



Live Lively – Square Dance!

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

(Approved as Corrected April 21, 2024)

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

Minutes of January 14, 2024

President Merle Hall called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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). Also in attendance, were 2 alternate delegates, the Travel Missouri Coordinator, 2 additional Past Presidents, and 2 visitors for a total of 27.

Approval of Minutes: A draft of the minutes of the October 15, 2023 meeting were made available to all prior to the meeting and corrections submitted. President Hall asked if there were any additional corrections or additions to the minutes.

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

Treasurer's Report: Rosa Davis reported a beginning checking balance as of September 27, 2023 \$7,843.82, Revenue \$ 5,692.11 and Expenses \$1,844.95. The ending checking account balance as of December 31, 2023 \$11,690.98. Total CDs and interest amounted to \$31,258.35 for Total Funds on hand of \$42,949.33 The Treasurer's report will be submitted for audit.

Membership and Club Longevity: Rosa Davis reported we currently have 39 clubs.

There are no Longevity awards to be presented for this quarter.

Correspondence: Liz Rooks reporting. Get Well card to Rich Kilzer; Sympathy cards to Dan Reedy on the death of his wife, Donna Farney. and Crispin Lee and Celeste Webster, son and daughter of Micky Lee; and a Thinking of You to John & Bev Stuart have been sent since the October meeting.

Penny Byers shared Larry Crisel had open heart surgery (quadruple bypass) during the Christmas weekend and is getting along well. She asked for a card to be sent to the Crisels; that will be done.

Liz read a Thank you note from Dan Reedy.

Cathy Hall shared John Stuart had surgery for insertion of a shunt from his brain on January 11, 2024.

Boundaries and Relations: Dave Byers reporting. No report.

Constitution and Bylaws: Cathy Hall. No report.

Publications: President Hall announced Chris Shoemaker has accepted the chairman's position of the Publications Committee.

DOIN'S Editor Edythe Weber reporting: Thank you to the dancers who write the articles for their clubs for each issue. Their job is very important to getting the word out about their club dances; AND thanks for being on time! One small thing, in the coming year, I am going to pay closer attention to the word count: 150-200 words; no more.

If you have a new person writing the article 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.

Schedules for 2024 have been received for all clubs but 3. Edythe will be contacting those clubs.

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

Edythe thanked Dave Shafer for 24 years of dedication to the Doin's. Edythe is sure he will train Crystle Swager, the new Doin's Advertising Manager, well and will be there to make this transition go smoothly.

DOIN'S Circulation Penny Byers reporting: Subscriptions for the DOIN'S this period were 213, exchange copies 1, and 15 for staff, historian and post office for a total mailing of 229. There were 78 electronic subscriptions, 39 renewals, 14 new subscriptions and 22 student copies. We will be sending out 57 postcards to subscribers whose subscriptions expire with the January to March 2024 issue.

Financial report October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023: The balance brought forward was \$100 with a total income of \$1,393.00 from personal and club subscriptions, Doin's Dance and a donation; Doin's Dance expenses of \$49.38. A check for \$1,343.62 was given to the Federation. The ending balance is \$100.00.

Missouri Festival Doin's Dance: 13 callers and 88 dancers. Donations of \$593.

During the weekend, there were 11 renewals and 4 new subscriptions (included in the above report).

DOIN's Advertising: Dave Shafer reporting. We had a balance brought forward of \$100.00. Revenue from DOIN'S ads and caller/cuer listings \$1,163.00 and there were no expenses for this period. A check was given to the Federation for \$1,163.00 leaving a balance of \$100.00. A check also given to Crystle Swager, new Advertising Manager, of \$100.00 to close the current account and allowing her to open a new one.

Promotions Fred & Carolyn Goucher: Reports for Let's Toot Our Horn are to be sent to the Promotions Chairman as soon as the project is completed (no later than February 1 of the year following) within the guidelines of January 1 through December 31 of the current year.

Go to: [SquareDanceMissouri.com](https://SquareDanceMissouri.com/forms/Promotions/let's%20toot%20our%20horn) to forms/Promotions/let's toot our horn application or www.Toot.SquareDanceMissouri.com.

We have three clubs that have sent their information so far. Send them on.

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

State Festival Site Screening: Dave Shafer: The Site Screening Committee met on November 10, 2023 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri for the purpose of screening the Osage Center and the Drury Conference Center as prospective venues in which to conduct the 2025 State Festival.

Present were Dave Shafer, 1st Vice President, Chairman and committee members Cathy Hall, 2nd Vice President, and Catherine McLemore. Members of Southeast District present: Robert and Shirley Turner, Nanie Hawkins, and Sharon and Larry Crisel.

Dave gave an overview of their survey (his full report was made available to board members prior to this meeting for their review).

The committee felt both sites would be acceptable for the state festival. It was the committee's recommendation the Southeast District be given the option to decide which of the two facilities they wish to use.

Insurance Coordinator Edythe Weber reporting: 824 dancers are insured through Missouri Federation with 137 dancers insured through other federations for a total of 961 Missouri dancers in 39 clubs.

- *Thank you to the club insurance people who continue to enroll dancers for your club. Thanks for your hard work. Getting clubs enrolled in a timely manner ensures you get your certificates back in a timely manner.*

- **The 2024 Insurance premium is \$5.50 per dancer.** This premium covers members that join your club that do not have insurance anywhere else. There is no pro-rating insurance premiums.
- Do not make checks out to “Edythe Weber”, make them out to “Missouri Insurance”.
- Important: If you need to communicate with me about insurance, PLEASE use the Missouri Federation Insurance email at moinurance@kc.rr.com. Do not send insurance info or email questions to the Doin’s email address. It just delays communication.
- Please contact me first to get answers about insurance before going around me to Elizabeth Sanders, the USDA coordinator. If I don’t know the answer, I will contact her. 95% of the time it’s a quick answer.
- You should never delete a dancer from your roster after initial enrollment, even if they move or pass away.
- 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 October 1, 2023, \$749.51; total income of \$4,821.75 and expenses of \$5,371.85 leaves an ending balance on December 31, 2023, of \$199.41.

All of the clubs who met the qualifications for rebates will be receiving their checks. Rosa has sent the checks to the district presidents for distribution to the receiving clubs.

Travel Missouri Debbie Moffitt reporting: Received \$24.68 from Jim Marron to be used towards the purchase of supplies.

She has received \$176.00 for a total of \$200.68 on hand to order badges to supplement the ones she already has to have the 22 she needs to distribute

She asked she be allowed to open a checking account so she can appropriately track money coming in and going out.

Blue Bird Coordinator: Penny Byers reporting: No report

Webmaster: Dan Wheeler reporting:

1. The Missouri Federation website had almost 25,000 hits during 2023.

2. I am still missing 2024 schedules for several clubs. Dance cancellations need to be turned in as soon as possible and early enough for people to see them.
3. Promotions information need to have easy website addresses for people to use. There is a list of many of these already on the website. Contact me for help finding those or in creating one for your use – promotions, whatever.
4. When you send files to others, it is important that you know that the receiver can actually open the file. You should know that EVERY file you write, no matter what kind of computer or tablet you use, is being written in some program. As a general rule, every computer or tablet can open MS Office files. They either have Office, Open Office, or can download Open Office Free. Macintosh computers have some programs that save their files in a format that only Macs can open. The good part is that those programs can open Office files and can save their files as Office files.
5. When you send pictures for the website, your phone or E-Mail program will give you the opportunity make the E-Mail smaller. It may or may not say something about reducing the resolution of the pictures. Even if it doesn't tell you that it's reducing the resolution if you accept that option, that's what it means. Please don't do it. When you allow that, every picture has to be edited. Even when I edit them, they will still be fuzzy. I can't put back what you have allowed to be removed.
6. When you are taking pictures with your phone, your pictures will almost always be better if you will take your pictures in "Landscape" mode. That means holding your phone horizontal. When you look at pictures taken in the "Portrait" mode (holding your phone vertical), you will notice the pictures have a lot of empty sky above and a lot of empty ground below what you are taking a picture of.
7. In the last couple of years, I have uploaded several hundred pictures to the website. Unfortunately, most of the pictures are of dances in the Northwest District. I would like to receive pictures from other districts. I also upload videos when I get them. If you have any questions about how to get your pictures on the website, ask me. There are currently several thousand pictures on the website going back over 25 years.
8. He shared information regarding website addresses and having them easy for people to use. If you need help setting one up, contact Dan.

Historian: Dan Wheeler reporting: No report.

License Plate Catherine McLemore reporting: There has been no activity since the last report. The checking account balance remains at \$100.00. The account is being submitted for audit.

Waiting for others to place their order.

USDA: Edythe Weber reporting: The winter meeting will be in Deltona, Florida, January 18-21, 2024. We are attending 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! This will be an emotional meeting, as we have lost one of our most important people on the Executive Committee, Patty Wilcox, on December 28th. Patty was beside founder, Jim Maczko, for 31 years working with USDA. We are also saddened by the death of Donna Varney, Dan Reedy's wife; Dan has worked with USDA the past 4 years.

Remember, the USDA Youth Scholarship application for high school seniors and college freshmen deadline is February 1. They should be dancers, so if you know someone, remind them about the February 1st deadline. The application is 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 reporting: The 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: Lee Gavitt, Southwest District president: Five districts were represented.

Carol Hershey was selected as chairman of the Square Dancer of the Year Committee. Nominations are due August 1.

Southwest District had one club in Arkansas that did not renew their membership.

The Doin's Dance hosted by the Southwest District is February 11; would like to see more dancers from across the state attend. Their district dance will be May 18 in Mt. Vernon with a Hawaiian luau theme. Kenton Sullivan's club in Nixa is having lessons.

Northwest District has 5 clubs doing lessons; interest seems to be picking up. Two upcoming special dances: February 24 Blast Day Dance and August 10 District Dance.

Northeast District has some students who will be graduating soon. Upcoming dances: March 16 Western Round-up Dance, April 20 District Dance, June 1 Special Dance with Dan Preedy, July 19-21 Hillbilly Dance (Beaux & Belles Campout), and September 13-15 Route 36 Dance.

St. Louis District: May 4 Jamboree/District Dance.

Central: Only three clubs; having trouble getting activities going.

Youth and Children's: Connie Graham reporting: No report.

Mo Fed Scholarship Bob & Shirley Turner reporting by written report: Scholarship is up and running. The due date is April 1, 2024.

Edythe Weber asked for clarification of the April 1st due date as in the past it has been March 1 and the form on the website has March 1.

Bob will be contacted for clarification.

2023 State Festival Carol Hershey reporting: Overall, the 2023 Missouri State Festival was a success. The Festival Committee had 34 Committee Chairmen who coordinated between the Festival Committee and the individual Committees. There was a lot of collaboration between the groups; I feel because of all the input and discussion it gave us a successful 2023 Missouri State Festival.

The Venue chosen, Missouri State Fairgrounds had a beautiful hall, but the classroom is too small. It is difficult to schedule dances there as it is limited to the small occupancy. The Festival Chairman looked at buildings on the Fairgrounds that would be close enough together so dancers could gain more room, but there is nothing available on the grounds.

The T-Shirt Committee ordered t-shirts printed on the back and the company printed the shirts on the wrong side, the front. We had ordered 200 on the back. They were going to redo them for us, and the Festival Committee and T-Shirt Committee discussed it and decided to take 100 with the front side and order 100 on the back. That way the company would not lose so much. We ended up with 31 T-Shirts when the festival was over. The T-Shirt company asked us if we could use the 100 shirts they had, we told them we were donating our 31 shirts to the Veterans' Homes in Cameron and Warrensburg. The company gave us the 100 shirts to go with ours.

One problem festivals are challenged with is the callers/cuers who want to call, need to fill out a profile indicating the level and type of dance they call. A caller/cuer did not fill out the profile, but showed up, we were able to fix the situation. If District Presidents would check with their callers/cuers to make sure they have the profile in, it would help with the dance scheduling. Also, the caller/cuer was given 10 minutes on the floor, this seemed to be plenty of time. On the other hand, there are callers/cuers who want more times on the floor. We must remember there are 19 callers and 4 cuers that must perform in one evening and a day. That gives each the opportunity to show their stuff 3 times.

Selling ice cream bars at the evening dance was tried and was successful. Another new thing was the projector showing a PowerPoint presentation with the dance schedule and ads. We heard good things about it, and it may have helped keep the schedule on time.

The Dinner Committee served the Caller/Cuer Luncheon for 58 people. And the Saturday evening meal was 147, giving us a profit of \$1,350.18.

As Festival Chairman, I am so proud to be part of the Northwest District. The support given to the 2023 Missouri State Festival by the entire District was outstanding. The whole District worked hard, and we HAVE VOLUNTEERS. In mail is a check to Rosa for \$8,379.27

2024 State Festival: Cathy Hall reporting: To date 121 paid registrations and 24 complimentary (callers plus partners and past presidents). 50 rooms (\$107 + tax) were blocked at the Hampton Inn and 15 are currently available.

One hundred T-shirts were ordered initially with 73 sold so far. More were ordered and all sizes are currently available. Polos were available by request. Due to the number wanted, it was cost effective to make a special order so there are currently 4 available. Contact Cathy Hall if interested in one of those. There are an additional 11 polos available that have a color bleed problem that makes the printing look more lavender than white. Again, contact Cathy Hall if you would be interested in one of those.

Shirts will be available for purchase at the April meeting. If there is a group of people in your club or area that would like to purchase shirts ahead of time, you can do that and have them mailed to you.

We think the shirts are classy and can be worn into the future.

Thanks to Dave Byers for securing a \$3,000 grant in support of the festival from the Wallace Foundation.

Tom Murray will be scheduling the callers and cuers. The caller profile/registration form is available online. Be sure and get it, complete it, and turn it in so you can call or cue at the festival.

A tri-fold board to promote the festival is available for each district to use at dances. Ads, on a reciprocal basis, have been placed in program books for other state conventions. A lot of flyers have been distributed and they are available on the website for printing to use at local and district dances, etc. The flyer is also on some Facebooks but don't hesitate to add it to others you have access to; the more, the better.

There are no vendors currently committed to being at this year's festival; the engraver is considering coming. Please let Cathy Hall know of anyone you think might be

interested in coming this year. There will also be a “previously loved” dance clothing area overseen by Art Kruse.

There will be a silent auction.

A chairperson is needed for the raffle. One raffle will be for \$150. Please be on the lookout for potentially nice items that would be good for a raffle.

Other positions in need of a chairperson: emcees, photographer, and silent auction. Areas where volunteers are needed to help: raffles, shirt table, set-up and tear down. Cathy Hall is the contact person.

There will not be a catered dinner, but snacks, pre-packaged sandwiches, and ice cream will be available. If you know of someone who might be interested in doing this, let Cathy know.

Cathy and Bob are going to try to get to dances across the state to promote the festival and the shirts.

2025 State Festival Bob & Shirley Turner reporting: No report.

Special Funds Committee Art Kruse reporting: At the October 2023 Board of Directors meeting, Article XXI of the Standing Rules was approved to designate how the \$5,000 received from the 42nd National Square Dance Convention® was to be dispersed.

Part of the funds are to be used to establish a \$500 Caller/Cuer scholarship. In order to announce this scholarship, a half-page ad was submitted to the Doin’s. Encourage new callers and cuers about this scholarship opportunity.

Thank you to the Doin’s staff for placing this ad on the inside front cover of the January/February/March 2024 issue.

Dave Shafer thanked everyone over the past 24 years for all the help and support he has received as the Doin’s Advertising Manager.

Unfinished Business:

Tony reported on what he had found regarding wireless microphones that would work with our sound system. He found three that would be appropriate in the price range of \$160 to \$200; this would be for two hand-held mics. He had e-mailed the specifics to Merle. Merle will have the information available for the April meeting.

New Business:

2024 Budget: The proposed budget for 2024 was a part of Rosa's treasurer's report. In referencing the budget, she stated the amount shown as coming in from the 2023 Festival and the amount going out would actually be different; but in the long run, the Federation would come out ahead. The question was asked if that amount included the \$2,500 advance that had been paid out earlier. Rosa reported it had already been paid back.

She mentioned the question had come up if we should breakout the cost of the Zoom subscription into its own line item instead of being included in the Music, Dues, and Licenses line item.

Rosa mentioned another area of concern to her is that nothing is included for Member Services; and at a time when some clubs are closing due to lack of funds, we should be considering how we can assist them.

Art Kruse reminded the group at the October meeting the Special Funds Committee Standing Rule proposal included allotting \$750.00 to Member Services for a 4-year period of time to help the committee be able to assist in this way. This \$750.00 should be added as a line item on the budget for Member Services as the \$500 for the Caller-Cuer Scholarship.

Rosa asked for clarification if the \$500 Coleman-Campbell Scholarship received last year was to for the Missouri Federation Scholarship or if it was a separate scholarship. Representatives from the Northwest District confirmed the money was to help fund the Missouri Federation Scholarship.

Rosa asked for clarification regarding the guidelines for Insurance Rebate in relation to a couple of clubs who did not have insurance through another state or club but had insurance through CALLERLAB. After discussion, it was concluded CALLERLAB insurance does not cover regular club dances; it only covers a caller sponsored dance.

It was felt this area of the Standing Rules needs clarification and it was referred to the Standing Rules Committee for attention.

Rosa made the following motion: To accept the proposed 2024 budget with the following modifications: add \$500 for Caller-Cuer Scholarship, \$750 for Member Services, \$150 Zoom subscription, and adjust the club insurance rebate for clubs whose members pay for insurance. Motion was seconded and passed.

Merle addressed the 2024 Committees and asked if the folks on these committees were willing to stay in place. There were a few who declined so replacements were asked for.

Cathy Hall made a motion to give Debbie Moffitt, Travel Missouri Coordinator, permission to open a checking account for her use as the Travel Missouri program coordinator with Pat Auriene as a signer also; motion was seconded and passed.

Dave Shafer made a motion to give Crystle Swager, the advertising manager, for the Doin's permission to open a checking account for use as the Doin's Advertising Manager; motion was seconded and passed.

Penny Byers shared a proposal from the Show-Me Doin's Staff to promote subscriptions to the Doin's Magazine (The text of this proposal is at the end of the minutes).

Suggestions were offered of some alternative types of incentives for their consideration.

Debbie Moffitt asked how to update information on the website. Dan Wheeler explained that any committee who finds information on the website that needs updating needs to send him the updated information. This also applies to any other information someone sees that is not correct; let Dan know so he can check it out.

Merle Hall and Tony Ahart reported on a Missouri Dance Organization Zoom meeting they had attended. They stated at this point, the organization did not have a strong idea of what their purpose was or what they were hoping to achieve. They did not feel it would be beneficial for the Missouri Federation to offer assistance or work with them at this time.

Merle Hall shared information from the Missouri Alliance for the Arts in Education regarding a Power of Dance workshop March 2, 2024 in Jefferson City. He felt it would be worthwhile for the Federation to have a square of dancers present to do a demo as well as have a table or tables set up with information regarding the benefits of square dancing and other forms of dance. The time is 10 to 2 on March 2. He asked for anyone wishing to volunteer to get in touch with him. This is an effort to get dance back in the physical education curriculum for schools.

Merle thanked the Southwest District for the work the district did preparing for this meeting only to have it cancelled. Catherine McLemore shared the library called her Saturday afternoon to let her know the heat was out and the library would be closed for the weekend.

Calendar of Events

Feb. 11	Southwest District Doin's Dance, the MARC Mt. Vernon
Feb. 24	Northwest District Blast Dance
Mar. 2	Little Dixie Squares Soup & Chili Dance
Mar. 9	Beaux & Belles Baked Potato Bar Dance
Mar. 16	Tanglefoot Squares Hog Roast & Dance
Apr. 20	Northeast District Dance, Brookfield

May 4 St. Louis Jamboree/District Dance with Mike Hogan
May 18 Southwest District Dance, Hawaiian Luau, the MARC Mt. Vernon
June 1 Dance with Dan Preedy, Brookfield, Peppy Prom. & Tanglefoot Squares
July 19-21 Beaux & Belles Campout, Hillbilly theme, Macon
Sep.13-15 Route 36 Dance, Peppy Promenaders & Tanglefoot Squares
The next state board meeting will be April 14, 2024; location to be determined by the Northeast District who will host the meeting.

A motion was made by Catherine McLemore to adjourn; was seconded and carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Rooks
Secretary

From The Show-Me Doin's Staff
RE: Promotion Proposal

As members of the Doin's Staff, we are always thinking of ways to boost subscriptions and ads. This particular proposal is to try and help boost subscriptions.

Part 1: We would like to get all clubs on board with the 100% club membership to the Doin's by offering a \$100 drawing. All clubs that have 100% membership participation, not only get a dangle for their banner, but will have their club name put in a drawing for a \$100 cash prize at the Doin's Dance the weekend of the State Festival. All clubs would have to select a contact person who would be responsible for sending their membership list by Sept 1 (prior to the State Festival) to Penny Byers, Circulation Manager, if they think they have 100% participation (1 subscription per household/family or partners). That way she would have time to look over all the lists.

Part 2: We want to get the members involved as well. We would like to encourage Mo Fed members to become a Show-Me Doin's Ambassador. We would encourage them to take subscription forms with them to dances and write "Referred by (their name) at the bottom of the form. We would give out a Show-Me Doin's Ambassador bar and dangle, then you could earn a dangle each year after:

Red – for one or two subscription
Blue – for three subscriptions
Silver – for four subscriptions
Gold – for five or more subscriptions

(We may have to explain a little better on Part 2)

Or we can do a prize drawing of some sort if you think that would be better. They can get their name in the drawing once for every subscription they get. (this is an idea if we don't want to keep up with dangles every year)

Respectively submitted by
Dave Shafer, Penny Byers & Crystle Swager