancing will be on carpet. We are pleased that the Bucks & Does Singles Square Dance Club of Columbus will be helping SSDUSA with promoting our festival and helping with tasks that need to be performed on site.

We hope you will mark your calendars now and make plans to join us in Ohio to celebrate our Golden Anniversary. We will be completing and starting to distribute our registration forms/flyers as soon as a few more details are worked out. This form will be placed on our website (www.ssdusa.org) where you will be able to view and download it. If you can help us get the word out about our FUN-filled festival by distributing flyers, please let me know, and I will send them to you. Please forward this information to your dancer contacts using email and social media. We need your help to spread the word that we have a great festival planned and that **ALL square and round dancers are welcome** at our 50th Dance -A Rama!

Velma Doyle, 50th DAR Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



The 49th Single Square Dancers USA Dance-A-Rama (DAR) festival in Alabama is now history. The callers and cuers did a great job. Both tours were excellent. I especially enjoyed the Mystery Tour, when we had a drive-by narrated tour of major sites of Birmingham and danced at historic Railroad Park and at Vulcan Park – home of the largest cast iron statue in the world and best city overlook. It was great having a large mall attached to our hotel, with a large food court with a sizable variety of food items available without even going outdoors. I appreciate all of the work that Ron Holland, our 49th DAR Coordinator, put into this festival. It is sad that he passed away just months later, so this ended up being his final Dance-A-Rama. I want to say a special thank you to Susan Lee, who served both as our treasurer and was in charge of registrations. I also want to thank those who, along with Susan, manned the sign-in tables during our festival. Ginny Fromel, Ailene Picheco, Fred Moore, and John & Carolyn Cook. I also want to recognize and express a big thank you to our DAR callers (Tom Davis, Joe Goins, Greg Hatmaker and Gene Aldridge) and cuers (Robbie Carrington and Diane Martin- Hamilton), all of whom did such a fine job and made our festival fun for the dancers.

Since Ron is no longer with us, I have ended up taking on the responsibilities of serving as the 50th DAR Coordinator. I also am continuing as President for the coming year and, as you can see on the side panels, most of our other board members are also continuing in positions that they have held for multiple years. I want to thank Debbie Price, who has resigned, for her service as our North West Regional Director. We are happy that Art Ritter joined our board last September as our new South Central Regional Director. We appreciate having him on board!

In recent years we have not been able to find local dance organizations to host our Dance-A-Rama festivals, leaving the SSDUSA Board with the responsibilities and work of putting on the festivals. Also, we have not been able to fill all of our board positions, leaving major areas of our country without a Regional Director to promote our DAR festivals in those areas. Sadly, those of us doing all of the work have reached a point where we are not able to keep on doing these same tasks in the future. (If you are interested in filling an open board position to help with our upcoming DAR, it's not too late to join our board. See the *Help Wanted* article later in this issue. Also, we can use your help in promoting our festival even if you do not want to join our board.)

We are happy and excited that we finally have found a great location for our 50th Dance-A-Rama festival and that we have an outstanding line-up of callers and cuers that we believe will make our festival a lot of FUN. We appreciate that we will be getting some help locally from the Bucks & Does Singles Club of Columbus, OH. We plan to make DAR 2020 an outstanding festival and go out in style.

Velma Doyle, President

FRANK NORRIS YELLOWROCK SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

We did not receive any applications for our scholarship(s) in 2019, and so none were awarded. It is not too early to let potential or beginner callers and cuers in your area know that they can apply for this year's scholarship(s). Single Square Dancers USA's scholarship fund is designed to help new callers and cuers with the expenses associated with getting started. It is open to any caller or cuer age 12 or over who has three years or less experience. (Youth ages 12 through 18 need to have parental consent.) Anyone interested

in applying needs to submit a demo CD or link to YouTube showing them calling patten and singing call (for callers) or cueing two different rhythms (waltz, two step, fox trot, etc. (for cuers), along with a completed application. This is to be sent to Velma Doyle, Yellowrock Scholarship Chairperson, 3938 Crestfield Dr, Groveport, OH 43125. If you need a Yellowrock Scholarship application, download a copy from the SSDUSA Website: www.ssdusa.org, or contact me.

The deadline for receipt of the completed packet is August 1. One or more scholarships will be awarded at DAR 2020 on Labor Day weekend.

If you know of potential or beginner callers or cuers who might qualify for the scholarships, please let them know about SSDUSA's Yellowrock Scholarships and encourage them to apply.

Velma Doyle
Yellowrock Scholarship Chairperson

ROOMMATE LOCATOR

I understand that by the time you get this, we will have our location for the 2020 Dance-A-Rama. That means, get your hotel reservations in. You can always cancel once you know what you're doing, but lock in the room and rate. I will accept roommate requests starting June 1, 2020, but probably won't do anything with them until the middle of July or later.

See you around the square.

Laurie Steward, Roommate Locator
lkstewa@hotmail.com / 507-685-4476

Editor's Note: This free website was passed on to me by a member.

www.dancepartner.com

"Embrace the glorious mess that you are"
- Elizabeth Gilbert

IN MEMORY OF RON HOLLAND



SSDUSA lost a strong supporter of our organization on November 20, 2019 when Ron Holland passed away due to multiple health complications. Ron was proud to have been an active participant in Single Square Dancers USA, starting with our 25th Dance-A-Rama (DAR) festival in Boston in 1995. In November 2009 he stated he had not missed a single board meeting since attending that first DAR. He said: "Guess you could say that I am hooked on this organization."

Ron often was a member of the SSDUSA Board, including serving as President in 1998-99, 2001-02, and 2009-10. Often over the years Ron was the representative from SSDUSA who searched for DAR locations and helped with getting favorable contracts with hotels, callers and cuers for the DAR's. He was working on arrangements for our 50th DAR in 2020 at the time of his passing. Ron served as Chair of DAR festivals multiple times: 1997 and again in 2008 in Nashville; TN; 2013 in St. Louis, MO; 2018 in Indianapolis, IN; and 2019 in Hoover (Birmingham), AL, and he would have chaired our 50th DAR had he survived.

If you want to honor Ron, you may send a donation in his name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Velma Doyle, President

2- ATLANTIC EAST REGION

Helen Jacobson

WASCA Spring Festival info.

The 61st WASCA Spring Festival will be March 19 - 21, 2020. Once again it will be at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road in Alexandria, Va. 22311. Callers are: Jerry Biggerstaff (NC), Eric Henerlau, (CA), Tom Miller (PA), Joe Saltel (TX), Mike Seastrom (CA), Mike Sikorsky (AZ), Jerry Story (Iowa), Buddy Weaver (CA).

Cuers are: Linda and Paul Robinson (CA), Sherry and Ray Garza (CA), Marie and Randy Preskitt (WA), Tammy and Curt Warlock, (FL), Line Dancing: Donna and Doug Riley (VA).

Sharon Cockram is coordinating the Solo Programming. Contact her at:

FestivalSoloProgram@wascaclubs.com

SD halls will include Mainstream through Challenge programs, as well as a DBD hall and a part-time children's hall. Round dancing will be Phase II through Phase VI.

Registration fee is \$50 / adult before March 1, 2020 . \$60 after March 1.

Children 17 and under are \$20 apiece

For info, their website is:

www.wascaclubs.com

4- NORTH CENTRAL EAST REGION

Fred Moore

Velma and I enjoyed attending the 49th Dance-A-Rama festival in Alabama even though I was still recovering from fracturing a vertebra in my neck back in May. I was not yet able to dance at that point, but it was good to see old friends again. I especially enjoyed the tours. I am grateful that my strength and balance have continued to improve so I am now able to do some square and round dancing.

Bucks & Does Singles had a good crowd at

their annual Yellow Rock Special Dance on November 10th. National caller Jack Pladdys did a great job calling as did Phyllis Burdette cuing the rounds. Orbiting Squares had a well-attended New Year's Eve Dance with Tom Strickland on the squares and Chuck Berry cuing the rounds. We don't have any special dances coming up soon in our immediate area, but we do want you to know that both Bucks & Does Singles and Orbiting Squares work at making their club dances solo friendly. Actually, most of the other clubs in Central Ohio also now accept solos in their classes and dances. When I went through beginner classes in the first Bucks & Does Singles class in 1975, things were very different here. Single dancers were not welcome to dance at the numerous couple clubs unless they came with a partner. Bucks & Does filled a definite need in our community when they formed the first singles club in our area. As recently as 2000, when Velma and I started dancing together, she was only permitted to join Orbiting Squares as my partner. Later, after we both were on the Orbiting Board, we helped change the By-Laws to accept single dancers along with couples. Bucks & Does has also changed its policies, now accepting married couples along with singles. (We have fourteen dual members who belong to both clubs.) The SSDUSA Board appreciates that these two clubs have supported SSDUSA during the past 15 years by paying for club memberships in our SSDUSA organization.

If you plan to be in Central Ohio, you can find information about opportunities for dancing in our area at www.ColumbusSquareDance.com. This site also has links to other websites in Ohio and a lot of other interesting and helpful information. If you know of solo-friendly special dances in our region, please call me at 614-837-6974 or email Velma Doyle at velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net so we can add your information to my future North Central East Region *Intercom* articles.

I am excited that our 50th Dance-A-Rama festival on Labor Day weekend will be at the Cherry Valley Hotel, right here in my region, just thirty miles from home! I hope to see lots of you there

Fred Moore, Regional Director

8= SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Art Ritter

After participating in the last three Dance-A-Ramas, I volunteered for this position and was duly elected by the board during their September 21, 2019 meeting. After a good turn-out of Arkansas dancers in 2017, (because they hosted it) I found it embarrassing that the following two DARs had only myself and my partner as attending Arkansas dancers. My goal is to substantially increase that number. To date I have asked members of the local clubs to “save-the-date” of future Labor days for this fun and special dance.

Since then I have carried this message to the Arkansas Federation at their October 12-13 dance weekend. At this event I accepted the position - “Publicity Committee Chair”, which means I will be visiting the twenty clubs of Arkansas. next year’s federation dance. I will be promoting the 2020 DAR as well.

Then, to the 2019 Missouri State Festival, “Diamond Jubilee” in Springfield MO, October 18,19 &20.

The next stop was the Four State Club, actually in New Boston, TX; November 3.

I have found fliers for up-coming dances:

Leap Year Jubilee – Saturday February 29, 2020, in Chanute, KS

46th Annual Round-up; Allemande Hall; 106 Westlake Drive, Waco TX. March 12 & 14, 2020

68th Annual Heart of America Federation Festival, March 27-28,2020, in Independence, MO

April Jubilee- April 17 &18, 2020, in Rockport TX.

68th Kansas State Square Dance Convention- June 5 & 6, 2020, in Salina, KS

58th Annual Texas State Square and Round dance Festival- June 11-14,2020, in Tyler, TX

HASSDA Festival – July 24 & 25, 2020, in Manhattan, KS

Branson Square Em Up- August 14 &15, 2020, in Branson MO

More information can be found at the various state federation web-sites:

Arkansas: <http://www.theassdf.org>

Louisiana:

<https://louisianasquaredance.com>

Missouri

<http://www.squaredancemissouri.com/Missouri/Directories>

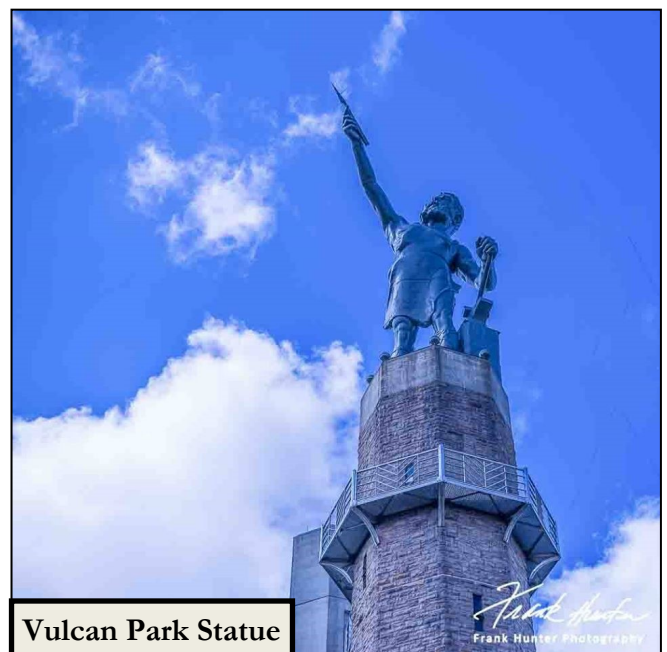
Kansas :

<http://www.kansassquaredance.com/m-clubs.html>

Texas: <http://www.squaredancetx.com>

Oklahoma: http://www.Oklahoma-square-dance-federation.org/p_stateclubs.php

Art Ritter , Regional Director



Vulcan Park Statue

HELP WANTED !!!!!!!!!!!!!

WE NEED YOU!!

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!!

Why don't you volunteer for one of the following vacancies? SSDUSA has divided the U.S. into regions and needs to have representatives from each region to provide a voice for singles through-out the U.S. We currently have three regions that have no representation. Please consider becoming a Regional Director to represent your regional area if you live in any of the states in the following Regions:

North Central West Region – consists of the following states: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Canada.

North West Region – consists of the following states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and Alaska.

South East Region – consists of the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico.

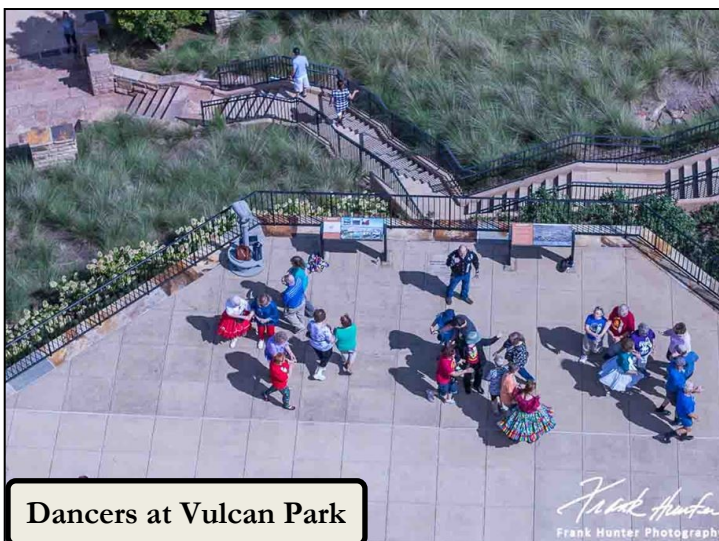
Our Vice-President position is also unfilled. According to our By-Laws, this involves one year as Vice-President, followed by one year as President and a third year as Past President (all SSDUSA Board positions).

We also have unfilled Committee Chair positions: Archives, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Nominations, and ByLaws/Parliamentarian. I will send job descriptions for these positions to any of you requesting this information.

Even if you do not live in one of the uncovered regions or are not in a position to take on an entire region or take on a committee position, we have less demanding opportunities to help. We would welcome your help if you can just represent your state, area, city, town or club. If you attend dances and can let dancers know about the great dancing and FUN at our DAR festivals, this would help us. If you can distribute our registration forms/flyers in your area, please let me know and I will send the forms to you as soon as they are available. If you receive your Intercom by email, we hope you will forward it to other dancers so they will know about our upcoming Dance-A-Rama festival. Please let them know that ALL square and round dancers are welcome at our 50th Dance-A-Rama!

If you would like to volunteer to be considered for one of these positions, or if you want us to send you flyers to distribute in your area, please let me know. For more information please contact:

Velma Doyle, President, at 614-837-6974 or velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net.



Dancers at Vulcan Park



Dancers on Thursday's Tour

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With this New Year I will embrace the power within me
 to learn from the past, plan for the future and
 celebrate the present.

SSDUSA Individual Membership Application	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:
Annual Dues \$6.00	
Membership Badge \$7.00 (Plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling)	
Make checks payable to SSDUSA, Mail to: Ailene Picheco, 345 Hula Circle, Merritt Island, FL 32952 Phone: 321-652-0680 Email: apicheco@att.net	

AILENE PICHECO
345 Hula Circle,
Merritt Island, FL 32952

The Official Newsletter of Single Square Dancers, USA
First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested

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SSDUSA Club Membership Application	
Name of club:	Number of members:
Contact Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:
Club Website:	
Annual Dues: \$10 per year for clubs up to 50 members (1 club delegate)	
\$15 per year for clubs with 51-100 members (2 club delegates)	
\$20 per year for clubs with 101 or more members (3 club delegates)	
Delegate names:	
Please check one: New membership _____ Renewal _____	
If renewal and address has changed, please include old address.	
Make checks payable to SSDUSA	
Mail to: Ailene Picheco, 345 Hula Circle, Merritt Island, FL 32952	
Phone: 321-652-0680 Email: apicheco@att.net	