

# INTERCOM

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

May 2021 Issue



**SINGLE SQUARE DANCERS, USA**  
**WILL BE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF DANCING**  
**SSDUSA'S 50<sup>TH</sup> DANCE-A-RAMA FESTIVAL**  
**LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**  
**HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT, DES MOINES, IOWA**

Now that people are beginning to get their vaccinations for COVID we should all be ready to get out and dance. Come help us celebrate our 50 years of dancing with our 50<sup>th</sup> and final Dance-A-Rama festival (with a one year gap). We will celebrate our 50 years at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa on Labor Day weekend, September 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There will also be a Trail In Dance on Thursday evening, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, so you will want to plan on coming for that too. Amenities at the hotel include refrigerators, microwaves, and free Wi Fi in the rooms. They have a full service restaurant and a free shuttle that runs within a two mile radius of the hotel. You can use Uber, Lyft, or Taxis to get to the downtown or other places in the local area. There is plenty of free parking at the hotel and a free shuttle from/to the nearby Des Moines airport which is just minutes from the hotel, basically just down the street. Dancers may even want to find time to enjoy the hotel's unique Tropical Courtyard with indoor pool and whirlpool. Some of you may remember this hotel from when we held our Dance-A-Rama there in 2012. The hotel has done extensive remodeling since then and all dancing will be on one level this year. Iowa's State Square Dance Convention was held there in March but, unfortunately, has now been cancelled, the hotel is looking forward to us being there.

We are looking forward to almost the same outstanding line-up of callers and cuers that were to entertain us in 2020: Callers: Jack Pladdys (OH), Tim Tyl (TX), Tom Davis (OH) and Travis Cook (KY), and Cuer: Bonnie Lawrence (IN) (with Bonnie also teaching and leading line dances). Also cueing for us will be Carolyn and Tony Ahart (MO).

I am serving as Chairperson in charge of our festival, and am looking forward to welcoming you back to Des Moines. Come early or stay late and see what you didn't get to see in 2012 or when the National was here in 2016. I am already busy looking for places for us to go on tours. Below are some of the interesting and beautiful sites that Iowa has to offer. The Capitol, Sculpture Park and our Art Center are free. There is a free shuttle that operates in the downtown loop (from the Capitol to the Sculpture Park).

Don't forget that ALL square and round dancers are welcome at our Dance-A-Rama festivals. Our registration form is available to download from our website at [dar2021@ssdusa.org](mailto:dar2021@ssdusa.org).

Registration questions can be sent to [reg2021@ssdusa.org](mailto:reg2021@ssdusa.org). We hope to see you in Iowa!

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*



Amara Colonies



Bone Scenic Valley Railroad



Pappajohn Sculpture Park



Bridges of Madison County



Robert D Ray Asian Gardens



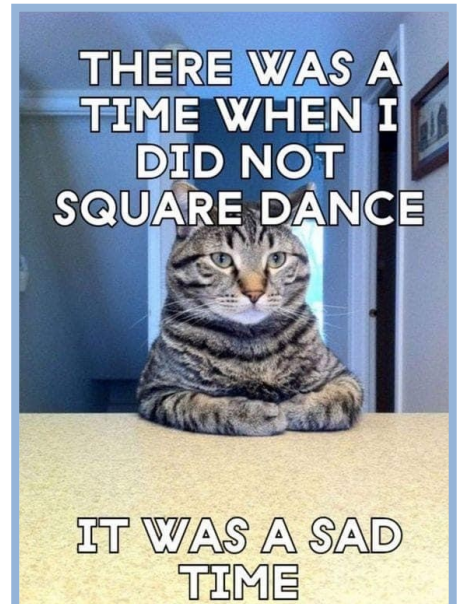
Salisbury House



Iowa State  
Capitol Building



Greater Des Moines  
Botanical Center



**LAUGH MORE - WORRY LESS  
SQUARE DANCE!**

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Since September of 2020 Fred Moore and I have been dancing at our local Daylight Dancers club at a senior center where rounds and line dancing are allowed as long as couples socially distance from each other and everyone wears masks. However, due to Fred's underlying medical conditions, we were not comfortable joining the small group of square dancers in our area who found places to square dance and socialize mask free.

Like many other dancers, we had not square danced since March of 2020. We both received our second Covid-19 vaccinations in February and decided we were ready to square dance. We attended the *Two Old Goats and the Kid Plus Weekend* in Richmond, IN on April 9th and 10th and were delighted that we had not forgotten how to dance. (I even remembered how to dance the man's position!)

The featured callers should all be familiar to dancers who have attended past DAR's. The "Old Goats" were Tom Davis and Ken Burke and "The Kid" was Travis Cook, and they called a great dance and made the weekend a lot of fun. Of course, we look forward to enjoying the calling of Tom and Travis at this year's DAR!

We were given a table where we could set up our 50th Dance-A-Rama festival display and put out registration forms. We were in good company since the couples serving as General Chairs of all four upcoming National Square Dance Conventions also had tables there for their displays, flyers and merchandise.

Take a look at two great photos (taken by Ray Owens), one that shows the four NSDC couples together in a square, and the second one that shows the three callers.



I am optimistic that many more dancers will be vaccinated and will feel safe to square dance by Labor Day weekend. 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 are disappointed that Phyllis and Doug Burdette will not be able to cue rounds for us, but are pleased that Carolyn and Tony Ahart have agreed to fill the opening and cue rounds at our DAR. This couple has their own Phase II-IV club in Springfield, MO, and have choreographed and published over 20 dances. They have showcased and taught at seven National Square Dance Conventions. You may remember them from our 47th Dance-A-Rama festival in North Little Rock, AR in 2017.

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 [www.dar2021.ssdusa.org](http://www.dar2021.ssdusa.org).

*Velma Doyle, President*  
velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net / 614-837-6974

**FRANK NORRIS YELLOWROCK**



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 that allows us to hear them calling patter 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](http://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

**1- SOUTH EAST REGION**  
Ailene Picheco

Dancng has returned, sporadically, in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. The Florida State Convention is scheduled for March 18-19, 2022 in Daytona Beach.

The Seabreeze Singles Square Dance Club is excited to announce that square dancing resumed on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

They will follow CDC recommendations to ensure a fun and safe time.

- 1) Before and after each tip, square dancers will be provided with sanitizer.
- 2) Dancers are asked to bring their own personal snacks, drinks, and ice. For the immediate future, the kitchen will not be operational.
- 3) Masks are very welcomed, but optional. They will have a refresher at 7:00 pm with dance to follow

Their caller is Jim Cosman (GA)  
Club Presidents are Wayne and Laurie Ballasso (904)304-8989 or call Pamela Newman (904)516-7115

We've missed you and look forward to your reconnecting with your square dance family.

Please check the following websites for any updates and contact information.

- Alabama: [www.alabamasquaredance.com/aweb/finddance/eventview.php](http://www.alabamasquaredance.com/aweb/finddance/eventview.php)  
Georgia: [www.gssda.org/conventions](http://www.gssda.org/conventions)  
Florida: [www.floridasquaredance.com/convention](http://www.floridasquaredance.com/convention)

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

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

Tennessee: [www.tnsquaredance.org/events](http://www.tnsquaredance.org/events)

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

*Ailene Pícheo, Regional Director*  
*apícheo@att.net / 321-652-0680*

#### **4- NORTH CENTRAL EAST REGION**

Fred Moore

We are gradually beginning to see more dancing return to our region. In our immediate area (Central Ohio) the “Virus Be Damned” group has continued to meet in a private home, and several regular clubs have started to hold dances again. Hicks & Chicks, Little Brown Jug, Johnny Appleseeds, and Hi-Timers (plus level clubs) are back dancing. The advance level Buckeye A-2’s club is also holding dances again. Our two Columbus area clubs that have been SSDUSA Club Members for years, Bucks & Does Singles and Orbiting Squares, are currently in the process of merging into one club, with Velma Doyle and me serving as Presidents. Initially we will go by the name “Bucks & Does/ Orbiting Squares”, but will probably ultimately choose a different name. Both clubs have been accepting both singles and couples for years, and there were already 17 dancers who belonged to both clubs. We currently have no dances scheduled in May or June, but are reviewing options at monthly Zoom board meetings, and hope to resume dancing on 1st and 4th Fridays by September.

For more information about dancing in

Ohio, go to

[www.ColumbusSquareDance.com](http://www.ColumbusSquareDance.com) , and click on Calendars, then click on Central Ohio Calendar or on Other Ohio Calendars for more information.

Reports out of Indiana indicate they now have quite a few square dances taking place. Both the Indiana Dancer’s Association website, [www.indancers.org](http://www.indancers.org) , and also [www.squaredanceindiana.org](http://www.squaredanceindiana.org) have current information.

For information about dancing in Kentucky, check out [www.squaredanceky.com](http://www.squaredanceky.com) and [www.kentuckianasquaredance.com](http://www.kentuckianasquaredance.com) .

For information about Illinois, check out [www.squaredanceillinois.com](http://www.squaredanceillinois.com) .

For information about Michigan, go to [www.squaredance-michigan.com](http://www.squaredance-michigan.com) .

The West Virginia Dance Federation has a website, [www.wvsquaredance.org](http://www.wvsquaredance.org) , but it was not up to date when we checked it.

I am looking forward to celebrating SSDUSA’s 50 years of dancing this Labor Day weekend in Des Moines, IA. I hope to see lots of you there!

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

#### **8- SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**

Art Ritter / Jan Albers

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

Arkansas has a federation dance May 1, 2021 at Double Tree Hotel on Lake Hamilton, 4813 Central Ave. Hot Springs. Their publication " THE MODERN SQUARE' is found at :

<https://www.arkansassquaredance.com>

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](http://www.Festival.SquareDanceMissouri.com)

With this region's proximity to Mississippi there is much interest in the 71 st National Square Dance Convention in Jackson end of June; with pre-convention Caller School.

With today's national, but varying 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](http://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](http://www.Oklahoma-square-dance-federation.org/p_stateclubs.php)

And reserve your slot at our # 50 D A R !

*Art Ritter, Regional Director*  
[arritter@ieee.org](mailto:arritter@ieee.org) / 501-847-8268

#### FROM TEXAS:

As of 04-23-21, HSRDC (Houston Square and Round Dance Council) Area has seven clubs of the fourteen clubs in the Houston, Texas Area currently dancing. They are

Brazos Bottom Belles & Beaus (who is currently giving lessons), Fairbees, Hanger Squares, Houston Area Camping Squares, Texas Renegades, Tomball Promenaders, and Wildcatters. The other seven clubs do not have venues or do not have enough people attending to be able to pay to rent a hall and pay a caller. Many of the members of the seven clubs NOT dancing are attending the seven clubs that ARE dancing.

We also have a new Plus Level Club (Bob's Battalion) formed by Caller Bob Baier applying for membership in HSRDC. Texas Renegades is a new club formed in 2021 who dances with 6 or 7 squares each Saturday night. Also, Cuer Tammy Lee's Gulf Coast Rounds (a "Friends of HSRDC") has continued to dance twice a week during the pandemic since the couples can "socially distance" from one another. I sponsor Gulf Coast Rounds by reserving 2 FREE separate Harris County Community Center Halls for them to dance in. Also, effective 04/18/21 HSRDC has new Presidents – Roxie Walker and Bruce Behrens. HSRDC is looking forward to having their annual Hoedown on November 5 & 6, 2021.

For more information visit their website: [www.squarethru.com](http://www.squarethru.com)  
HSRDC had to cancel the 2020 Hoedown due to COVID-19.

TSFSRD (Texas State Federation of Square & Round Dancers) will have their 59<sup>th</sup> Annual State Festival in Marshall, Texas on June 10 thru 13, 2021.

For more information visit their website: [www.squaredancetx.com](http://www.squaredancetx.com)

Hope to see you in a square soon!

*Jan Albers, Texas Liaison*  
[missyjan@comcast.net](mailto:missyjan@comcast.net) / 281-785-7372

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Live Lively-



Square Dancel

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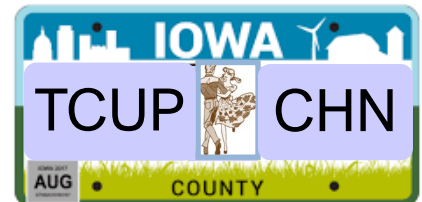
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Archives, Historian,  
 Sergeant-at-Arms,  
 Nominations,  
 ByLaws/Parliamentarian,  
**VACANT**



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

**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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**Phillip Hinshaw of Anderson, IN passed away on Jan 2, 2021 at age 73 following a brief illness. Phil was an Army veteran and**

**lifetime farmer in the Lapel and Anderson, IN areas, who had retired in 1998 from General Motors after 30 years.**

**Phil and his wife Thelma loved square dancing and were long time supporters of SSDUSA. Phil started attending Dance-A-Rama festivals prior to his marriage to Thelma. She remembers him talking about attending the DAR in Minneapolis, MN which was held in 1975, and this was 45 years ago! He and Thelma were married for almost 25 years, and they attended our DAR festivals every year unless there was something**

**else that came up to keep them away. Since they were farmers, Labor Day weekend, after the crops were harvested, was a good time for their annual vacation. Our attendance records, which only go back to 2003, show them attending 13 DAR's! Phil was very disappointed when our 50th DAR in Ohio was cancelled, and he and Thelma were signed up to attend our rescheduled 50th DAR in Des Moines, IA in 2021.**

**Phil was involved in Madison County 4-H. He also was actively involved with Best Buddies, including providing Hay Rides and Fourth of July activities. Best Buddies is an organization that offers One-to-One Friendship, Integrated Employment, and Leadership Development programs for individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Indiana. Memorial Contributions may be made to Best Buddies, Pendleton Chapter, 1 Arabian Dr, Pendleton, Indiana 46064.**

