



Live Lively – Square Dance!

The Missouri Federation of Square 'n Round Dance Clubs
www.SquareDanceMissouri.com

(Approved as corrected January 14, 2004)

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

Minutes of October 15, 2023

President Merle Hall called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Lowell Mohler Building on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

Invocation: Dave Byers

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Merle Hall

Roll Call: Liz Rooks. Full Quorum achieved. (6 Executive Board; 11 District Directors; 4 Staff/Past Presidents).

President Hall thanked the Northwest District and the Ramblers Square Dance Club for hosting our meeting.

Approval of Minutes: President Hall asked for corrections or additions to the July 23, 2023 minutes. The minutes were made available prior to the meeting via e-mail and posting on the Federation's website for the Board of Directors.

Dave Shafer moved to accept the minutes as corrected; motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Rosa Davis reported a beginning checking balance as of July 1, 2023 of \$9,738.58, Revenue \$475.55 and Expenses \$2,369.31. The ending checking account balance as of September 7, 2023 \$7,843.82. Total CDs including interest amounted to \$31,130.01 for Total Funds on hand \$38,973.83. Treasurer's report will be submitted for audit.

Membership and Club Longevity: Rosa Davis reported we have 42 clubs this year.

Longevity awards were awarded to B-N-R Squares (Northwest District) for 30 years in October and Singles & Doubles (St. Louis Metro) for 50 years in January.

Correspondence: Liz Rooks reporting: No correspondence has been received and no cards sent.

Boundaries and Relations: Dave Byers reporting: Nothing to report.

Constitution and Bylaws: Cathy Hall: Nothing new to report.

Publications: Committee Chairmanship still vacant.

DOIN'S Editor: Edythe Weber reporting: Thank you to the club contacts who send articles for each issue. Your job is very important to getting the word out about your club dances. And thanks for being on time!

The next issue deadline is coming right up – November 15th – don't forget you can send early.

I can't believe I will be working on the January-March 2024 issue. I always have to email or call clubs to get their schedules. Those are due to me by November 15 or as quick as you can get them to me.

If you have a new article writer for your club, please be kind and help them out the first time. Make sure they know the deadlines and formats. You do not have to use the forms, but they help you make sure you have all the info I need.

Clubs should also send me their FULL 2024 schedule (or as close as they can get) by November 15.

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

And remember – have a very happy 3-month holiday season – Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas! Happy New Year.

DOIN'S Circulation: Penny Byers reporting. Subscriptions for the DOIN'S this period were 197, exchange copies 1, and 16 for staff, historian and post office for a total mailing of 214. There were 70 electronic subscriptions, 45 renewals 8 new subscriptions and 16 new student. We will be sending out 15 postcards to subscribers whose subscriptions will expire with the October to December issue.

Financial report: The balance brought forward was \$100, total income of \$845.00 from subscriptions, and expense of postage for \$51.00. A check for \$ \$794.00 was given to the Federation leaving and ending balance of \$100.00.

Additionally, the check written in April for \$207.00 was lost has been voided and a replacement check issued.

Sunday morning Doin's Dance: 13 callers and 88 dancers signed in. \$593.00 received in donations and the expense for the coffee and donuts will be paid from this amount.

DOIN's Advertising: Dave Shafer reporting. We had a balance brought forward of \$100.00. We took in revenue from DOIN'S ads and caller/cuer listings of \$350 and

expenses totaled \$0.00. A check was given to the Federation for \$350; leaving a balance of \$100.00.

Dave reminded everyone the list of callers for club dances for 2024 is needed by November 15, 2023.

Dave reported since there is not currently an active Publications Committee it is the recommendation of the Doin's Editor, the Circulation Manager, and the Advertising Manager the following changes to the advertising options and rates:

- Delete the commercial advertising rates
- Delete the column width advertising option as it is rarely used
- Retain the Caller and Cuer Directory listings at \$12.00 per year
- Individual dances and events: Full page per issue \$50.00; annual rate \$180.00
Half page per issue \$35.00; annual rate \$125.00
Quarter page per issue \$25.00; annual rate \$90.00
- Memorials: Remain the same at full page \$40; half page \$20; quarter page free

Promotions: Fred & Carolyn Goucher: No report.

Member Services Committee: Fred & Carolyn Goucher: Mo-Kan Squares have submitted a request for reimbursement for lesson expenses.

State Festival Site Screening: Dave Shafer: Southeast District has submitted a request for a site survey for their festival in 2025; two people are needed to complete the Site Screening Committee. Catherine McLemore (SW District) and Edythe Weber (NW District) volunteered to fill those spots.

Insurance Coordinator: Edythe Weber: 943 dancers are insured through the Missouri Federation and 179 dancers are insured through other federations for a total of 1,122 Missouri dancers in 42 clubs.

Financial Report: Beginning balance July 1, 2023 \$984.46; total income of \$31.50 and expenses of \$266.45 leaving an ending balance on September 30, 2023 of \$749.51.

The insurance portal for entering information for 2024 is not open yet. The 2024 rate is \$5.50 with \$5.40 going to USDA and \$0.10 for administrative costs.

Questions regarding insurance should be sent to moinsurance@kc.rr.com.

November 1, 2023 is the deadline for clubs to pay dues for 2024 to Rosa Davis.

December 1, 2023 is the deadline for clubs to enroll and pay their insurance for 2024 to be eligible to receive the insurance rebate if approved.

Edythe reported the insurance account has accumulated a rather large balance over the last few years. She recommended giving \$500.00 of the \$749.51 in the account to the Missouri Federation. Action on this will be taken during new business.

Blue Bird Coordinator: Penny Byers: Three bluebird packets were sold at the state festival and some others were interested.

Webmaster: Dan Wheeler:

1. It is time to send me your club 2024 dance schedules. If you have flyers for any of the dances, send them also. However, you can add a flyer at any time. There is no deadline for adding things to the Missouri Federation website.
2. Please date things. When you make a dance schedule or a flyer please add a date somewhere on the page. When you update it, please change the date.
3. The September Missouri Federation website hit counter was almost 1600 hits.
4. The Missouri Federation website has directions with interactive maps on google maps to all dance locations in Missouri. The map showing the relative locations of the hotels & Missouri State Fair Ground has had 1,508 hits as of 10/11/23. This map has been up for both last year's & this year's Festival. The map for the Missouri State Fair Ground itself has had 6,580 hits as of 10/11/23. This map was set up when we started having the state fair exhibition dances. It is not for just this year's Festival.
5. We will be out of the country from November 8 through December 8. Although we will have both phone & internet service, I won't have a lot of time to work on websites. I will attempt to keep up with emergencies & corrections.

Historian: Dan Wheeler: There have been several additions to the "History" website and, unfortunately, the "Obituary" website:

www.History.SquareDanceMissouri.com

www.Obituary.SquareDanceMissouri.com

The list of past Officers & past Missouri Festivals has been updated.

License Plate: Catherine McLemore: Since the last report of July 23, 2023, I received one 2-year renewal, one new plate request, and one 1-year renewal for a total of \$125.00. I bought stamps for \$25.20. This made my balance \$854.80

I gave a check in the amount of \$754.80, to State Treasurer Rosa Davis, leaving my ending balance at \$100.00. After doing that, another 2-year plate request was received (\$50.00) and that money will also be given to Rosa.

There has been more interest in the license plates this year with several new ones purchased.

USDA: Edythe Weber: I am just finishing up three sets of minutes for the Nationals in June.

Our winter meeting will be in Deltona, Florida, January 18-21, 2024. We have been invited to attend the Florida State Convention while we are there. Of course, meetings come first and the business of USDA. So it's not all fun and dancing! I am going to try to take a day and go see my grandson who is a senior in college at Nova Southeast while there, so that will be fun, too.

Remember, the USDA Youth Scholarship, for high school seniors and college freshmen; submission deadline is February 1. They should be dancers, so if you know someone, tell them to start now completing the application; it's available on the usda.org website.

And if you know of a dancer that is marking their 100th birthday, please check out the Centennial Award. Get them recognized by USDA.

ARTS: Edythe Weber: Those short videos made by doctors on the benefits of square dancing are up online and available to use. https://www.arts-dance.org/Promotion_Videos.php.

Dan has a link on the Missouri Federation home page. Just click and watch. They are well done and useful to recruit new dancers And they are FREE.

District Presidents' Report: Dates and hosting districts for the 2024 Federation meetings were set as follows: Jan. 21 Southwest District; April 21 Northeast District; July 14 or 28 Southeast District; and October 20 St. Louis District.

Youth and Children's: Connie Graham report read by Liz Rooks: In September, I was privileged to teach for 7 hours to over 450 seventh and eighth graders at Osage Middle School in Independence MO. It was super challenging as they weren't that into the idea, but all in all a good day and lots of smiles by the end of it. I have plans to go back in March 2024 to spend another day with next semester's students. I also did two hours with the King City FFA and what a great evening. 100% of the kids participated and they also helped me with all of my set up and tear down. I was asked to come back next fall!

I have emails and letters out to area schools and youth groups and plan to get to as many as I can in the near future.

Mo Fed Scholarship: Bob & Shirley Turner reporting: Recommending reactivation of the scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

2023 State Festival: Carol Hershey reporting: 249 dancers attended the festival, 21 callers and cuers were present. 18 committees worked on planning this festival. \$300 was raised on Friday and Saturday nights with the sale of ice cream treats. The Caller – Cuer luncheon was attended by 50 callers, cuers, and their spouses.

2024 State Festival: Cathy Hall reporting: 68 pre-registrations including 6 Sunday morning. 48 shirts were sold Saturday night and Sunday morning; polo shirts will be ordered on request. Envelopes for most clubs with registration and T-shirt forms are available at this meeting. Early bird registration of \$25.00 is available through until November 1. Not set-up for credit cards. Ken Burke is the featured caller with Cathy and Fred Fischer as featured cuers.

Publicity: Word of mouth is the best way to spread the word. Forms are available on the website. Making a tri-fold display for each district.

No Saturday dinner but will have snacks in the afternoon; ice cream will be available. No decision has been made on whether there will be a food truck or not.

Caller-Cuer Ad Hoc: Merle reported this committee has been dissolved due to lack of interest.

\$5,000 National Square Dance Committee: Art Kruse: Recommendations of this committee will be addressed in the Constitution and Standing Rules part of New Business.

Unfinished Business:

Election of Officers: Slate presented at the July meeting – Merle & Madeline Hall – president, Dave Shafer - first vice-president; Cathy Hall – second vice-president, Rosa Davis - Treasurer, and Liz Rooks - secretary.

President Hall asked for nominations from the floor for each position three times; there were none.

Dave Shafer made a motion the nominations cease and the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and the vote was approval of proposed slate of officers.

State Fair Day of Dance: Liz Rooks reported attendance was down again this year, however, the requests for tickets remained pretty much the same as in previous years.

Penny Byers reported she and Dave were approached by an individual from the group that sponsors the Senior Dance held in the Mathewson Exhibition Hall who shared their numbers were down as well. They were interested in collaborating with us in an effort

to boost the attendance for both areas of dancing. Penny and Dave and Billie Jean will stay in contact with them and the Fair to see what can be done.

New Business:

Member of Services: Request from Mo-Kan Squares for help covering the costs of their lesson program.

In the process of reviewing the guidelines in the Standing Rules for clubs to receive reimbursement (Article XI, Section 4 Standing Committees, Letter H Member Services Committee #5 (*"To qualify for the above reimbursement, the club must have one square at the October Missouri State Festival"*)), it was realized it would be reasonable to update this section as many clubs are not able to have one square of dancers attend a State Festival.

Cathy Hall made a motion to change this Standing Rule guideline to read as follows: *To qualify for the above reimbursement, the club must have representation at the October State Festival.* Motion was seconded and passed.

Catherine McLemore then made a motion to reimburse \$200 of the Mo-Kan Square expenses with the check sent to the Southwest District treasurer for distribution to the club once appropriate receipts have been received. Motion seconded and passed.

Insurance Rebate of \$25.00: Edythe Weber, Insurance Coordinator reminded the group the Board needed to approve December 1, 2023 as the deadline for clubs to be enrolled in the insurance program and have their fee paid. The question arose as to what happens if the insurance portal is not open in time for clubs to meet this deadline.

After much discussion, Edythe Weber made the motion to make the deadline Dec. 15 for clubs to enroll and pay their money to qualify for the insurance rebate; motion seconded and passed.

Edythe volunteered to keep the clubs informed via e-mail regarding the date the portal will be available. The person from 2022 who submitted information unless Edythe has the name of a new person for 2023 and the district presidents will be e-mailed the information.

Edythe Weber made a motion to transfer \$500.00 of the money in the Insurance Bank Account to the Missouri Federation; motion seconded and passed.

Rosa Davis made a motion to increase the club insurance rebate from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for this year. The rationale for this action is clubs have already been collecting dues from club members based on last year's insurance rate; with the insurance rate going up 25 cents this year, clubs will have to make up that difference out of the money they have for other club expenses. The motion seconded and passed.

President Hall announced Jim Marron's resignation as the Travel Missouri Chairman and asked for a volunteer to accept the responsibility or for names to submit for consideration. He also reminded everyone a chairman is needed for the Publications committee.

Dave Shafer, Advertising Manager, spokesperson for the committee comprised of the Don's Editor, Doin's Circulation and the Advertising Manager presented the proposal of changes in the Doin's advertising options and rates (see the details in the Doin's Advertising report) for approval. President Hall took asked for the vote and these proposed changes were approved.

Dave Shafer presented names of three other publications that will list our Missouri Festival in their publication calendars for free: USDA News (send to News@USDA.org), Missouri Life Magazine (send to Calendar.missourilife.com), and Rural Missouri (send to RuralMissouri.org/submit-event).

Dave Shafer shared some ideas for educational topics that would help us fulfill the criteria of being an educational organization as a part of our 501c3 designation. See attached list.

Cathy Hall, Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Based on ongoing discussions from our last meeting in July leading up to today's meeting the committee is withdrawing the proposed changes to the Constitution and Standing Rules related to changing our name from a Festival to a Convention that were presented in July.

The following Standing Rule Changes were presented for consideration:

Article XII State Festival, Section 10, Letter A, Complimentary Invitations and Passes

Current wording:

A state festival invitation letter with two complimentary passes shall be sent to the President of State Square Dance Organizations of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee and also to the presidents of the Heart of America Federation of Square Dance Clubs in Kansas City, **the Saint Louis Metro Square and Round Dance Association** and the United Square Dancers of America Plains Region vice-president.

Proposed change:

Delete the reference to the Saint Louis Metro Square and Round Dance Association.

Rationale: It used to be a separate organization but has now been incorporated into the St. Louis District of the Missouri Federation.

President Hall called for questions or discussion; there were none. Vote was taken and proposed change was approved.

Cathy Hall presented the proposal to add a Special Funds Committee to the Standing Rules.

Rationale for this addition: To distribute the funds that were provided by the 42nd National Square Dance Convention ® that was held in St. Louis, MO in June 1983. The funds are to be use for educational purposes. A total of \$5,000 is to be disbursed.

Proposed:

ADD – Article XXI: Special Funds Committee

Section 1 Funds Disbursement

- A. The funds shall be disbursed over a 4-year period with \$1,250 available each year starting January 1, 2024.
- B. Each year the amount of \$1,250 will be divided with \$750 going to the Member Services Committee and \$500 to be used for caller-cuer scholarships.
- C. Member Services Committee will disburse their portion of the funds in accordance with the guidance found in the Standing Rules, Article XI, Section 4H.

Section 2 Caller-Cuer Scholarship

- A. Scholarship Criteria
 1. Caller-Cuer shall show proof of successfully completing an acknowledged calling or cueing school within the past 12 months.
 2. Be a member of an acknowledged caller or cuer association – CALLER-LAB, American Callers Association or Roundalab
 3. Reside within a district of the Missouri Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc. and/or be affiliated with a club of the Missouri Federation.
 4. Show proof of both BMI and ASCAP licensing.
- B. Request for reimbursement (including proof of completion of above criteria) shall be sent to the President of the Missouri Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc. for presentation at the next available State Board of Directors meeting.
- C. Any funds not disbursed after the completion of the four-year period will be provided to the Member Services Committee.

Section 3 Expiration of Funding Availability

- A. This section of the Standing Rules will expire when all funds are disbursed or December 31, 2027, whichever occurs first.

President Hall called for the vote. Vote was to approve.

Member Services Committee

CURRENT

Article XI, Section 4 H, 2(a)

2. Partial reimbursement to clubs of expenses incurred as a direct result of promoting square dancing will be:

- (a) Provided to clubs through their district not to exceed \$1,000 reimbursement per district per reimbursement period.

PROPOSED

- (a) Provided to clubs through their district not to exceed \$1,125.00 reimbursement per district per reimbursement period. On January 1, 2028, this amount will revert back to \$1,000 per district per reimbursement period.

Reason for the change: An additional \$750 is being allocated to Member Services Committee from the funds provided by the 42nd National Square Dance Convention ®. These funds need to be allocated equally among the 6 active districts of the Missouri Federation. \$750 divided by 6 districts equals an additional \$125 available for reimbursement by the Member Services Committee. $\$1,000 + \$125 = \$1,125$

President Hall called for the vote. Vote was to approve.

Selection of Caller/Cuer Hall of Fame Nominee

CURRENT

Article IX, Section 5

The recipient must be nominated by the president of an affiliated district and supported by at least two presidents of affiliated clubs (or representatives to the district if the club has no president) from the nominating district. The nominations close on August 1st and must be post-marked or e-mailed by August 1st. No nominations will be held over to the following year.

PROPOSED

The recipient must be nominated by the president of an affiliated district and supported by at least two presidents of affiliated clubs (or representatives to the district if the club has no president) from the nominating district. The nominations close on July 1st and must be post-marked or e-mailed by July 1st. No nominations will be held over to the following year.

President Hall called for the vote. Vote was to approve.

President Hall asked for volunteers to research the cost of two handheld mics that would be compatible with our sound system for use by those attending the business meetings of the Missouri Federation of Square and Round Dance Club to make it easier for everyone around the room to hear what is being said; use of these would especially make it easier for those who are attending via Zoom.

Tony Ahart volunteered to do that and Fred Goucher will also be asked if he would do that as well.

Dave Shafer shared he would like to see us get back to promoting the various programs the Federation has to offer to the clubs and members (such as Travel Missouri, Toot Your Horn, license plates, etc.) at our State Festival.

Calendar of Events

Feb 11	Doin's Dance
April 20	Northeast District Dance
May 4	St. Louis Jamboree
May 18	Southwest District Dance

The next state board meeting will be January 21, 2024 in Springfield, Missouri. Southwest District will host.

Tony Ahart made the motion to adjourn; motion was seconded and carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Rooks
Secretary