

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

November 2021 Issue



SINGLE SQUARE DANCERS, USA 50TH AND FINAL DANCE-A-RAMA



As chairperson, registrar, and treasurer for Single Square Dancers USA's 50th and final Dance-A-Rama, I would like to say thank you to each and every one who attended. It was you, the dancers, that made the festival what it was and I thank you. Ron Holland wanted so much to get to the 50th, so I am sure he was looking down on us with a smile on his face saying well done.

I enjoyed working with the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau as I made arrangements for our two tours. The Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau also did all the printing of our flyers.

We had wonderful bus service through CIT Charters of Ames and our drivers Amy on Thursday and Sam on Sunday. I think Sam enjoyed the Mystery Tour as much as you dancers.

We had an awesome staff of callers with Tom Davis, Travis Cook, Jack Pladdys and Tim Tyl, and our cuers, Carolyn and Tony Ahart and Bonnie Lawrence.

It was a thrill to have Thelma Hinshaw with us and to see all the expressions of love and support to her in her loss of her husband, Phil, earlier this year. Lots of tears were shed but she also had a great time and was smiling and enjoying herself.

A special thank you goes out to the Ankeny Squares for the volunteers who helped with laying the flooring, also to those dancers who happened to be in the room and got drafted to help. We also were able to enjoy the flowers made by the Ankeny Squares for the Iowa State Convention, and because of their convention being cancelled due to COVID, we were able to make use of the welcome bags they had put together.

Others that deserve thanks are the many volunteers who were not on the SSDUSA board but covered time slots at the registration table and to Ginny Fromel, our secretary, who did an awesome job selling raffle tickets.

At the close of the dance we again had a large group of volunteers not just from the Ankeny Squares but other dancers as well who made short work of taking up the flooring.

All in all it was a great ending to 50 years.

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



Randall Klontz attended the most Dance-A-Ramas (46)



SSDUSA DAR Chair: Susan Lee 71st NSDC Chairs: John & Carolyn Cook

Tim Tyl, Travis Cook, Jack Pladdys, Tom Davis



Bonnie Lawrence





Carolyn & Tony Ahart



FRANK NORRIS YELLOWROCK SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Single Square Dancers U.S.A. is pleased to announce that three new callers were selected to receive the Frank Norris Yellowrock Scholarship in 2021.

Victoria Bundy was born and raised in Southern California. She attended Rhodes College in Memphis, TN where she received her BA in International Business and MS in Accountancy. She fell in love with Memphis and decided to begin her career there. She reluctantly began taking square dance lessons in 2018 at the request of her mother. After a few lessons with local caller Robert Townsend, she was hooked on dancing. She also became intrigued by the caller's role in the dance and the puzzle like complexities of moving the dancers around the square to the fun music. With Robert's encouragement, she began singing calls at her local club. She enjoyed the challenge so much that she attended the Heart of America Caller School in 2019. She also called at her very first National Square Dance Convention in Atlanta in 2019. Victoria started her own club, Midtown Squares, in January 2020, in hopes of expanding modern square dancing into Midtown Memphis. Dancing at the club was interrupted by Covid-19, but is back. Victoria is a current CALLERLAB apprentice member.

Cindy Boring Jackson of Tempe, AZ has lived in Arizona most of her life. She is affiliated with the Checkmates, Tomahawk Twirlers and the Swinging Stars square dance clubs. She loves to sing and feels that she can share her talent and enthusiasm for dancing by being a caller. She has attended four caller schools in the two years that she has been calling and is working to improve her skills. In a thank you note from Cindy, she said "I just wanted to express my gratitude for your program and the opportunity I have to receive Frank of the Norris Yellowrock one

Scholarships. It is greatly appreciated. I was able to acquire a wireless microphone to better my calling career. I greatly appreciate your group in assisting new callers in furthering their careers."

Art Ritter of Bryant, AR is affiliated with the Bluebird Squares of Benton, AR. He and his wife started dancing in 1976 with the Ozark Whirlers in Eldon, MO, and his son and in laws learned to dance in the very next class. He and his wife subsequently lived and danced in Gallipolis, OH and in Troy, OH, After spending three years in Indiana, where they did little dancing, they moved to Arkansas in 1997 and danced for about six years until they had to quit due to his wife's health issues. Four years ago Art started back dancing as a single. Art attended the Grand Square Inc. caller school prior to the 70th National Square Dance Convention in Jackson, MS. He was at our 50th DAR and was most appreciative that he was receiving one of the scholarships. He had already purchased the equipment needed to start calling and made arrangements for a hall where he could teach his first class. He said the funds he received would help offset expenses incurred with teaching new dancers, then forming a new club with these dancers in his community of about twenty thousand which has never had its own local square dance club.

Twenty-twenty one was the last year that Single Square Dancers USA awarded scholarships to help new callers and cuers with the expenses associated with getting started. However, prior to the final dissolution of our organization, we will be giving some of our remaining funds to CALLERLAB, to ROUNDALAB, and to Grand Square, Inc. so these organizations can use the money to continue to assist new callers and cuers.

Velma Doyle Yellowrock Scholarship Chairperson velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net / 614-837-6974

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



At our 50th Dance-A-Rama I experienced mixed feelings. On the one hand, I was sad to see

SSDUSA going out of existence after 50 years with the important mission of trying to promote square dance opportunities for single/ solo dancers. However, our organization was no longer sustainable. Our DAR's had not attracted enough dancers and mostly had been losing money, plus we could not find new leaders to fill vacant board positions or to replace leaders who had been serving for years.

Our lack of Regional Directors in some regions had resulted in areas where our DAR's were not being promoted. In recent years we could not find local dance organizations to sponsor DAR's, which meant that the SSDUSA Board ended up having the work and responsibility of putting on the DAR's ourselves.

I also felt a tinge of sadness that since this was our last DAR, I probably would never see many of the dancers I had often seen at DAR's over the past 18 years. On the other hand, I felt relieved that this was the last year of doing the work and having the responsibility of putting on a DAR. Mostly I felt happy and grateful that we did not have to cancel our 50th DAR again (as we had in 2020) due to Covid-19 and that 212 dancers showed up, keeping the dance floors mostly full of dancers who appeared to be having a good time.

I want to thank our great staff, callers Jack Pladdys, Tim Tyl, Tom Davis and Travis Cook, and cuers Carolyn & Tony Ahart and Bonnie Lawrence, for keeping us dancing and making it FUN! I especially want to thank Susan Lee, who did an outstanding job serving in multiple roles: as Treasurer, Registration Chair and Chair in charge of the DAR itself. She also made all of the arrangement for the tours, and both tours were great! I learned a lot I never knew about Madison County on the Thursday tour, even though I was born and lived there until age 13. I also want to thank the rest of our SSDUSA Board and Chairpersons for all that they contributed. Most of all, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you who attended. I agree with Susan that it was you, the dancers, who made the festival what it was. All in all, I also believe it was a great ending to 50 years.

Most of the space in this final Intercom is devoted to tributes to recognize dance leaders who have contributed their time and effort to putting on our annual Dance-A-Rama festivals, keeping our Single Square Dancers USA organization functioning, and/or helping to singles-friendly/ promote and support solo-friendly dancing across our nation. We certainly have failed to recognize numerous others who have also made great contributions. Just think of all of the people it has taken to keep SSDUSA going over the past fifty years! We apologize to all of the dance leaders that we have failed to recognize. We appreciate all of the time and effort given by all of the dance leaders over the years.

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



Velma Doyle & Fred Moore Mystery Tour

4

The Dance-A-Rama History and SSDUSA Presidents

	Year	City	Chairperson (s)	President
1st	1971	Oklahoma City, OK	Joe B. Ellis	
2nd	1972	Oklahoma City, OK	Joe B. Ellis	
3rd	1973	Dallas, TX	Christine Spencer	Joe B. Ellis
4th		New Orleans, LA	Fred Davis	Dorman Sipes
5th	1975	Minneapolis, MN	Helen Shortell & Karen Peterson	James D. Bell
6th	1976	Memphis, TN	Bill Crawford	Harold Huber
7th	1977	Chicago, IL	Carl Van Curren	Bob Berning
8th	1978	Atlanta, GA	Betty Ross & Jeanette Camp	Harold Dierke
9th	1979	Kansas City, MO	Beth Blosser & George Woodward	Betty Ross
10th	1980	Portland, OR	Elmer Carter	Richard Woodyatt
11th	1981	Oklahoma City, OK	Rex McKinsey	Rex McKinsey
12th	1982	Washington, DC	Guy Darden	Chuck Johnson
13th	1983	Denver, CO	Carolyn Von Goetz &	0
		-	George Burkman	Jim Reinhold
14th	1984	Orlando, FL	6	Joy Smith
15th	1985	Anaheim, CA	Ralph Osborne	Keith Turner
16th	1986	Milwaukee, WI	Richard Henley	Kathy Miller
17th	1987	Salt Lake City, UT	Alice Klein	Ralph Osborne
18th	1988	Rochester, NY	Dave Fisher	Don Werner
19th	1989	San Jose, CA	Elmer Cole	Carolyn Von Goetz
20th	1990	Fort Worth, TX	Jim Reinhold & Dean Bufe	Alice Klein
21st	1991	Atlanta, GA	Ken Maxwell & Phil Schutt	Dave Fisher
22nd	1992	Louisville, KY	Ron Schoen	Bill Ledbetter
23rd	1993	Valley Forge, PA	Pauline Kline	Beverly Mirek
24th	1994	Oklahoma City, OK	Ibrey Bookout &	Jim Reinhold
			George Maschino	
25th	1995	Boston, MA	Carol Parls	Cindy Biegert
26th	1996	Denver, CO	Carolyn Von Goetz	Gary Broyles
27th	1997	Nashville, TN	Ron Holland	Ethel Klingaman
28th	1998	Minneapolis, MN	Teddi Wheeler	Chuck Carson
29th	1999	St. Louis, MO	Viole Schnute	Ron Holland
30th	2000	Tulsa, OK	Bruce Brookbank &	
			Rosemary Moramarago	William Walton
		Arlington, TX	Colleen Wilson & Carol Sutton	Frank Norris
32nd		Richmond, VA	Dave Hinde	Ron Holland
33rd		Albuquerque, NM	Larada Horner	Ella Rogers
	2004	Atlanta, GA	John Dean/Anne Oliver	Judy Hale
	2005	Columbus, OH	Velma Doyle	Ted Wright
36th	2006	Rochester, NY	Eileen Okolowicz & Nancy Mirabal	
37th		Little Rock, AR	Brenda Griffin	Dave Hinde
		Nashville, TN	Ron Holland	Eileen Okolowicz
	2009	Davenport, IA	Natalie Sprosty	Velma Doyle
40th	2010	Alexandria, VA	Arbell Thompson	Ron Holland
			r	

41st 201	11 Indianapolis, IN	Fireball Squares	Larada Horner
42nd 201	12 Des Moines, IA	Jo Saffell & Ilene Tallman	Brenda Griffin/
			Arbell Thompson
43rd 201	13 St. Louis, MO	Ron Holland	Arbell Thompson
44th 201	14 Portland, OR	Harriet Livingston & Helen Clark	Nancy Mirabal
45th 201	15 Grand Rapids, MI	Carol Bauer & Carole Blair	Velma Doyle
46th 201	16 Washington, DC	Nancy Morrissey	Arbell Thompson
47th 201	17 N Little Rock, AR	Brenda Griffin	Arbell Thompson
48th 201	18 Indianapolis, IN	Ron Holland & John Cook	Brenda Griffin/
			Velma Doyle
49th 201	19 Birmingham, AL	Ron Holland	Velma Doyle

Susan Lee

50th 2021 Des Moines, IA

TRIBUTES TO BOARD OFFICERS



Velma Doyle began her involvement with SSDUSA in 2003 when Bucks & Does Singles agreed to host the 35th DAR which was held in Columbus, OH in 2005. She served as the Chair in charge of this DAR, and subsequently attended all

of the DARs from 2003 through 2021. Following the death of Frank Norris in 2007, she took over as the Chair in charge of what was renamed as the Frank Norris Yellowrock Scholarship fund, maintaining this position through 2021. The offices she held on the SSDUSA Board were Vice President (2007-2008) & (2013-2014); President (2008-2009), (2014-2015) & (2018-Present); and Past President (2009-2010), (2012-2013), and (2015-2017). Until the pandemic hit, she was the Chair in charge of the 50th DAR which originally was scheduled to be in Ohio in 2020. The hotel, caller, cuer, and tour bus contracts and the registration forms were all in place, but, as most of you know, we were not able to hold the DAR that year.

Velma has a long history as a dance leader in Central Ohio. She learned to square dance, along with husband Joe Doyle, with the Circle Eighter Square Dance Club, where they

maintained membership from 1985 to 1994. In this club she served terms as Secretary and Vice President. She left square dancing due to her husband's health problems, and was widowed in 1999. She returned to dancing in 2000, joining both Bucks & Does Singles and the Orbiting Squares Western Square Dance Club. She served in multiple leadership positions in both clubs, including serving at Bucks & Does as President (2003-2004) & (2006-2007) and at Orbiting Squares as President (2006-2013) and (2018-2021), sharing the position with Fred Moore. In 2021 the two clubs merged to become one club, currently doing business as Bucks & Does/Orbiting Squares, with Velma and Fred continuing to serve as Presidents. Velma also has served as a leader of the Central Ohio Corporation of Dance Clubs, including serving as President (2008-2015). Along with Fred, in 2006 she received the Honoree Award for the year from the Central Ohio Corporation of Dance Clubs. She also was Vice Chair for the 53rd Ohio Dance Convention in 2013 and Coordinator of the Singles Hall for the 60th NSDC in Detroit, MI in 2011 and for the 66th NSDC in Cincinnati, OH in 2017.

Velma Doyle

Velma also is a local square dance caller. She was a recipient of SSDUSA's Yellowrock Scholarship in 2005, and has attended multiple caller schools. She has been a member of CALLERLAB since 2009. She called at all of the Ohio State Dance Conventions and most National Square Dance Conventions from 2006 to 2019, and also called four times at the Indiana Square Dance Convention (2007-2010). She was a member of the Central Ohio Callers Association from 2006 until the organization was dissolved in 2021, serving as their Secretary (2008-2015). She regularly calls one tip weekly for the Daylight Dancers senior group on Wednesday afternoons. She always loved to sing, and tends to prefer singing calls. She especially enjoys performing one night dance parties (for birthdays, graduations, hog roasts, etc.) where she gets to call a mixture of traditional Eastern dances, beginner Western dances, contras, mixers and lines.



Virginia Fromel has faithfully attended 13 SSDUSA Dance-A-Ramas. She served as SSDUSA's Secretary from 2014 to 2021, and she also did double duty as our Intercom Editor from

2014 to 2019. In addition, she has actively promoted our DARs at numerous dances, festivals, and conventions, and has contributed dance information which was published in our Intercom. She made a SSDUSA 50th DAR trifold for the National Convention in MS to hopefully recruit more attendees for our final festival.

Besides the DARs, she has also attended all the annual WASCA conventions. Baltimore and National Square conventions, Dance Conventions since 2000, along with three HASSDA Conventions in 2016, 2017, and 2018. She has also been actively involved as the Solo Program Chairperson with WASCA for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 March festivals. She volunteered to be the 2021 Festival Co-Director for the Washington Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association, which is an organization which includes square dance clubs, round dance clubs, and clogging groups from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware,

Virginia, and West Virginia. WASCA holds an annual Spring Festival the 3rd full weekend of March, but has missed the last two festivals due to COVID. If you can make it, the March WASCA festival will be dancing all levels of square and round dancing with usually about 1,000 people in attendance, and they would like to see you there—they have a really great Solo program!



Susan Lee took square dance lessons in 2007 when someone announced in church that square dance lessons would be beginning in a few weeks and no partner was needed. As a single person (widow) this got her interest. The following year she took Plus lessons. She

joined a singles club and soon learned the women out numbered the men. She then learned what is typically referred to as the "man's" part in Mainstream and shortly after in Plus. Her first experience with anything other than local clubs and state conventions was when Single Square Dancers USA's Dance-a-Rama was hosted by a Davenport club and she and several of her friends attended. The following year she and Jo Saffell decided to travel to the Dance-A-Rama in Alexandria, Virginia. At that weekend she was "talked into" becoming the group's Treasurer after their board heard (not from her) that she had a degree in accounting. She has served as the Treasurer and attended every Dance-A-Rama ever since. She also served as Treasurer for six Dance-A-Ramas and registrar for three, including this year in Des Moines, where she had the triple roll of Chairperson, Registrar and Treasurer. She doesn't remember how many HASSDA Festivals she has attended, but her first was in 2012 in Midwest City, OK, when her local club was the host for that year's Dance-A-Rama in Des Moines. In addition to attending Dance-A-Ramas and HASSDA festivals, she has attended five National Conventions; one of them was

also in Des Moines, where she helped in the information booth and was tour guide for one of the tours. Over the course of years she has danced in 14 states, some of them several times, and in Washington D.C. In addition to her duties as Treasurer of Single Square Dancers USA, she served as President of her local club from 2012 until it folded at the end of 2018. Not one to sit idly by, in July she consented to become the Vice President of Heart of America Singles (HASSDA) and in January will become Vice President of the square dance club she currently belongs to.

She has held a variety of jobs in her lifetime and decided to get a college degree at the age of 40, graduating from University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting. She spent the last 15 years of her working career in the Finance Division of Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa, retiring from there in the summer of 2014. She is very active in her church community and more recently in a group call Seniors On The Move. She also just became Vice President of the guild at one of the local care facilities in the Des Moines Metro. Being the caring person that she is, she took care of a friend in her home who was in the later stages of emphysema from 2008 until he passed away in 2015.

TRIBUTES TO OUR AREA REPS AND COMMITTEES

(in alphabetical order)



Jan Albers read a two-line ad in the Del City, OK neighborhood newsletter "Learn to Square Dance -Call #......" fifty-four years ago. This was the beginning of her square dance life. However, these days it is more difficult to interest people in taking lessons. The Lubbock, Texas Area has a new approach with SSD lessons. Recently, they got a TV Anchor and another different TV station employee to take lessons so Lubbock, Texas is getting TV announcements for FREE (as community service). Forty students attended the first night and 24 are about to graduate SSD square dance lessons.

Fourteen clubs in the Houston, Texas are dancing again. Three clubs are giving lessons. Tomball Promenaders graduated 28 students in May 2021. About half of their dancers have returned since the COVID-19 Pandemic and the number of dancers is steadily growing. Jan discovered TASSD (Texas Association of Single Square Dancers) at South Padre Island, TX in 2007 and has been an elected or appointed officer since 2012. She served as TASSD President in 2018 and is currently Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. She has organized trips by bus or caravan to dances and conventions all over the state of Texas to advertise TASSD and SSDUSA and distributed flyers. She has attended every graduation in HSRDC (Houston Area) and has given each graduating student a packet advising them of TASSD and SSDUSA.

She is the 2020 immediate Past President of HSRDC (Houston Square & Round Dance Council). She has been the Singles Liaison 2014 - 2020 organizing quarterly dances for singles. She organizes monthly FREE Harris County Buses to square dances within 200 miles of downtown Houston, TX. She is District 2 Director over three HSRDC Clubs and attends dances 2 - 5 times a week. She organizes and stores gently used square dance clothing for sale to benefit the Texas Teen Scholarship Fund. Clothing items that were sold brought in almost \$1,000 during 2021. She sponsors (reserves free halls at Harris County Community Centers) for two weekly groups of round dancers. Currently there are no single/solo clubs in Houston. When she moved to Houston from Oklahoma she danced with a singles club (Rainbow Rockers at Rice University). She currently belongs to Katy Prairie Promenaders (1 of the 3 largest clubs in Houston Area – 6 - 8 squares each Friday) who celebrated their 50th Anniversary on October 16, 2021 and celebrated their caller, Fred Goynes' 50 years of calling.

Jan served as Texas State Representative for SSDUSA during their final year. Since 2007 she has attended many SSDUSA Dance-A-Rama Festivals in the Eastern, Southern and Midwest of America. She stated: "It is wonderful to travel with friends to see cities and have the conventions in the same hotel where you stay. Perhaps my most memorable were Washington DC and Indianapolis. I especially enjoyed the bus tours and the dances around the cities. "dangle" The SSDUSA members are so very friendly and eager to make sure that everyone gets to dance. Because of SSDUSA I have met many friends across the Nation. SSDUSA you are gravely missed!!"



Helen Jacobson served as Atlantic East Regional Director from 2012 through final Dance-Aour Rama in 2021. For years, she promoted DAR in her our region, and was able to bring some local

dancers along to the DARs. She regularly contributed articles for our *Intercom* newsletters and supported DARs as needed, selling 50/50s, registering folks, and disassembling the floors. We are also impressed that Helen has used her skills as a registered nurse while volunteering for the American Red Cross following a number of natural disasters. Nancy Mirabal was Co-Chair for the 36th Dance-A-Rama in Rochester, NY in along with 2006, Eileen Okolowicz. She subsequently as North East served Regional Director from 2006 - 2012. Following this, she SSDUSA's Vice was



President 2012-2013, President 2013-2014 and Past President 2014-2015. She served again as our North East Regional Director from 2015 – 2021. Nancy did a great job over the years of keeping us informed about dance activities in her region and promoting our DAR festivals at dances, other festivals and conventions. Nancy was usually smiling and fun to be with. It was a pleasure to work with her.



Fred Moore served as SSDUSA's North Central East Regional Director from 2004 to the present. His first involvement with SSDUSA was when he attended the Dance-A-Rama festival in Chicago, IL in 1977, just two years after his graduation (in

1975) from the very first square dance class offered by the Bucks & Does Singles of Columbus, OH. The next time Fred remembers hearing of SSDUSA was in 2003, when Ron Holland came to Bucks & Does in search of a club to sponsor a DAR in 2005. After much discussion, the club agreed to host the 35th DAR which was held in Columbus, OH in 2005. Fred served on the DAR 2005 committee as the Vendor Chair and Souvenir Chair. He attended all of the DARs from 2003 through 2021.

Over the years Fred was active in many Central Ohio square dance clubs, often serving as an "angel" at beginner square dance classes, helping the new dancers as they learned to dance. He was an "angel" for 44 years for Bucks & Does and for 20 years for Orbiting Squares. He also served as an "angel" for a number of ladies wanting to learn round dancing at Satellites/Starlites (a local round dance club).

Fred held various leadership positions in the Columbus, OH area, including serving as President for Tomato Town Steppers during their final year. At Bucks & Does he was President Elect (2001-2002), President (2002-2003), and Past President (2003-2004). Along with Velma Doyle, in 2006 he received the annual Honoree Award from the Central Ohio Corporation of Dance Clubs. As a club leader at Orbiting Squares, sharing the positions with Velma, he served as Vice President (2005-2006), President (2006-2013), Past President (2013-2017), and President (2018-2021). In 2021 these two clubs merged to become one club, currently doing business as Bucks & Does/Orbiting Squares, with Fred and Velma continuing to serve as Presidents.



Ailene Picheco has held square dance leadership positions at many levels since graduating classes in 1998. She served as Club President (Canaveral Squares) 2003-2018; Central Florida Association President 2014-2016,

Editor and Publisher of Keepin Posted (CFA Magazine) 2014-Present; Florida State Singles Association President 2008; Florida State Federation delegate 2006-Present; Florida State Convention Advertising Chair 2012-Present. She was inducted into the Florida State Hall of Fame in 2017.

Ailene's leadership with SSDUSA began in 2011, when she took over as the Chairperson in charge of SSDUSA Membership. She added on duties as Intercom Publisher in 2012 and Merchandise Chair and Intercom Editor in 2020. She also became our South East Regional Director in May of 2020. She has continued to hold all of these positions through the present time, working hard even after our last Dance-A -Rama was over in order to put together and send out our final Intercom. She has performed all duties with great skill, and it has been a pleasure working with her.



Art Ritter stepped forward to fill our open South Central Regional Director position at our DAR in 2019, and has kept us informed about dancing in his region and has helped promote our 50th Dance-A-Rama. We

appreciate that he stuck with us until the end. Art has a history of square dance club leadership in various communities where he has lived. He served as President (1980-1982) for the Gallia Twirlers in Gallipolis, OH. He was President (1987-1993) for the Trojan Squares in Troy, OH. He served as Treasurer (1998-1999) for the Star Promenaders of Bauxite, AR. Please see the Frank Norris Yellowrock Scholarship Article for additional information about Art.



Laurie Steward took square dance lessons and started dancing at a club in Faribault, MN in the 1980's. She first heard about SSDUSA holding a Dance-A-Rama festival in Anaheim, CA in 1985, and really wanted to attend, but could not find a

roommate and could not afford to go without one. She finally did get to attend her first DAR in Salt Lake City, UT in 1987, and estimates she has attended a total of 20 to 30 DAR's. She has served as SSDUSA's Roommate Locator for many years, successfully matching numerous dancers who wanted to share the hotel room expense with one or more other dancers. She did this not only at SSDUSA's DAR's, but also at other festivals and National Conventions. She stuck with us until the end, and it was good to see her at our 50th and final DAR!



Carl Webster has been the webmaster for SSDUSA.org from 2018 to the present. He first started square dancing with the "Flirts and Squirts" at college in Salina, KS in 1974. The club lost its

caller and Carl became its caller for a year. He was a member of "Single Squares" in San Diego. He was a member of clubs in Des Moines and Cedar Falls, Iowa; Boise, Idaho; and Rockland County and Rochester, New York. He met his wife, Eileen, at their current singles square dance club, "Cloverleaf Squares" in Rochester, New York. He and his wife travel to conventions and weekends throughout the US and Canada. They have worked their way up to 'A' dancing and phase III round dancing. He was the secretary to The Rochester Area Federation of Western Round and Square Dance Clubs. He currently maintains their club's web page and is its corresponding secretary.



Carl's wife, Eileen Webster (formerly Eileen Okolowicz), served as the Co-Chair (along with Nancy Mirabal) of the 36th DAR in Rochester, NY in 2006, and also was SSDUSA Vice President (2006-2007), President (2007-2008) and Past President (2008-2009). Eileen was awarded a Yellow Rock Scholarship in 2009, and currently cues rounds in the Rochester area. Eileen was also the recipient of the Daphne-Norma Leadership Award in 2008. This award is given annually to an individual or couple in recognition of leadership in promoting and maintaining square dancing in the Rochester area. She feels that her efforts on behalf of SSDUSA and the 36th DAR were largely responsible for receiving this coveted award.

They both encourage solo dancers to feel comfortable in a square, often dancing as either the right or left side dancer.

Carl and Eileen have recently accepted the position of chairmen of the Promotions Committee for the Western NY Federation of Round and Square Dance Clubs. In this capacity, they will continue their efforts to promote and enhance square dancing.

REMEMBERING OTHER SPECIAL OFFICERS / DANCERS (in alphabetical order)

Erwin "Sod" Andrew (07/12/27–03/31/19) was one of the founding members of the Danc'n Singles of Smyrna, GA, and belonged to the club from the time it was founded in 1985 until he passed away in 2019. He was on their board several times. He brought many new members to square dance lessons. He



was instrumental in making sure that the seed money was provided by Danc'n Singles for SSDUSA's 21st and 34th Dance-A-Rama festivals that were held in Atlanta, GA. He was dedicated to promoting single-friendly dancing, and he attended many of our SSDUSA DARs over the years. He was on the State Board of the Georgia State Singles.

Sod often bought 10 to 25 boxes of Georgia peanuts and took them to dances nationwide. We know that Sod took peanuts to National Conventions in Florida, Alabama, Kentucky and North Carolina, paying for those peanuts himself every time. If you enjoyed the packets of peanuts available at the Georgia Showcase of Ideas displays at National Conventions, this was likely due to his generosity. (John Dean, Past Chair for the 34th DAR, sent the 600 packets of peanuts that were given out at our 50th DAR next to the display with Sod's photo and obituary. This was John's way to pay tribute to Sod.)

Sod had a passion for dance from childhood till the day he passed. He taught ballroom dancing, and was a member, dance instructor, soundman & caller with the Georgia State Square Dance Association from the 1950's until his death. Sod enjoyed traveling all over the country to dance events. He was a generous man who worked hard, took care of his parents, his friends and was always willing to help anyone



Helen Clark served (along with Harriet Livingston) as Chair of our very successful 44th Dance-A-Rama that was held in Portland, OR in 2014. She was SSDUSA's North West Regional Director from 2013 She 2019. to attended a total of six

DAR's, starting with the DAR in Des Moines in 2012. She also attended six National Square Dance Conventions. She served on the Housing committee for the 1994 National Square Dance Convention held in Portland, OR. Throughout the years she served in several positions in her home clubs.

It was a pleasure to see her in Des Moines at our 50th DAR. We appreciate that she, and her partner, Michael Wagner, both attended our final SSDUSA Membership Meeting, actively participating and sharing their ideas.



Brenda Griffin became a member of SSDUSA in 2005, and attended many Dance-A-Rama festivals. She served as our South Central Regional Director (2007-2008), Treasurer (2008-2010), Dance-A-

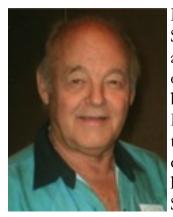
Rama Chair twice (2007 & 2017), Vice President (2010-2011, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017), two short terms as President in 2011 and 2017-2018 (cut short only because of unavoidable personal circumstances).

She held several offices in local clubs in and served as Treasurer, Vice Arkansas President, and President multiple times for the Arkansas State Federation. She was Asst. Vice Chairman of Rounds for the 63rd National Square Dance Convention held in Arkansas in 2014. We want to thank Brenda for all of her to SSDUSA, especially for her service leadership as the Chairman in charge of the Dance-A-Rama festivals in North Little Rock, both in 2007 and 2017.



Bill Highsmith, who passed away on 7-19-20, was an avid square dancer and attended numerous conventions and festivals throughout the country, including many of our Dance-A-Rama festivals. He served as our SSDUSA South East Regional

Director from 2008 – 2011. He is also remembered by the children as he fashioned balloon animals for a gift to them. Bill was originally from Texas but moved to Georgia to be closer to his family. During the week before his passing Bill was out riding his motorcycle, just 2 weeks shy of his 90th birthday.



Ron Holland: Single Square Dancers USA lost a strong supporter of our organization on November 20, 2019 when Ron Holland passed away due to multiple health complications. In some respects, he was the face of SSDUSA for many years.

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. We pay tribute to Ron and recognize his years of service to our organization.



Larada Horner-Miller started dancing the night before she was born - her Mom danced one tip. She participated in square dancing growing up through her 4-H club - her Dad was their club caller.

She danced in the Denver area in the 70's and

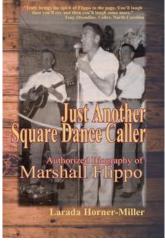
then was away from it until 1994 when she returned to square dancing in Albuquerque. Since then she chaired the New Mexico State Single Fling for 11 years and also did the publicity for twenty-five years. She has been on the Albuquerque Square Dance Center board for about 12 years. Larada has chaired Hot August Nights for 16 years. In 2008 she was inducted into the New Mexico State Square and Round Hall of Fame.

Her involvement with SSDUSA has been extensive also. After much prodding and bribing from Ron Holland, she brought Dance-A-Rama, 2003 to Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosting a successful festival with over 600 dancers. After that event, she really jumped into SSDUSA. She was the Yellowrock editor from 2005 - 2008. She also edited the Intercom from 2005 - 2006. She was the promotion chairperson for SSDUSA for about 5 years. After the end of the Yellowrock, she created the SSDUSAgram, an electronic email she sent out from 2004-2014, highlighting singlefriendly dance events across the United States and the world. She served as SSDUSA's Vice President (2009-2010), President (2010-2011), and Past President (2011-2012). In 2013, she was the registration chairperson for the Dance-A-Rama held in St. Louis.

Larada enjoyed all the work she did for SSDUSA, but her real joy came in all the friendships she made all over the country working with wonderful committed dancers

who always had the single dancer in mind. So many memories, so many good times!

In recent years Larada has authored a number of books, including *Just Another Square Dance Caller*: the Authorized Biography of Marshall Flippo, which was published in 2020.





Frank Norris passed away unexpectedly on March 23, 2007 from natural causes at age at age 64. He served as

Vice-President (1999-2000), SSDUSA's President (2000-2001), and Past President (2001 -2002).For many years he was the Chairperson in charge of SSDUSA's Yellowrock Scholarship fund, which was set up many years ago to help new callers and cuers with the expenses associated with getting started in the profession. Originally it was funded through sales of the small Yellowrock Directories that singles clubs and singles-friendly listed the clubs that maintained Club Memberships in SSDUSA, but this was discontinued due to increasing publishing costs and decreased sales. Year after year, Frank received all the applications and tapes, brought them to the Dance-A-Rama, and informed the winners of their selection. Following Frank's death, we were surprised to learn that he had named SSDUSA as the recipient of a life insurance policy. Because of Frank's dedication and efforts with the Yellowrock Scholarship and his generous donation, the SSDUSA Board of Directors decided to use the money to fund the Scholarship Fund, and to rename it the "Frank Norris Yellowrock Scholarship".



Steve Stoltz served as North Central East Regional Director (2002-2004), Vice President (2004-

Vice President (2004 2005),

President (2005-2006), and Past President (2006-2007).

It was a pleasure to see his smiling face in Des Moines at our 50th Dance-A-Rama. We especially appreciate that he attended our final SSDUSA Membership Meeting, actively participating and sharing his ideas.



Arbell Thompson was an important leader in Single Square Dancers USA from 2006 through 2018. She served as our Secretary from 2006/2007 through 2009/2010, then was Chairman in charge of

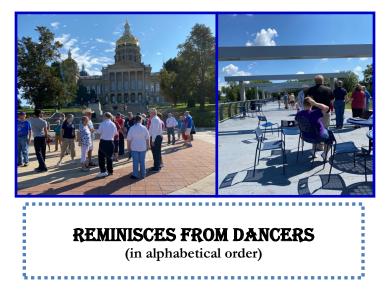
our Dance-A-Rama festival in the Washington, DC area in 2010. She served as Vice-President for the 2011/2012 year, President for the 2012/2013 year, and Past President for the 2013/2014 year. She was again Vice- President in 2014/2015, President in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, and Past President in 2018 until her resignation. She served as Vice-Chairman for our Dance-A-Rama festival in the Washington, DC area in 2016. She also served in multiple other chair positions: SSDUSA Representative to the Alliance for Round, Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS) from 2010 through 2018; Intercom Editor from 2013/2014 through 2015/2016; and Promotions Director 2014 through 2018.

In November 2018, Arbell resigned from all of her positions with SSDUSA and also with the Washington Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association (WASCA) and began to make preparations for a less stressful life with fewer responsibilities. In June 2019, she moved from Virginia to Idaho, going back to the area where she had lived in her youth. The reason Arbell left behind all of her square dance leadership activities was that she had recognized the onset of Alzheimer's disease and took the necessary steps to be in a situation where her needs would be met. She sold her home in Virginia and shipped the furniture and belongings she wanted to keep to Idaho, where she and her niece had purchased a home near Boise, and this is where the two now live. Arbell said her memory comes and goes. Her niece does the driving and the shopping, and Arbell is never left alone. She said she has "keepers" who stay

with her when her niece is at work. Three days a week she eats out and goes to a senior center where she plays pinochle. She is with people and keeping active. She said she is happy to be back in Idaho and she has no regrets. She gave permission to share this information with others. We certainly miss Arbell and want to publicly thank her for all of her years of service to SSDUSA and to the overall square dance community.

Don Werner passed away on January 4, 2013 in Sun City, AZ. Don was one of those regular people who was always at Dance-A-Rama doing his part – the one in 2012 was the first he missed, maybe forever.

He was President of SSDUSA in 1988. In the years prior to his passing he was the Sergeantat-Arms and the Nominating Committee for new officers for SSDUSA. We will always remember him at our General Membership Meeting with his red SSDUSA vest on – he was official and efficient. As Larada Horner-Miller stated, "I know there's another angel in heaven taking care of us dancers now!"



Hello from Munich Germany,

I am still sad, that I was not allowed to travel to the States . But I like to get your SSDUSA final Intercom publication. Will no more exist any thing from SSUSA ??

I hope to visit next year my friends in

Washington DC, in California, in Arizona my relatives.

Where are clubs to dance in these places? I was in Little Rock + Grand Rapids Dance -A-Rama festival and enjoyed it very much.

Have a good time

Anneliese Kirchmann

I started in 2005 in Columbus.

Have attended everyone since. The biggest asset I always talked about we gals who came together did not have to be concerned about whether we had to stay or leave if one of our group wanted to leave. WE ALWAYS DANCED AND STAYED IN THE SAME HOTEL.

I would like to commend the officers for the last several years for keeping the dance going. The attendance dropped so much I was afraid they would cancel the dance before now. I attended this year but did not dance because of my fear of falling. My last fall was here at home. Broke my left hip.

I was grateful Velma found me a couple gals from Indiana to travel and stay with this year. It turned out very well. I enjoyed seeing friends that I had not seen for a couple years. The tours were enjoyable and the food was good on the tour.

I feel all you officers and your helpers deserve to be commended.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH.

SHIRLEY STEVENS

What I remember most about SSDUSA are the six DAR's I attended... 1990 (Fort Worth, TX), 1991 (Atlanta, GA), 1992 (Louisville, KY), 1997 (Nashville, TN), and 2007 and 2017 (Little Rock, AR). I didn't even know SSDUSA first existed until after being at a couple of the National Square Dance Conventions (I danced at every one from 1986 to 2002).

I first heard of SSDUSA from a young lady from Kansas, a pretty redhead named Myra (I don't recall her last name), at one of the National Square Dance Conventions, when I came upon "the singles hall". She quipped that "blondes have more fun, but redheads have more pizazz"...I got a good chuckle out of that one. She noted that she was at a dance in Kansas, and as the caller introduced her, he pronounced the SSDUSA acronym "Seduce-A". Myra got on the mic, and quipped "We're a very active group"...and said the caller about fell off the stage in laughter <LOL!>.

After attending the one in Fort Worth (I traveled there by Amtrak passenger train from Little Rock), I decided to go to Atlanta. The late Ken Maxwell was the chairperson, and he was asking for anyone who was interested in helping with the Interdenominational Worship Service on Sunday morning "to drop him a line"...so, I called him on the phone, and said "Here's your line" <LOL!>. The next year in Louisville (I think Ron and Cindy Schoen were the chairpersons (they may have still been single back then)), I did the Interdenominational Worship Service there. I then went to the one in Nashville in 1997 (I think the late Ron Holland was the chairperson), and "we got caught on Candid Camera"!! In dancing in the A-2 hall to Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie, I got switched from being a boy to a girl somehow (what I like to call "a quick and dirty sex change"), so I flipped my cap on backwards. Dee Dee said during the tip to me "I've got enough trouble without you giving me hell!!"...and everyone roared in laughter!!

Unfortunately, work and finances kept me away from the DAR for several years. As it turned out, I got engaged in 2002, and married in 2003, to a lady who I had met on my computer bulletin board system (BBS...sort of a small version of AOL). We had been friends for 17 1/2 years, and never thought about marriage...let alone to each other. So, I was no longer single...until 3 weeks shy of our fourth wedding anniversary, when a heart attack claimed her life at only 48 years of age. I didn't marry for the first time until I was 43, but never dreamed I'd be a widower at 47.

Three months after my wife had died, I found out that another dancer that I had known in the central Arkansas area for several years, up Brenda Griffin, was heading an organization called SSDArkA (Single Square Dancers Of Arkansas Association), and they were heading up the Dance-A-Rama in North Little Rock in 2007. So, I went to their meeting, and joined up, offering again to work the table (and not dance) the entire weekend (I was still in mourning for my late wife), and to do the Sunday morning Interdenominational Worship Service...doing some hymns, plus the "Phone Call From God" by Jerry Jordan...and then singing "Come To Jesus" by Chris Rice. Afterwards, one young lady came up to me, and said "If I talk to you right now, I'm going to cry"...so, I was able to provide "a shoulder to cry on". I went to the one in Little Rock in 2017, but left early Sunday, as I was involved in emergency weather communications via another hobby, amateur radio.

With declining health, I never remarried...and now at 61, doubt I ever will. And, with being a heart patient as of July, 2021...that has reduced my active dancing, although I still do work with the Arkansas State Square Dance Federation, as their Editor, Webmaster (the website was redesigned by someone else, as my HTML skills are very basic), and Circulation Chairman for their publication, "The Modern Square". Since I knew I couldn't attend the final DAR in Des Moines, I paid for the cost to have the final DAR fliers in the e-Edition of the publication for several months. I felt it was the least I could do for the organization.

The fun memories of SSDUSA will be cherished, even though the organization is no more. Yet, life has just gotten so busy for everyone...and you can't do it all. But for its life, SSDUSA was a great source of fun for single square dancers everywhere.

Daryl Stout, Little Rock, Arkansas

LETTERS FROM DANCERS

I wanted to make this year's DAR but lately I get TIRED too easy. Here's next years dues and a donation.

Mike Harris (2019)

I am 94 years old. I loved attending many DANCE-A-RAMAS.

The last dance-A-Rama I attended was in Grand Rapids, MI. It was wonderful!

Health issues prevent my dancing anymore, but I still belong to two square dance clubs and enjoy social events and watching dancers.

THANKS FOR MANY YEARS OF WONDERFUL DANCE-A-RAMAS!

Dorothy LaRosa (2019)

It was with great sadness when I read the 2020 Dance-A-Rama was cancelled. It was expected though. I have been a square dancer since the mid 1970's.

After I retired in 2017, I hoped to travel to many dances outside my area, and did so in 2018; attending four major dances including the DAR in Indianapolis. In 2020 I was off to a good start, but am resigned to the fact that my square dance days are over.

I am ever so grateful that I was introduced to square dancing (and round & line dancing) in my 20's, and I have so many good memories, and have met so many friends and dancers from all over. It is truly amazing when I stop to think about it.

I will truly miss square dancing, and all that goes with it!

Bill Petrites (2020)

I am in no shape to square dance. I started at a singles dance in 1977 in Chicago. I stopped this April. Health has got me.

I had a ball. I danced 46 years. I quit. I just can't do it.

Jack Reynolds (2018)

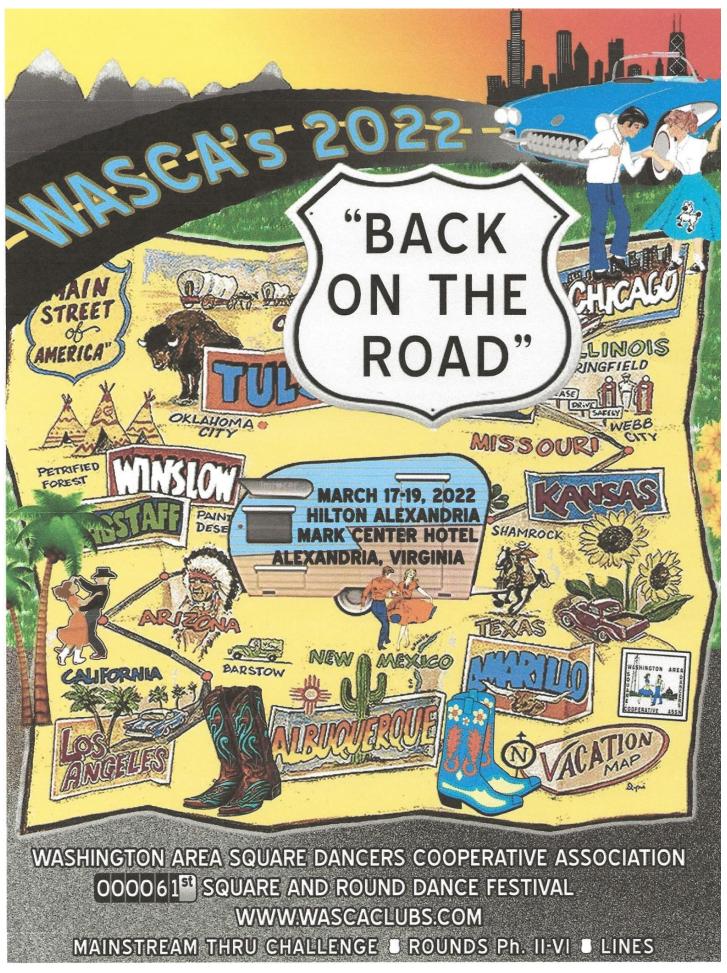








Tours in Birmingham - DAR 2019



WASCA's 2022 "Back on the Road" <u>WASCA's 61st Spring Square & Round Dance Festival</u> Hilton Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria, VA – March 17, 18, 19, 2022

BILL HARRISON – Maryland
 ERIC HENERLAU – California
 TOM MILLER - Pennsylvania
 JOE SALTEL – Texas
 CURT & TAMMY WORLOCK – Florida
 IRENE & STEVE BRADT - Pennsylvania

MIKE SEASTROM – California MIKE SIKORSKY – Arizona JEREMY BUTLER - Virginia BUDDY WEAVER - California REY & SHERRY GARZA – California RANDY & MARIE PRESKITT – Washington



RANDY & MARIE PRESKITT – Washington RILEY – Virginia 61st WASCA Spring Festival MARCH 17-19, 2022

DIRECTORS: LINDA & STEVE TOTH AND BOBBI & JEFF FUHR 2022FestivalDirectors@wascaclubs.com

- DOUG & DONNA RILEY- Virginia

Festival Registration
Adult #1(Badge Name): Adult #2(Badge Name):
Address: Child: Child:
City / State: Zip:
Phone: \square M P \square DBD \square A \square C
Email: Rounds: II III IV V Email: Solo Dancer: I
Adults at \$50.00 - Full Festival Registration = \$ On-site Registrations or Registrations Received after March 1, 2022 = \$60 = \$ Children (17 & under) at \$20.00 - Full Festival Registration = \$ Total Amount Enclosed = \$
Please indicate method of payment:
Name on Card: Signature:
Please make checks and money orders payable to <u>WASCA</u> . <u>Send to:</u> TOM & NANCY STAFFORD 7731 Virginia Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043
(703) 573-8378 FestivalRegistration@wascaclubs.com
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CELEBRATE THE 48TH ANNUAL 'Round Up' MARCH 11 & 12, 2022 Sponsored by TASSD (Texas Association of Single Square Dancers) Singles, Couples, and Round Dancers invited and encouraged to attend. Allemande Hall 106 Westlake Drive Waco, Texas TASSI www.tassd.org SCOTT BENNETT CALLER: Lawton, OK **RON & PAT PLOUCH** CUER: San Antonio, TX

*	* * * * * *	*	*	*			
*	TASSD Round-Up – March 11 & 12, 2			*			
	The host hotel is RAMADA HEWITT .						
*	778 Sun Valley Blvd, Exit 328E off I-35 Hewitt, Texas 76643			×			
<u></u>	Phone: 254-732-9823						
	Room rates are \$80 per night, plus applicable taxes (1-4 people) and the room choices						
are a king room with one king bed or a queen room with two queen beds. You must make your own room reservations directly with the hotel. Please specify which type							
*	 room you desire when you make your reservation. To receive the discounted rate, please mention <i>Texas Association of Single Square Dancers</i> when you register. A block of rooms has been set aside for TASSD and they will be held only until February 25, 2022. After that date, the rooms will be released and will only be available on a space available basis and the special rate cannot be guaranteed. We suggest that if you anticipate staying 						
*							
*	at the Ramada Hewitt that you make your reservations early. Beside amenities, the hotel does provide a complimentary full, hot breakfast there.	s many o	ther	*			
*	2022 ROUND-UP RESERVATION FORM			*			
	Name Cell Phone			+			
×	Address Home Phone			^			
*	CityStateZip			*			
	Email Address		18				
*	I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MY <i>SINGLE VOICE</i> BY EMAIL: ARE YOU A VETERAN?	YES YES	NO NO	×			
*	PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BLANKS:			*			
	Entire Weekend per dancer prior to January 31, 2022		\$35.00				
*	(Must be postmarked by 1/31/22. Includes Membership Dues.) Entire Weekend per dancer after January 31, 2022		\$40.00	×			
	ONLY Friday Night per dancer		\$20.00				
×	ONLY Saturday Day/Night per dancer		\$25.00 \$10.00	M			
	DUES ONLY *Charter JUNIOR Members get 50% discount. Please check this l	ine and th					
*	line above designating the package you choose.			*			
	REFUNDS prior to February 1, 2022 are subject to a \$5.00 handling fee. NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2022.						
×				*			
	MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TASSD and mail to: Sam Daggett Phone: 936-900-4255						
*	138 Rainbow Drive, #3828 Email: daggettent@hotmail.com			*			
	Livingston, Texas 77399						
*	Contact Number:			×			
*	Billy Hurt Cell: 214-546-9463 Home: 972-840-3568 Email: billy Curtis Linscomb Cell: 409-893-5570 Home: 409-853-6443 Email: curtis			*			
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Name			Phone	
Address		. City	State Zip	
Email				
Individual registration - pleas	e complete appropriate blank	s:	Square Dance Attire Admired, Not Required	
Friday & Saturday A	I Events Prior to June 30, 202	\$40.00	NO BOOTS ON DANCE FLOOR IN HALL A	
	I Events payable at the door	\$50.00	Cancellation Policy:	
One Day/Night includes After Party Individual Square/Round Dance Sessions		\$30.00	 Full Refund will be given if cancellation notice is 	
		\$15.00	received prior to June 15, 2022	
Total individual r	egistration fees enclosed	\$	 One-half Refund will be given for cancellation between June 15 and July 15, 2022. 	
9	les a complimentary members t 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.	ship to HASSDA	 No Refund will be given for cancellation after July 15, 2022. 	
(Please include a self-address			All requests for a refund must be in writing or	
Make Checks Payable to: HASSDA Festival 2022 685 Newman Road			email to HASSDA Festival Contact.	
	Havensville, Kansas 66432-9		vadanaa aam	
Festival Contact: Maye Wegr	ier~/00.000.0314 0r HASSD	A-FESTIVAL@Wesqua	regarce.com	
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SSDUSA's Mystery Tour - In front of Iowa's State Capitol in Des Moines