

INTERCOM



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

SINGLE SQUARE DANCERS, USA

WILL BE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF DANCING

SSDUSA'S 50TH DANCE-A-RAMA FESTIVAL

LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 3RD - 5TH, 2021



Time is quickly passing by and it is hard to believe that in less than twelve months I will be welcoming everyone to Des Moines, Iowa for the 50th and final Dance-A-Rama (with a year gap). We, as the executive committee, are in high hopes that this Covid virus will be a thing of the past and our lives will have settled in to a new normal and everyone will be back to dancing.

If you have not already made your room reservation, please contact the Hotel directly at 1-515-287-2400 or call their toll free reservation number 1-800-248-4013 to reserve your room. Be sure to identify yourself as being with Dance-A-Rama 2021 to receive our special room rate of \$108 + tax per night. The Cut-off Date to receive this pricing is August 1st. Call Early!! You will receive a confirmation number at the time you make your reservation.

We are offering a tour on Thursday (similar to the one in 2012) to The Bridges of Madison County. Our bus is smaller this year so I am in hopes that we can get to the Clark Tower that was featured in the movie. We will also visit John Wayne's Home and Museum. The Museum is in a new bigger building and has been greatly improved. There is also one of our famous "Freedom Rocks" Created by artist Ray "Bubba" Sorensen in the museum and on the home grounds. On the town square, a short walk

away, is one of the few remaining Ben Franklin stores and nearby it is a Quilt Museum (admission extra) that may be of interest to some of you.

Of course we will have the "Mystery Tour" On Sunday for \$40 (*Tour includes motor coach transportation and dancing at mystery locations in the area. You won't know where you are going until you get there. This is always one of our best tours each year!*). Who knows, you may even get to see some of the sites that might have been featured on a city tour. Just wait and see. Tours within the city have not been scheduled due to the price of bus transportation making it cost prohibitive. However, you may want to come earlier and/or stay longer to check out other sites in the area, many of which are free. The hotel will honor our room rate September 1st thru 8th.

NOTE: I have recently sold my current home and moved to 8016 Greenbelt Drive, Urbandale, Iowa 50322.

If you have a registration form with the Pleasant View Drive address, when you send it, please send it to the Greenbelt Drive address.

*Susan Lee, SSDUSA Dance-A-Rama
Chairman, Treasurer / Registrar
rflxsue@aol.com / 515-244-3247*

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



It is encouraging that Dr. Anthony Fauci of the CDC recently announced that a COVID-19 vaccine may be widely available for the general public by April 2021. He said the vaccine's release would "likely be within the first quarter of 2021, by let's say April of 2021." If this prediction comes to pass, I personally plan to take advantage of the protection a vaccine will provide.

As a healthy individual in the "at risk" age category, at this time I am not comfortable dancing in situations where social distancing (six feet apart) and mask wearing is not taking place. I recently have been able to start back line dancing and round dancing (only with one partner and with the couples socially distancing).

I definitely am looking forward to the time when this pandemic is conquered. I will be happy to get back to square dancing again! Given that so many of the brightest scientists and researchers all around the world are working to defeat the COVID-19 virus and so much progress has already been made, I believe we will be able to square dance safely again, hopefully long before our Dance-A-Rama festival. I am looking forward to being in Des Moines on Labor Day weekend of 2021 and celebrating SSDUSA's 50 years of dancing.

We have an outstanding line-up of callers and cuers to entertain us. We have a fine hotel with many amenities, including free parking and a free shuttle to the nearby Des Moines airport (available 24 hours per day). We encourage you to stay at our host hotel. It is so much easier on you and more FUN to be close to the dancing.

Don't forget that ALL square and round dancers are welcome at our Dance-A-Rama

festivals. Please make your plans now to attend our 50th Dance-A-Rama festival on Labor Day weekend of 2021! You can have even more fun if you bring your friends along. We plan to make DAR 2021 an outstanding festival and go out in style! Registration forms are available at dar2021.ssdusa.org.

Velma Doyle, President

velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net / 614-837-6974

FRANK NORRIS YELLOWROCK



Single Square Dancers U.S.A. is pleased to announce that one new cuer, Rikki Lobato of Grants Pass, OR, was selected to receive the Frank Norris Yellowrock Scholarship in 2020. Rikki started

square and round dancing in the fall of 2011. In 2017 she was asked to help some dancers with round dance figures and proceeded to obtain her Round-A-Lab



license/membership. She began teaching in September of 2017 and started getting cueing gigs once in a while a few months after that. She is not a club cuer, but cues for various clubs throughout the state of Oregon. Rikki dances with the Charlie Brown Squares in Grants Pass and has her own round dance club, "Rikki's Rounds". In a thank you note from Rikki, she said "Oh my goodness, I can't express how incredibly grateful I am!! Thank you so much!!! I've already got the money earmarked to help with expenses for my trip next year to National/ RAL/ICBDA. The money will be invaluable to help with that trip."

Twenty-twenty one will be the last year that

Single Square Dancers USA will be awarding scholarships 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 a 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, 2021. One or more scholarships will be awarded at DAR 2021 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
velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net / 614-837-6974



ROOMMATE LOCATOR

As always, the roommate locator is ready to help you find a roommate when we get back to dancing.

See you around the square.

Laurie Steward, Roommate Locator
lkstewa@hotmail.com / 507-210-6507

1- SOUTH EAST REGION
Ailene Picheco

There is some dancing in **Alabama**, **Mississippi** and **Florida**. The Florida State Convention in February has been cancelled. Please check websites listed below for any updates and contact information.

Alabama: www.alabamasquaredance.com/aweb/finddance/eventview.php

Georgia: www.gssda.org/conventions

Florida: www.floridasquaredance.com/convention

Mississippi: <http://mssquaredance.com/dance.htm>

South Carolina: <https://scsquaredance.com/calendar>

Tennessee: www.tnsquaredance.org/events

Puerto Rico: Call or email if you are visiting San Juan
mcuretpr@yahoo.com / 787-647-8810

Ailene Picheco, Regional Director
apicheco@att.net / 321-652-0680

2- ATLANTIC EAST REGION
Helen Jacobson

A reminder of the Cancellation of 2021 WASCA Spring Festival

We regret to inform you that the WASCA Spring Festival scheduled for March 18-20, 2021 has been cancelled. This action was taken by a unanimous decision of the Board of Directors and followed a discussion about the potential danger to attending dancers and supporting calling/cueing staff that might exist in March 2021. While it seems early to make this decision, the Board has experienced the unpredictability of the Covid-19 virus and its effect on our desire to return to normal dance activity. Also, in cancelling at this

point, our contracted liabilities have been minimized and this enables us to retain sufficient funds to continue operating and able to hold Festivals in the future.

While it was disappointing to make this decision we will look forward to normal dance activity returning during 2021 and a great Spring Festival on March 17-19, 2022. Come and join us – it will be glorious!

WASCA Board of Directors

Information for those pre-registered for the 2021 Festival:

All WASCA Festival registrations will roll over to the 2022 WASCA Festival. The Registrars will contact all registered dancers for the process to rollover their registration at a later date. If you would like a refund, please send an email to festivalregistration@wascaclubs.com

Housing - no reservations have been sent to the Hilton and the few original checks that were sent in with housing will be returned.

Posted by: Margaret Montgomery
memontgomery1@verizon.net

To join WASCADances, send an email to
WASCADances-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Helen Jacobson, Regional Director
Helen.jacobsonRN@gmail.com / 201-230-4999

4- NORTH CENTRAL EAST REGION
Fred Moore

We certainly are living at a strange and interesting time. From the start of the pandemic, all of the 2020 state dance conventions in our region were cancelled, and we have just learned that Ohio's 2021 Dance Convention in May has already been cancelled. In our immediate area (Central Ohio) the main established clubs have not started to hold regular dances again, with most monitoring the situation and

periodically cancelling dances for one or two months out. Most of the schools, senior centers, churches and other venues where we normally dance are closed or will not allow outside groups to use their facilities. Many dancers, especially those who are most at risk due to age and/or underlying health conditions (like me) are understandably reluctant to dance at this time. Even clubs that can find a venue that will let them dance cannot afford to pay for the caller, cuer and hall when so many dancers are not ready to come out to dance. Bucks and Does Singles, Orbiting Squares and Little Brown Jug Singles are among the clubs that have not been able to resume dancing.

There are small groups of dancers who are back dancing in our area. A square dance couple living in a home with a wooden floor with space for two squares started holding small Saturday evening dances. Caller Jason Raleigh agreed to call for them, and other callers fill in when Jason has to be out of town for his work. These dances have come to be known as the "Virus Be Damned" dances, and recently the organizers have started scheduling a few Friday dances, bringing in popular outside callers, and using a church willing to let them dance without requirements for wearing masks, sanitizing the hall, etc. They limit the crowd to 40 dancers and have people sign up on the Columbus Square Dance Center website in advance to avoid anyone having to handle money and to try to ensure that they will have enough dancers attending to pay for the caller and the hall. One regular club, the Hicks & Chicks, which was closed out of the school where they normally dance, recently found an alternative location and held a dance. Despite having a great caller and cuer (Jack Pladdys and Chuck Berry), they only had a disappointing crowd (just over two squares).

In the Miami Valley Dance Council (Dayton, OH area), most clubs dance at the Michael Solomon Pavilion, which opened up briefly for dancing with a detailed safety plan in place early in July. After COVID-19 cases spiked, on July 8th they cancelled dances through the end of September. They recently have started scheduling dances again. One club in that council, the Clinton County Country Squares of Wilmington, OH, has been the exception in that they have been successfully holding dances on first and third Thursdays despite the pandemic. Some dancing has also started up in northern Ohio. For more information go to www.ColumbusSquareDance.com. This site has our local information plus links to other websites in Ohio and a lot of other interesting and helpful information. Reports out of Indiana indicate some round dancing but little square dancing taking place. Bonnie Lawrence and Nancy Fulaytar have held All Rounds Dances in Anderson, IN and Pat Bryant has cued at Friendship Rounds in Warsaw, IN. On October 10th the Star Promenaders of Seymour, IN held a dance outdoors in a park shelter with Tom Davis calling and Deborah Burden cueing and were delighted to have 47 people attend. They are looking for a suitable venue to rent indoors. Hoosier Corners in Richmond, IN has held dances and has scheduled a dance on December 5th with Mark Patterson calling and Elaine Wintrow cueing. Word we received from Illinois is that almost all dancing has been cancelled through the end of December. One club north of Chicago has held Club 50 dances outside in a parking lot. A few weeks ago one cuer started holding round dances. A friend from western Michigan describes only small groups of dancers and a class starting in October with just one square. Our contact from the Louisville, KY reports

no dancing in his area.

Hopefully we will be able to get back to square dancing within the next few months. I am looking forward to celebrating SSDUSA's 50 years of dancing next year in Des Moines, IA. I hope to see lots of you there!

Fred Moore, Regional Director
 velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net / 614-837-6974

5- NORTH CENTRAL WEST REGION

There is no shortage of free things to do in Des Moines! If arts and culture is your thing, explore the Des Moines Art Center, Moberg Gallery, or the John & Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in downtown Des Moines. Learn about the history of Iowa at the State Historical Museum or check out the long list of Iowa athletes that have made a lasting impact at the Iowa Hall of Pride.

Meander shopping districts such as Historic Valley Junction, Historic East Village and West Glen Town Center where exploring is free! Enjoy the Des Moines Public Library who hosts an array of unique events every week. Enjoy a long list of free attractions in Des Moines year-round. Save on your budget and do more for less in Greater Des Moines.

Susan Lee, SSDUSA Treasurer
(IowaHASSDA representative)
 rflxsue@aol.com / 515-244-3247

8- SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
 Art Ritter / Jan Alders

Arkansas is starting to dance again. I have attended several Heber Springers dancing 2nd and 4th Fridays @ 7 pm @ Rosebud Community Senior Center, 5918 West Highway 36. Call 501 238 2713.

Arkansas has a federation publication "THE MODERN SQUARE" find it at Arkansas State Square Dance Federation Home
<http://www.arkansassquaredance.com>

Let us plan for next year:
Their big state dance is re-scheduled for October 8 & 9 2021 in TEXARKANA (both Texas & Arkansas sides)

Surprisingly, Missouri is also scheduling their annual "62nd MISSOURI STATE FESTIVAL OF SQUARE & ROUND DANCE" October 8 – 10, 2021
Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center,
Lebanon, MO.

www.Festival.SquareDanceMissouri.com

With today's national constraints, the best we can do is refer you to the Information found at the various state federation web-sites:

Arkansas: <http://www.theassdf.org>
Louisiana: <https://louisianasquaredance.com/>
Missouri: <http://www.squaredancemissouri.com/Missouri/Directories/>
&
www.Festival.SquareDanceMissouri.com

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

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

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

FROM TEXAS:

47th TASSD ROUND-UP 2021

(Texas Association of Single Square Dancers)

Date: March 12 & 13, 2021

Location: Allemande Hall,
106 Westlake Drive,
Waco, TX

Callers: Nelda Eaton (New Boston, TX)
Cuers: Martin Philyshaw (Greenwood, LA)
FMI: Curtis Linscomb – 409-893-5570
Website: www.tassd.org

We honor our veterans and welcome couples too. Come experience real southern hospitality by the TASSD family members.

FOR MORE TEXAS INFO CONTACT

Email: missyjan@comcast.net
And reserve your slot at our # 50 D A R !

Art Ritter, Regional Director
arritter@ieee.org / 501-847-8268

Jan Alders, Texas Liaison
missyjan@comcast.net / 281-785-7372



Iowa State Capitol
1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319

While you can tour the Iowa State Capitol online via pictures and videos, this attraction is well worth a visit in person. The Capitol is impossible to miss with its large 23-karat golden dome visible from anywhere nearby in Des Moines.

Around the main dome are four smaller, but equally beautiful domes. Be sure to schedule a tour so you get the chance to climb up the winding steps and reach the top of the dome for a close up of its beauty.

SINGLE SQUARE DANCERS, USA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

YellowRock Scholarship
VELMA DOYLE
 3938 Crestfield Drive
 Groveport, OH 43125
 velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net
 614-837-6974

**VICE-PRESIDENT
 VACANT**

SECRETARY

VIRGINIA M. FROMEL
 6400 85th Place
 New Carrollton, MD 20784
 vfromel51@comcast.net
 301-552-1576

TREASURER

**ARTS REP
 SUSAN LEE**
 8016 Greenbelt Drive
 Urbandale, Iowa 50322
 50315-2262
 rflxsue@aol.com
 515-244-3247

**IMMEDIATE PAST
 PRESIDENT
 VACANT**

**1-SOUTH EAST
 MEMBERSHIP**

Intercom Editor, Publisher,
 & Merchandise
AILENE PICHECO
 345 Hula Circle,
 Merritt Island, FL 32952
 apicheco@att.net
 321-652-0680

Live Lively-



Square Dancel

2-ATLANTIC EAST

HELEN JACOBSON
 10 Rickland Drive
 Randolph, NJ 07869
 Helen.jacobsonRN@gmail.com
 201-230-4999

**3-NORTH EAST
 NANCY MIRABAL**

112 Falmouth Street
 Rochester, NY
 14615-1902
 nancylmirabal@yahoo.com
 585-738-3431

**4-NORTH CENTRAL EAST
 FRED MOORE**

3938 Crestfield Drive
 Groveport, OH 43125
 velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net
 614-837-6974

**5-NORTH CENTRL WEST
 VACANT**

**6-NORTH WEST
 VACANT**

**7-SOUTH WEST
 JACQUE LESLIE**

lesjac@yahoo.co
 P.O. Box 382
 Clarkdale, AZ 86324
 lesjac@yahoo.com
 928-634-7376

8-SOUTH CENTRAL

ART RITTER
 1213 Oak Acres Dr
 Bryant, AR 72019
 arritter@ieee.org
 501-847-8268
 Texas Representative
Jan Albers
 missyjan@comcast.net
 281-785-7372

**50th DANCE-A-RAMA
 Coordinator
 SUSAN LEE**

8016 Greenbelt Drive
 Urbandale, Iowa 50322
 50315-2262
 rflxsue@aol.com
 515-244-3247

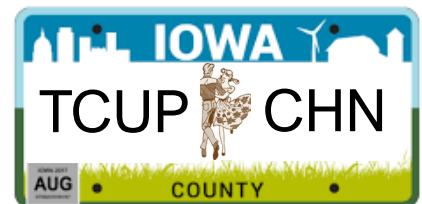
**ROOMMATE
 LOCATOR**

Laurie Steward
 6373 Falcon Way
 Warsaw, MN 55087
 lkstewa@hotmail.com
 507-210-6507

**WEB MASTER
 CARL WEBSTER**

157 Olde Erie Trail,
 Rochester, NY 14626.
 carlwebster49@hotmail.com
 585-537-0023

Archives, Historian,
 Sergeant-at-Arms,
 Nominations,
 ByLaws/Parliamentarian,
VACANT



I'm better than I used to be. Better than I was yesterday. But hopefully not as good as I'll be tomorrow!

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AILENE PICHECO
345 Hula Circle,
Merritt Island, FL 32952

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

As the name implies, the Greater Des Moines Botanical Center is yet another one of the top Iowa attractions that is located in the capital city. With its location by downtown, the botanical gardens give you a chance to escape with temperate and tropical gardens.



Greater Des Moines Botanical Center
909 Robert D. Ray Dr, Des Moines, IA 50309

Visit the Amaryllis, Bonsai, Coleus & Plectranthus, Gesneriad, or Orchid Collections or attend one of the many events that take place each month.

The Botanical Design Series can give you tips on bringing nature into your home or you can find events and workshops focusing on enhancing your gardening skills on your patio or lawn.