



**MISSOURI FEDERATION OF SQUARE 'N ROUND DANCE CLUBS, INC.**

Minutes of  
April 16, 2023

President Merle Hall called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Grand Oaks Baptist Assembly Hall in Chillicothe, Missouri.

**Invocation:** Fred Goucher

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Fred Goucher

**Roll Call:** Liz Rooks. Full Quorum achieved. (6 Executive Board; 12 District Directors; 3 Staff/Past Presidents).

Thank you to Host District and Club: President Hall thanked the Peppy Promenaders of the Northeast District for hosting the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Hall asked for corrections or additions to the January minutes. Minor spelling and punctuation corrections were mentioned.

Fred Goucher moved to accept the minutes as corrected; motion was seconded and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rosa Davis reported a beginning checking balance as of January 1, 2023 of \$18,579.05, Revenue of 10,286.72, Expenses of \$1,988.08, and Transfer to CD \$10,000.00. The ending checking account balance as of March 31, 2023 of \$17,057.69. Total CDs amounted to \$30,868.98 for Total Funds on hand of \$47,926.67. The Treasurer's report will be submitted for audit.

In January, a 24 month \$10,000.00 CD was purchased from Academy Bank at 4.58% APY.

Memorials for two past presidents: \$75.00 to Bethlehem Baptist Church in memory of Mark Mortensen and \$75.00 to Gateway Arch Foundation in memory of Barb Turner. Thank you notes have been received for those gifts and were circulated for all to see.

\$500.00 had been received from the Cross Trailers Club for a scholarship in memory of Louise Coleman and Dortha Campbell. This has been deposited in the general fund until the recipient has been named.

**Membership and Club Longevity:** Rosa Davis reported we have 41 clubs.

There are no Longevity awards to present at this meeting.

**Correspondence:** Liz Rooks reporting. Sympathy cards have been sent to Carol Turner Smith, Barb Turner's daughter, and to Bev & John Stuart and one will be sent to Bill Kanai's family and Fred and Carolyn Goucher. A Thinking of You card will be sent to Dan Robinson.

**Boundaries and Relations:** Dave Byers reporting: He described a letter than will be going out to all of the Missouri Federation clubs encouraging them to be involved in dancing and in the Federation. The letter also encourages individuals who have questions about what the Federation does and how it can help individual clubs to reach out to the Boundaries and Relations Committee and also to suggest ways the Federation might help.

**Constitution and Bylaws:** Cathy Hall. No report

**Publications:** No report as committee does not have a chairman.

**DOIN'S Editor:** Edythe Weber reporting. I apologize for the delay in the April-June issue getting to subscribers. I found out that the printer used the wrong subscription list to print mailing label info on the magazine. So when they realized it, they had to reprint the cover and redo it with the correct subscription list. These things happen. That meant the magazine did not get to the bulk mail center in the usual time frame; we have no control over it once it gets into their hands. Hope everyone has their magazines by now. (As of this writing – 8 p.m. on April 9 – I do not have my mailed copies.)

The next issue deadline is coming right up – May 15<sup>th</sup> – so please be on time.

Some clubs do not send in articles, so it is imperative that those clubs send me any updates or changes to their dance schedule. If I do not get updates, I do not know about changes and it could be that your club info in the dance calendar might be wrong. Also, EVERYONE, please notify me of changes in callers, locations, time, etc. if you change something after sending the original schedule, ***especially if you do not send articles.***

Most club article writers have converted to the new deadlines, but a few are still forgetting. Please put a reminder on your phone, your wall calendar, whatever it takes to meet the deadlines.

**If there are questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Doin's staff.**

**DOIN'S Circulation:** Edythe Weber reporting. Paid subscriptions 188, exchange copies 1, and 16 for staff, historian and post office for a total mailing of 205. There were 56 electronic subscriptions, 26 renewals 4 new subscriptions and 8 student copies. Ten postcards will be sent out for subscriptions that expire with the April-June issue.

Financial report: The balance brought forward was \$95.00 with income from subscriptions of \$450.00 and a donation from the SW District Doin's Dance of \$220.00. There were no expenses. A check for \$ 665.00 was given to the Federation. The ending balance is \$100.00.

**DOIN's Advertising January 16, 2023 through April 16, 2023:** Dave Shafer reporting. We had a balance brought forward of \$100.00. Revenue from DOIN'S ads and caller/cuer listings of \$318.00 and there were no expenses. A check was given to the Federation for \$318.00; leaving a balance of \$100.00.

**Promotions:** Fred & Carolyn Goucher: Four clubs received Toot-Your-Horn recognition: Cross Trailers and Live Wires NW District, Missouri Promenaders St. Louis District, and Puxico County Squares Southeast District.

**Member Services Committee:** Fred & Carolyn Goucher: No report.

**State Festival Site Screening:** Dave Shafer: No report.

**Insurance Coordinator:** Edythe Weber reporting: 902 dancers are insured through Missouri Federation and 179 dancers are insured through other federations for a total of 1,081 Missouri dancers in 41 clubs.

*Thank you to the club insurance people who continue to enroll new dancers for your club. Thanks for your hard work.*

- The 2023 Insurance premium is \$5.25 per dancer. This premium covers new members that join your club that do not have insurance anywhere else. There is no pro-rating insurance premiums.
- If you add a new member to your club roster, but they are covered by insurance elsewhere, please send me an email telling me that. I need to let the National coordinator know we are not liable for a premium for that person(s).
- You should never delete a dancer from your roster after initial enrollment.
- **Important:** If you need to communicate with me about insurance, PLEASE use the Missouri Federation Insurance email at [moinsurance@kc.rr.com](mailto:moinsurance@kc.rr.com) . Do not send insurance info or email questions to the Doin's email address. It just delays communication.
- Remember to send me a roster of lesson names. There is no charge until they graduate.

- If you need additional information or have questions, please contact me. If I do not know the answer, I know who to contact to get it.

Financial Report: Beginning balance as of January 1, 2023 was \$489.96; total income of \$483.00 and expenses of \$173.30 leaves an ending balance on March 31, 2023 of \$799.66.

**Travel Missouri:** Jim Marron reporting. As of April 14, 2023, the total number of danglers given out for Missouri 482;

Central 432	Northeast 409	
Northwest 395	St Louis 392	
Southeast 375	Southwest 419	West Central 403

The grand total for all districts is 3,307; these totals are from when the program started.

Financial Report: The balance in the account remains the same of \$24.68.

He reported that his wife is doing better.

**Blue Bird Coordinator:** Penny Byers reporting: No report.

**Webmaster:** Dan Wheeler reporting: If you have purchased an iPhone with the latest operating system, have taken some pictures with it, and found that you can't look at them with your Windows computer, let me know and I can help you. Apple has decided to be exclusive again by using a new proprietary format for their pictures. The format is called "HEIC". Everybody in the whole world uses "jpg" – often called J Peg.

The bad part is: you can't open the pictures in heic on your Windows computer without installing a new app.

The good part is that the app only costs \$0.99; or you can download a free program that will convert HEIC to jpg. The hardest part about downloading & installing the app is setting up the credit card payment.

The best alternative is:

Opening your iOS device's Settings app.

Selecting **Camera** → **Formats** → **Most Compatible**.

I have been told that this will allow your phone to take pictures in the more compatible jpg format.

If you send me pictures for the Missouri Federation website in the HEIC format, I will convert them to jpg before uploading them to the website.

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I was recently asked why a specific square dancer's obituary had not been added to the obituary section of the Missouri Federation website. Actually, that person had just noticed that the Missouri Federation website had an obituary section. It has been my experience that the two sections on the Missouri Federation website that people are least aware of are the Obituary section and the History section. The history section has lots of personal biographies and lots of club histories. If your club history is not there, it should be. Send it to me and I'll add it.

As for obituaries:

As a general rule, I don't post the obituary of every square dancer in Missouri & Kansas.

My rules of thumb have been:

1. The square dancer has held an office in Missouri or Kansas on the state or district level
2. The square dancer has been a prominent person in Missouri or Kansas Square dancing,
3. The square dancer was a national caller who has called dances in Missouri or Kansas,
4. A square dancer has asked that a specific person be added to the obituary page.

I realize that this is an arbitrary list, but it is what I have been doing.

One problem that I have had is the same one I seem to have about a lot of things for the website. I usually know about new clubs, callers, cuers, etc. but I rarely know about folding clubs, and I'm even less likely to hear about callers or cuers who quit or die. Just a couple of weeks ago Edythe Weber sent me a list of caller / cuers who had died or retired from calling. It was the first time anyone had ever done that.

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If you haven't looked at the picture section lately, you might want to do that. Carol Hershey recently sent me all of her 2022 pictures, and she has started sending me her 2023 pictures a month at a time. This added several hundred pictures to the web site. Also, Kim Orf from St. Louis Metro, has sent me quite a few new videos, and I've added them to the video section.

Please mention in your district & club meetings that anyone can send me pictures for the website, and I'll add them.

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I recently changed the format of the Caller / Cuer pictures section of the website. It used to be in two sections. It is now in one section. The reason for the change is that the format I designed several years ago to show pictures was designed to hold 220 pictures.

When I set it up there were about 170 pictures in the section, and I was afraid that it would grow to over my design limit of 220 pictures; it didn't. There are currently 190

pictures in the section. My plan is that if the number of pictures ever approaches the 220 limit, I will just cull out some of the older, poorer quality pictures.

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Our web space provider has recently moved our website to a new, faster server. All pages on the new server are in a "Secure" format. There was a minor change in the page addresses, but you will never notice the difference, and all the old addresses you may have still work. I have attempted to make the address changes on the links between the pages on our website, but I keep finding a few that I've missed. Again, this is something you will probably never notice.

The only problem that happened is that I now have to upload files using secure settings in the upload programs I use to upload files and maintain the website. This ended up involving a number of settings in a number of places. When I contacted our provider because all of a sudden one Sunday morning, none of my uploading programs worked, he told me that the change was supposed to be all transparent, and I shouldn't need to manually change anything. After a number of E-Mails and a week and a half of frustration on my part, everything is now working correctly. At no time was there any interruption in our actual website on the internet.

**Historian:** Dan Wheeler reporting: No report.

**License Plate:** Catherine McLemore reporting: Nothing to report.

**USDA:** Edythe Weber reporting: Well, the promise of warm temperatures was not to be while at the Winter USDA meeting, January 27-29, 2023 in Bismarck, North Dakota. The single digit temperatures were not noticed too much as our meetings were indoors in a nice cozy hotel.

The Belles 'n Beaux of Bismarck actually came to the hotel and we held a dance right there in our meeting room. There was a bar in the hotel right down the hall from our meeting room, and some people from the bar showed interest in our square dancing that night and talked to some of the club members. Maybe it will boost their next set of lessons.

The planned tour of the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum was very interesting with lots of history that I was completely unaware of. Lot of Indian artifacts and history plus information on archeological digs discovering dinosaur bones. It really was very interesting.

The Annual Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 1 p.m. at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, second floor in the Bon Secour Ballroom, in Mobile, Alabama.

**ARTS:** Edythe Weber reporting: The next meeting will be Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 9 a.m. in Mobile, Alabama. That is all I know at this time.

**District Presidents' Report:** Penny Byers reporting: All six districts were represented. The question came up if clubs need to be incorporated; they would like more information about that.

What happens if there are no callers or cuers qualified to be nominated for the Caller-Cuer Hall of Fame. Realized it is possible there might be a year when there was no one named or qualified for the Caller-Cuer Hall of Fame.

The idea of creating a scholarship to help a prospective caller-cuer or new caller-cuer be able to attend Caller-Cuer lab or other appropriate training was discussed.

Packets for the 2023 festival were distributed to the district presidents.

Dates of upcoming events in each of the districts were given. St. Louis District: May 5 and 6 St. Louis Jamboree, four new dancer dances have been held and three were well attended. Southwest District: District dance is May 20 with a luau theme. One club will have 19 graduates and another had 6. Northwest District: May Spring Blast was April 15 with 7 tips; may try to do a similar dance once a quarter. An ad hoc committee has been established to address health & welfare concerns of the clubs. Central District: Rolla club has a big class for lessons. Southeast District: The district is doing lessons with 5 students. They are working with the Little Hornets dancing with other dancers. Northeast District: District dance was the previous night with 125 dancers. Beaux & Belles are working on their second set of lessons. Peppy Promenaders had 5 graduates.

**Youth and Children:** President Hall reported Connie has been talking with a summer camp in Moberly about doing a workshop.

**Mo Fed Scholarship:** Bob & Shirley Turner reporting: No report.

**2023 State Festival:** Carol Hershey reporting:

Club packets have been put together and given to the District Presidents to hand out. There are raffle tickets in the packets and a master copy of the tickets so that clubs can make more; or if they want us to send them to them, contact Edythe Weber or Carol Hershey.

Enclosed in this packet are the forms needed. They can be copied or found online at <https://www.squaredancemissouri.com/Missouri/Flyers/MissouriFestival/>.

- Cover Page
- 2023 Festival Committee Members
- Festival Flyer Registration Form and lodging.
- Commemorative Items Order Form: T-shirt.
- Club Caller/Cuer Invitation Letter & Registration/Profile Form. Due June 1.
- Commemorative State Festival Program Book Ad Form. Due August 1.

- District Memorial Page in Festival Program Book. Due August 1.
- Nomination for Caller/Cuer Hall of Fame Letter, criteria & Form. Due August 1.
- Nomination for Square Dancer of the Year Letter, criteria & Form. Due August 1.
- Raffle Letter and Tickets. Due October 22.
- Silent Auction Letter.
- Banner Display Letter.

Lynn Nelson is organizing the dance schedule. She and I met this last month and have tried to give callers the opportunity to call at least twice. Each caller will be given 10 minutes; the Master of Ceremonies needs to keep the schedule on time as there will be two halls dancing and dancers may want to dance with a certain caller or at a certain level. We tried to balance Mainstream, Plus, Advance, Rounds and Lines so that everyone has an opportunity to dance the dance of their choice.

Tim Tyl and Carolyn Ahart and the local callers-cuers will be calling both Friday and Saturday giving everyone an opportunity to dance to the featured and local callers. Mainstream will be danced most of the weekend so that ALL dancers have an opportunity to dance as much as possible. Scheduling is not easy. When trying to include all people involved in the dance as to what they would like to see during the dance, it takes a lot juggling to address the issues. Hopefully, we have given all a taste of what they want. Lynn is sending a letter to all eligible callers-cuers giving them more information. She will be contacting each caller and cuer. Some callers and cuers signed up at the 2022 dance; there are currently 15 Callers/Cuers on Lynn's list.

The T-Shirt committee reports that they have sold 120 of the 200 T-Shirts ordered.

There are 58 paid registrations, 9 comp (which would be past presidents and partner and/or caller/cuer and partner).

There are 14 Saturday Evening Dinners sold.

We have a GREAT COMMITTEE for the 2023 Missouri State Festival. Many of our Northwest District members have stepped up to take responsibility for different events for the weekend.

**2024 State Festival:** Cathy Hall reporting: Plans are slowly taking shape. The Festival will be held October 18 & 19, 2024 in Sedalia at the State Fairgrounds. Ken Burke will be the featured caller; the featured cuer has not been finalized.

The committee will be requesting to receive the \$2,500 start-up funds so the deposit to reserve the venue can be paid as a part of new business.

The committee is submitting the recommendation for registration fees to be increased for the 2024 Festival. This comes after conducting a study of registration and cancellation policies of 12 other state festivals and comparing them with Missouri's festival currently below any of them.



Their proposal, which will be an item of new business, is as follows:

1. Increase the early (prior to 9-1) registration fee to \$30 and after 9-1 \$37. This raises both fees \$5, which is still below any of the studied.
2. Add a cancellation refund policy of \$5.00 for any requests received 2 weeks or more prior to the start date of the festival with no refunds allowed after that date.

**Caller-Cuer Ad Hoc Committee:** Tony Ahart reporting: No specific report at this time. A questionnaire has been sent to the callers and cuers with very little response at this time.

**\$5,000 National Square Dance Committee Money:** Art Kruse reporting: The committee has been brainstorming some ideas via e-mail and hope to have something to report at the July meeting.

### **Unfinished Business:**

President Hall presented Dave and Penny Byers with their Past President's plaque.

President Hall re-iterated the following:

1. It would be good to have an individual who could either write or help write grants for funding for the Federation.
2. An Advertising Manager and Chairman of the Publications Committee are needed

### **New Business:**

Bob Turner made the motion to give the St. Louis District the \$2,500 in start-up funds; motion seconded and passed.

President Hall stated four nominees are needed to attend the USDA meeting at the National Convention. Dave and Penny Byers and Dave Shafer and Roslie Mogerman are planning to attend the National Convention and volunteered to be delegates.

Edythe Weber made the motion to pay the registration fee of \$50.00 for the individual who will be attending the National Convention and be responsible for setting up the display for the Show Case of Ideas. Motion was seconded and passed.

Bob Turner, Southeast District president announced the district would host the 2025 State Festival.

Fred Goucher made the motion for the Federation to purchase a new sound system to be used for our state meetings. The motion was seconded and passed. He volunteered to be responsible for getting that done.

Cathy Hall, 2022 Audit Committee Chairman, had the following report: March 30, 2023, she and Gary King (the third person of the committee was not able to meet due to health concerns) met to review the financial records of the state treasurer (general funds), Doin's Circulation, Doin's Advertising, Insurance Coordinator, and the 2022 State Festival

A sample review of all accounts was performed to ensure income and expenses were properly recorded and documented for the records presented. Funds were deemed to be held in appropriate institutions, ledger accounts were clear, and bank statement reconciled timely.

The General Fund beginning 2022 checking balance was \$18,081.25 and the ending balance was \$18,759.05. In addition, the ending balance of CDs was \$20,856.67.

Overall, the financials as presented and reviewed are complete and record keeping methods are approved. Signed by Cathy Hall and Gary King.

Cathy Hall made a motion to raise the registration fees for the 2024 State Festival to \$30.00 and \$37.00. Motion died for lack of a second.

Carolyn Goucher made a motion to raise the registration fees to \$35.00 and \$42.00; motion seconded and passed.

Concern was raised that this large of an increase might be of concern to some dancers.

Cathy Hall made a motion to raise the early bird registration fee to \$30.00 for those who signed up at the Festival (Saturday night through Sunday's Doin's Dance) and then it would go to \$35.00 after the conclusion of the Doin's Dance. Motion seconded and passed.

The Cancellation Policy recommended by the 2024 State Festival passed.

Cancellation refund policy of \$5.00 for any requests received 2 weeks or more prior to the start date of the festival with no refunds allowed after that date.

Ballots for the Caller-Cuer of the Year Committee were distributed and the following members were elected to the committee: Dave Shafer-Central District, Bob & Shirley Turner-Southeast District, Cathy Hall-St. Louis District, and Fred & Carolyn Goucher-Northwest District.

Shirley Winans and Carolyn Goucher made a presentation of ways to promote square dancing. They showed a tri-fold brochure that is available and can be customized for a

particular club and talked about yard signs and the different ways they can be used and asked if the Federation needed to consider purchasing some more. It was decided to check on the price of the signs and report back at the July meeting.

Liz Rooks stated the Missouri State Fair has not contacted Billie Jean Butler yet about this, but it is usually a bit later when they do. The Day of Dance would be Wednesday, August 16, if we are asked to return. She asked everyone to mark the date on their calendar and to be on the alert for information for when requests for tickets and parking passes need to be submitted.

President Hall stated he is working with a 4-H individual on calling and would like to see him be able to exhibit his skills that day.

### **Calendar of Events**

May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Louis Jamboree

Saturday, August 12 – Northwest District Dance; 7 p.m., Graceway Church in Raytown

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Have Some Kicks on Rt. 36 Dance hosted by Peppy Promenaders and Tanglefoot Squares

July 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Beaux and Belles Campout Weekend, Macon County Fairgrounds Youth Building

March 17-24, 2024 – Southwest District is looking into hosting a Square Dance Cruise

The next state board meeting will be July 16 or 23 and hosted by the St. Louis District; exact date and location to be determined in the next few days.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Shafer it was seconded, and carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Rooks  
Secretary