

**2023-24 ASRDA
Officers**



**Brooke Peters,
President**



**Tricia Morley
& Dennis Artz,
Vice-Presidents**



**Cheryl & Chuck
Sherman,
Secretaries**



**Shirley & Steven
O'Neal,
Treasurers**



President's Message

I was honored to be asked to be the guest speaker at Sundancer's graduation in Georgetown on Monday, January 22nd. The "4 Candles" Ceremony was used to welcome them into the square dance family and then I talked about ASRDA. Sundancers Square Dance Club has been working really hard over the past year to find ways their club can become a member of ASRDA. Hopefully, when the Sun City Board meets on February 8th, the club will get final approval from them to join us. Then at the next ASRDA meeting on April 13th, Sundancers will formally request to join ASRDA. If the delegates approve the request, they will become a member of ASRDA.

I am really looking forward to our Hawaiian Mid-Tex Festival this year. We have some amazing decorations planned along with a fantastic line-up of workshops on Saturday afternoon. Our caller, Dan Sahlstrom will be offering Mainstream, Plus, and A2 workshops along with DBD and hexagon square (hex square) workshops. The hex square workshop will be at the mainstream level so everyone can participate. If you have never tried hex squares, dancing at even the mainstream level is challenging so please give it a try.

Chris and Steve Davis, our cuers for the weekend, have three round dance workshops scheduled – Phases 2 - 3, Phases 3-4, and Phases 4-5. There will be an hour of A2 dancing before pre-rounds on Saturday evening. ASRDA will be providing prepackaged snacks and water. Any dancer wishing to bring a finger food such as brownies, cookies, etc. is welcome to do so. Come dressed in your

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finest Hawaiian garb or just like a tourist in Hawaii. Please preregister for this event! **You will save \$10 by preregistering for the entire weekend.** The flyer is available online at asrda.org/events and on page 13 of this newsletter.

Over the next few weeks, we have at least three clubs graduating mainstream students. Wow! This is wonderful! Please encourage your new dancers to dance at other clubs and at weekend dances by offering to carpool with them. Also encourage them to go to our website: asrda.org and click on ***New Dancer Information***. They may also want to know that our Facebook page is *Austin Square and Round Dance Association*. We were all new dancers once and being asked to other dances made us really feel like part of the dance community.

I'll see you on the dance floor!

Brooke Peters

President, ASRDA



Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century

Happy Valentine's Day

By Tom Bohmfalk



As you know, Shirts and Skirts will be celebrating Valentine's Day with its annual "Death By Chocolate" dance on February 14th. We hope many of you can attend. I wondered why chocolate was associated with Valentine's Day.

And where did chocolate come from, anyway? It turns out that chocolate (originally known by the Aztec word "xocoatl" was originally a bitter drink brewed from cacao beans. The Latin name for the cacao tree, *Theobroma cacao*, means "food of the gods."

The origin of chocolate stretches back three or even four millennia to pre-Columbian cultures such as the Olmec. Chocolate was cherished from the start. For several centuries cacao beans were considered valuable enough to use as currency. One bean could be traded for a tamale while 100 beans could purchase a good turkey hen, according to a 16th-century Aztec document. Both the Mayans and Aztecs believed the cacao bean had magical, or even divine, properties, suitable for use in the most sacred rituals of birth, marriage and death.

Sweetened chocolate didn't appear until Europeans discovered the Americas and sampled the native cuisine. By the 17th century, chocolate was a fashionable drink throughout Europe, believed to have nutritious and medical properties. In 1828, a Dutch chemist found a way to make powdered chocolate. His product became known as "Dutch cocoa," and it soon led to the creation of solid chocolate. The creation of the first modern chocolate bar is credited to Joseph Fry, who in 1847 discovered that he could make a moldable chocolate paste by adding melted cacao butter back into Dutch cocoa.

By 1868, a little company called Cadbury was marketing boxes of chocolate candies in England. It was only in 1861 that an inspired candy-maker named Richard Cadbury thought to sell chocolates for Valentine's Day. He packaged them in heart-shaped boxes decorated with rosebuds and Cupids, which were already popular symbols of romance among the Victorians. Thus, a new Valentine's Day tradition was born. Milk chocolate hit the market a few years later, pioneered by another name that may ring a bell—Nestle.

In America, chocolate was so valued during the Revolutionary War that it was included in soldiers' rations and used in lieu of wages. While most of us probably wouldn't settle for a chocolate paycheck these days, statistics show that the humble cacao bean is still a powerful economic force. Chocolate manufacturing is a more than 4-billion-dollar industry in the United States, and the average American eats at least half a pound of the stuff per month. Some of us may get that half a pound in at the Shirts and Skirts dance!

Forrest Gump had something to say about chocolates: “Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re going to get.” This infamous quote has made us think of the ways life is truly like a box of chocolates, and how we don’t always know what we’re going to get, and that’s perfectly okay. We could even apply these ideas to square and round dancing:

1. Life and dancing are made up of beautiful unpredictability. Like how Brad taught us in January a call that was popular years ago: Grand Colonel Spin.
2. Not every kind of chocolate is our type of chocolate. Sometimes in life we encounter a situation that may not be pleasant, but we must move forward with a positive mindset through it all. Learning “Relay the Deucey” and “Solitude City” come to mind!
3. Each individual chocolate is unique. Much like life and dancing, each day has a unique gift to offer, and we must embrace the beauty in the days that come.
4. Every chocolate is meant to be savored. Slow down and enjoy the beautiful experience that is life because each day is meant to be cherished and enjoyed to the absolute fullest.
5. Life (and dancing) is better when shared with someone. Chocolate and life are both best when you are surrounded by loved ones to enjoy all that life has to offer with companionship.

So may we grow to cherish even more the wonderful avocation that is square and round dancing. May we remember to thank our club and ASRDA officers, and callers and cuers and teachers and partners and “corners”. And may we give thanks to our heavenly Father for, we read in James chapter 1:17, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

Happy Valentine’s Day. We hope to see you at our “Death by Xocoatl”!

Tom and Helen



Highlights of the Delegates Meeting January 6, 2024

I. Old Business

- A. *TFSRD President's Dance Update* Brooke Peters or Tricia & Dennis
1. "Promenade to Friendship" is TFSRD's slogan for 2024 – 2025 so ASRDA's theme for Presidents' dance *will most likely* be "Circulate to Friendship."
 2. President's Dance weekend on October 4 & 5, 2024 in La Grange. Since ASRDA is hosting, please help set up, clean up or volunteer for other duties.
 3. The weekend will be a little different:
 - a. Experienced Texas State Caller Association (TSCA) callers will call on Friday evening.
 - b. During the day on Saturday, the "Newbie" callers will meet with the caller coach in an all-day workshop. Dancer volunteers are needed for the callers to practice.
 - c. Saturday evening, Darryl Lipscomb, the caller coach, will call the dance. Round dancing both nights will be cued by TSCA cuers. Each evening, one hour of pre-rounds will be offered as well as one round dance between tips.
- B. *Update on National Square Dance Convention in Waco* Brooke
1. Brooke brought Waco NSDC T-shirts to sell at the meeting. She will sell them as she visits each ASRDA club.
 2. Mike Goggin has volunteered to be the NSDC Education Committee's computer guy.
 3. Pre-Convention in Shreveport is March 14 – 16, 2024. The 75th NSDC Committee will meet and discuss the preconvention activities with the Shreveport committee, who will hold the 2025 NSDC.
- C. *Sundancers in Georgetown joining ASDA* Brooke Peters
Will be tabled until the April meeting.
- D. Friendship Badge Cards
Tony Burghart requested that names and addresses be added to the cards so that he will know who to mail the badges and gift cards.

II. New Business

- A. *Formation of Nominating Committee*
1. Based on the ASRDA Constitution, each club president is a member of the Nominating Committee.
 2. The president can delegate this duty to someone else in his/her club. If that is done, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee must be notified.
 3. If you choose to delegate your responsibility on the Nominating Committee, please notify the Nominating Committee Chairperson at the delegate meeting on the 6th.

4. Tricia Morley, Dennis Artz, and Brooke Peters will be Co-Chairs of the Committee. Please contact them when nominating candidates.
5. Open ASRDA Board positions include Vice President and Secretary.
 - a. Tricia Morley and Dennis Artz will run for President
 - b. Chuck and Cheryl Sherman will run for Treasurer
 - c. Any ASRDA member can run for an ASRDA office.

B. Open Appointed Officer Positions 2024-25. Brooke Peters

1. 2024-25 President usually selects the appointed officers. However, If you are interested in filling any appointed position, please let Tricia or Dennis know so that that person can begin working on July 1, 2024. See List on page 9.

C. ASRDA Tangible Property and Donated Square Dance Clothes

1. List of Tangible Property given to delegates
2. Delegates voted to rent Climate Controlled Storage at CubeSmart in Austin at 2525 S. IH-35 Frontage Road, Austin, TX. It is only 2.4 miles north (or 6 minutes) from Hyde Park Church. Square dance clothes will be stored in bins as they are currently.
3. Delegates suggested getting a combination lock that the ASRDA presidents will have the combination to. The president will give it to people who need to get items out of the storage unit. The combination will be changed monthly.
4. By doing so, all ASRDA items would be stored near our meeting site. If someone who was responsible for bringing certain items had to miss a meeting, another person could go by the storage unit and get what is needed
5. Delegates also approved getting a dolly and/or hand cart to move the items to and from the storage unit. The money for these items will come from Klothes Kloset money.
6. A 10' x 7.5 feet unit is \$45/month. Some delegates felt a 10' x 10' would be better.
7. Brooke will follow up on getting the storage unit.

D. Importance of supporting club special dances and ASRDA dances. Brooke Peters
Clubs and ASRDA special dances are used to earn money to pay for lessons, hall rental, and callers. A lot of work and time goes into these efforts. Please attend and share these dance opportunities with your club members and new dancers.

E. Lesson Reimbursement

Brooke Peters

Delegates discussed ways to reimburse clubs for lesson expenses. A draft proposal will be presented at the next meeting

F. List of Volunteer Opportunities at the local, state, and national levels. Brooke Peters
See List on page 9.

ASRDA's Role in Helping Clubs and Dancers

A. Communication:

1. Maintains a website promoting square and round dancing to the non-dancer. Practicing dancers are provided current information including a list of scheduled special dances and flyers, club information, ASRDA policies, photos, and more.
2. ASRDA maintains a Facebook page, *Austin Square and Round Dance Association*, on which all ASRDA clubs may post pictures and flyers.
3. Publishes a monthly newsletter, *Round the Capitol Square*, which shares information about ASRDA and Club News, delivered electronically as well as being posted on the ASRDA.org.
4. Provides a calendar for all clubs to use when scheduling special dances; thus, preventing conflicts in scheduling special dances.
5. Encourages ASRDA clubs to announce and hand out flyers of ASRDA meetings.

B. Activities

6. Hosts three dances each year. Incoming officers are sworn in at The Installation Dance; The Teen Scholarship Dance, a fundraiser for the TSFSRD Teen Scholarship Program; and the two-day Mid-Tex Festival, ASRDA's largest dance as well as the oldest continuing festival in Texas.

C. Awards

7. Provides a \$200 stipend to clubs to assist in the promotion and advertising beginner lessons.
8. Promotes visitation between clubs by sponsoring:
 - a. *The Friendship Badge Program*, in which individuals can win prizes by visiting a specific number of clubs.
 - b. *The Club Visitation Contest* in which ASRDA Clubs compete for a \$200 award. The club, who has the most dancers, *visiting other clubs* from July, 2023 through the end of April 30, 2024 wins the prize money. In 2024-2025, the time frame changes from May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025.
 - c.

D. Protection/Insurance

9. Provides dancer and association membership to Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers, the state organization.
 - a. As part of this membership, each dancer receives insurance for **\$10.00 per person per year**.

- b. The insurance, a secondary policy, will pay after the dancer’s primary policy pays whenever a dancer is injured on the way to, at the dance, or on the way home.
- c. Clubs are provided, at no extra cost, a \$1,000,000.00 liability policy when hosting special dances.

E. Supports ASRDA Clubs

1. The Association Officers promote club activities and dances through visiting clubs, attending special dances, delivering and sharing flyers for upcoming special dances.
2. Provides, at the club’s request, educational and informational materials such as *Learn to Dance* cards, sign-in sheets, brochures, posters, business cards and graduation diplomas.
3. If requested, the ASRDA Executive Board will install club officers and/or conduct a graduation ceremony.
4. Serves as liaison to the Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers (TSFSRD) by sending three delegates to State meetings. In turn, they inform clubs of statewide activities, such as the Annual State Festival.

Volunteers Needed



ASRDA needs your help. To accomplish the above goals, *please consider filling a vacant 2024-2025 positions to continue these positive accomplishments.*

2024-25 ASRDA Vacant positions include:

Vice-President	Texas Star Reporter	Tx State Festival – Round
Secretary	ASRDA Photographer	Dance Rooms
Appointed Officers	Hospitality Chair	2026 National Convention in
Education Chair	Ambassador-at-Large (South)	Waco
Publicity Chair	Mid-Tex Committee 2025	

To understand the duties of each position, please see asrda.org/info and then locate the duties of each officer listed below the position or contact kbookepeters@gmail.com or morleyprop@gmail.com.

Help Your Club Win the “Visitation Award”

The \$200.00 “Visitation Award” will be given out at Mid-Tex again this year. ***The award is given to the club that had the most people visiting other clubs in groups of four or more from July 1st, 2023 to April 30th, 2024.***

In 2025 the dates for earning the Visitation Certificate begins on May 30, 2024 and continues to April 30, 2025. This gives dancers an additional 3 months to go visiting other clubs.

Each time four or more people from one club visit another ASRDA club, they should receive a visitation certificate from the visited club, which documents the names of the dancers.

On May 1st, each club president or designee sends the visitation certificates to Bailey Sutherland (Country Cuzzins). He is in charge of the Visitation Award Program and is the one who tabulates the results.

Mid-Tex is three months away. You and 3 others still have time to visit other clubs and collect quite a few visitation certificates. Grab some club dancers and get out there and visit!



Should ASRDA Clubs Be Reimbursed for Lesson’s Cost?

At the last ASRDA delegate meeting, the delegates discussed the possibility of reimbursing clubs for lessons. Clubs can already receive reimbursement of up to \$250 from Texas State Callers Association once every two years if they meet certain criteria and fill out the simple paperwork.

ASRDA is in favor of providing some sort of reimbursement for clubs, but the criteria for this reimbursement need to be determined. There were multiple, and sometimes conflicting, suggestions over what the criteria should be.

The decision was made for delegates who would like to provide input on in this topic to contact Brooke Peters at kbrookepeters@gmail.com. She will be writing the draft proposal for Lesson Reimbursement to be presented at the next ASRDA meeting on April 13th, 2024.

TFSRD Membership Dues and Insurance Increasing in 2024

Membership dues which include dancer insurance are being increased from \$5/dancer to \$10/dancer beginning July 1st 2024. This cost has not been increased since 2011. This decision was made at the Presidents' meeting on October 14th, 2023. Because the cost of insurance has increased, the Federation Delegates voted to increase the cost to \$10/ dancer. This increase should prevent TSFSRD from having to have another increase for quite a while.



News from the TFSRD 2024 Nominating Meeting

Medical Emergencies at Dances

1. TSFSRD has created an Incident Report to complete in the event a medical event or injury happens during a dance. It was created with the TSFSRD insurance advisor's guidance questions asked on this new form are those the insurance company will want to know to cover medical expenses. ASRDA has obtained permission to use this form at ASRDA and ASRDA club dances as necessary.
2. Lubbock Square and Round Dance Federation is working on a protocol outlining responsibilities of dancers in the event of a medical emergency at a dance. This will be shared with ASRDA, and delegates will vote on whether or not to use this protocol for our dances.

Recruiting Strategies of Houston Square and Round Dance Council

1. A group of dancers visited 55+ Communities (like Del Webb, Kissing Tree) every other week doing demos and getting people up to dance. Many of the community residents signed up for lessons.
2. A member of Houston SRDC joined the local Chamber of Commerce. This allowed her to get to know members of large and small businesses and have access to their employees for marketing square dancing. The Chamber of Commerce also included square dance demos in events they sponsored.

Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century

“Square Dancing Nation” on Instagram

1. Zoe Chu, one of the Federation Social Media officers, has created an Instagram account “Square Dancing Nation” to preserve the square-dancing legacy. Zoe is in her 20’s.
2. Vickie Merchant and Mike Goggin of ASRDA are working on setting up an Instagram account for ASRDA.

TFSRD invites NORTEX to join TSFSRD

1. TSFSRD delegates voted to extend an invitation to NORTEX to become “affiliate” members of the Federation. NORTEX would not pay dues, hold offices, or be required to come to Federation meetings. The invitation is intended to start mending the relationship between the two organizations.



Two-Ingredient Lemon Bars

Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees.

Mix a can of lemon pie filling and angel food dry cake mix. Pour mixture into a greased 9x13 baking pan. Bake until top is brown and splitting. It puffs up in the oven but falls as it cools. Cut into bars. Add powdered sugar on top.

Yummy!



15 Dancers will be “Riding the Rails to Milwaukee”



Train tickets have been purchased and 15 people from the Austin, San Antonio, and South Texas areas will be traveling to Milwaukee on June 24th, 2024. The travelers include Brooke Peters, Cherri Burrows, Devon and Isiah Williams, Donna Jones, Caroline Brewer, Grace Blaylock, Jenny Baker, Sherry Tolbert, Bethany Johnson, Tina Hopkins, Luther Kim, Deryll Wynne, Mary Ann Cruz, and Deborah Mills. Three of these folks are not yet square dancers but have registered for Nationals and are participating in contra and line dancing as well as doing tourist things in Milwaukee.



Mid Tex Hawaii 2024



Have you registered for 2024 MID-TEX. Why wait? **Save your spot in the square and save \$10.00!**

See page 13 of this newsletter for the Registration Form. Please fill it out and make checks payable to ASRDA. Mail to:
ASRDA, P.O. Box 1195, La Vernia, TX 78121.

We have signed contracts for both the Caller, **Tony Oxendine** and Round Dance Leaders, **Carolyn & Tony Ahart**, for **2025**. Nancy Owens has volunteered to be in charge of decorations and theme development for 2025. Next year's theme will be decided at the next Mid-Tex committee meeting on January 29th and announced in the March newsletter. Having the caller, cuers, and an individual in charge of the theme and decorations for the 2025 Mid-Tex Festival, the flyer for our 2025 Mid-Tex Festival will be and ready for distribution at our 2024 Festival.

If you are interested in serving on the Mid-Tex Committee, please contact “Ski” at roundsbyskis@juno.com. We still need volunteers for Hospitality, Lodging, Raffle, Brown Bag, and Chairman.

2024 Mid-Tex Schedule and Registration

LODGING: Our **HOST HOTEL** is Best Western Plus Georgetown Inn and Suites at 600 San Gabriel Village Blvd, Georgetown, TX 78626. Phone 512-868-8555. Price/room is \$120.00 + tax and fees. We have a block of rooms reserved. There are 30 rooms for May 10th & 11th – 15 kings & 15 with 2 beds. The last day for the \$120.00 + tax rate is **April 21, 2024** at 10 PM. Make your reservations online at https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.44689.html?groupId=5B6LR1V6 or call the hotel, tell them you are with the Mid-Tex Festival on 10 and 11 May 2024 and you will get the discounted rate.

OTHER HOTELS

Comfort Suites 11 Waters Edge Circle Georgetown, TX 78626 512-863-7544	Hampton Inn & Suites 160 River Oaks Cove Georgetown, TX 78626 512-688-5300
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RV CAMPING

JIM HOGG PARK 500 Jim Hogg Rd. Georgetown, TX 877-444-6777 www.recreation.gov	Berry Springs RV Park 131 Market Street Georgetown, TX 512-864-2724	New Life RV Park 1200 Co. Rd. 152 Georgetown, TX 512-931-2073
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SCHEDULE

Friday, May 10th, 2024

2:00 – 4:00 pm
 7:00 – 7:30 pm
 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Georgetown Community Center, 455 E. Morrow Street, Georgetown, TX

Trails End dance – Callers and Cuers present

Pre-Rounds

Square and Round Dance – M/S with tips 3 & 6 Plus. 2 Round Dance between each tip

Saturday, May 11th 2024

ROUND DANCE WORKSHOPS		SQUARE DANCE WORKSHOPS	
Christ Lutheran Church, 510 Luther Drive, Georgetown, TX		Georgetown Community Center, 455 E. Morrow Street	
9:30 – 11:30 am	Phase 2 - 3	9:30 – 10:30 am	A2
12:15 – 2:00 pm	Phase 3 - 4	10:30 – 12:00 pm	DBD
2:15 – 4:00 pm	Phase 4 - 5	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Plus
		2:00 – 3:00 pm	Intro to Hex Squares
		3:00 – 4:00 pm	Mainstream

Saturday, May 11th, 2024

6:00 – 7:00 pm
 7:00 – 7:30 pm
 7:30 – 10:00 pm

EVENING DANCE

Georgetown Community Center

A2

Pre-Rounds

Square and Round Dance M/S with tips 3 & 6 Plus. 2 Round Dance between each tip.

PRICES AND REGISTRATION

Advanced Ticket Sales for entire weekend (Includes Trails End Dance)	\$40.00 per person
Entire Weekend at the Door on Friday (Includes Trails End Dance)	\$45.00 per person
All Day Friday (Includes Trails End Dance)	\$20.00 per person
All Day Saturday (Includes all workshops and evening dance)	\$30.00 per person
Teens	Half Price

MID-TEX REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Your Home Club _____

Highest Level you Dance (Please circle all that apply)

Rounds: Phase 2 Phase 3 Phase 4 Phase 5
 Squares: Mainstream Plus A2

Please check the box that corresponds to the days for which you are registering.

\$40 per person for **ENTIRE WEEKEND** (including Trails End Dance)

Friday Trails End & Evening Dances (\$20 per person)

Saturday Workshops and Evening Dancing (\$30 per person)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to ASRDA and mail to: ASRDA, P.O. Box 1195, La Vernia, TX 78121 Contact Pres. Brooke Peters at (210) 392-5433 for more information. You can download this flyer at www.ASRDA.org. Pre-Registration is available through **April 30th, 2024**.

The last date to cancel for a full refund is **May 8th, 2024**. To cancel, please notify Shirley O'Neal at asrdatreasurer@gmail.com by **May 8th, 2024**.

Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century



Mid-Tex Festival Snacks

At a recent ASRDA delegate meeting, it was announced that ASRDA will be providing the pre-packaged snacks and water at Mid-Tex this year. This decision was made primarily because ASRDA wants to save the clubs some money.

HOWEVER, if any dancer would like to bring a finger food (that is something you can pick up with your fingers, eat off a napkin rather than a plate, without utensils, and does not require refrigeration), we highly encourage you to do so. Examples include, but are not limited to, cookies, brownies, homemade bread, etc.



Klothes Kloset and More Find a New Home!

ASRDA's square dance clothes, along with the majority of ASRDA's tangible property, have been moved to a climate-controlled 1st floor storage unit at Cube Smart, 10707 N. I-35 in North Austin. The location is about 10 minutes from Hyde Park Christian Church. This location was chosen and approved by ASRDA delegates because of its proximity to ASRDA meetings AND it is about equal distance from all the ASRDA clubs.

The storage unit is 7ft X 15ft and will contain, all the square dance clothes and racks, Mid-Tex banner, signs and other paraphernalia, decorations, the used sound system, flags, floor fans, a 4-wheeled dolly, and possibly the hospitality dishes. If any club would like to borrow decorations, the sound system, or set up the square dance clothes at a dance, an individual from that club will be given the codes to get into the storage unit to pick up what is needed. Items will be grouped according to their uses (i.e. Mid-Tex, clothes, hospitality, decorations, ASRDA meetings).

Nancy Owens, Wheel-N-Deals' VP and delegate, has graciously stepped up to be the person in charge of the storage unit and the person who a club should contact should they want to borrow items from the storage unit. Shirley Myers and Donna Jones, also from Wheel-N-Deals and Canyon Lake, will still be helping Nancy with the square dance clothes maintenance.

If a club wants or needs help in setting up the clothes at a dance, a volunteer from the club should contact Nancy to see if one or more individuals who know how to set up the racks is available. It will still be the club's responsibility to pick up and return the clothes to the storage unit.

Currently, money from the clothes donation will pay the rental fee for the storage unit. If dancers find the storage unit location awkward or inconvenient, it will be up to those individuals to provide an alternative plan. It is hoped that by having a central location, more clubs can take advantage of the clothes and decorations.



Pre-Register for the 75th National Square Dance Convention NOW!



If you would like to purchase a 75th National Square Dance Convention T-Shirt, let Brooke Peters or Ramona Padilla know. They come in several different colors.

Round neck regular sizes \$15.
V-neck \$18; 2XL & 3XL are \$18.
Hurry and get yours soon!

We are excited to report that we have 508 Registrations for the 2026 National Convention in Waco. Please use the registration sheet on page 18 to add to this number.

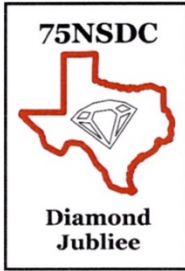
Claudia and Gary Lester and Ramona Padilla and Billy Grimsley went to Waco and secured 200 RV sites and cabins at WACO Camp FIMFO needed for the Waco Convention. (FIMFO=Fun is more fun outside). Final negotiations will be complete by May 2024.

We have also been soliciting donations from businesses in the Waco area. A business in West, Texas has offered to donate ready-to-serve food for the entertainment on Wednesday night. We are hoping to receive additional donations. Let us know if you can help in any way.

Billy and Ramona have concentrated their travels on visiting surrounding states such as Louisiana and Oklahoma encouraging their local dancers to attend the 2026 Convention. In the next few months, they will be visiting Houston, Port Lavaca, La Grange, Lubbock, Marshall, and Fort Worth. The Lesters attended the Florida Square and Round Dance Convention.

For the next 8 weeks, they will focus on attending the 2024 Pre-Convention for the 2025 Louisiana National Convention, which serves as an example for planning the 2025 Waco Pre-Convention. These pre-conventions are a "dry run" of what the real convention will be like.

Ramona and Billy, the Lesters, and John and Laura Alexander from Rockport are in negotiations with some awesome musical groups. Mums the word for now! Hopes are high for a tremendous slate of high energy music to dance and listen too!! As soon as contracts are signed, we will be putting out the word!!



**Pre – Registration
75th National Square Dance Convention®
Waco, Texas
June 24-27, 2026**



Registration # _____
Ribbons _____

**REGISTER ONLINE at www.75nsdcinc.com
This form expires on March 22, 2025**

Zelle® your registration fee to 75nsdc@gmail.com

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Partner's Last Name (if different): _____ First Name: _____
 Email Address (if different): _____
 Youth Names & DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Alt Number: (____) _____

Check if you want to opt out of email sharing. Email addresses shared only with the NEC for upcoming convention information

Pre-Registration Prices (US currency only)	\$60.00 each x _____ until 3/22/2025 = \$ _____
Youth born after June 27, 2009	\$30.00 each x _____ until 3/22/2025 = \$ _____
	Sub Total: \$ _____
Credit Card Processing Fee	\$3.00 _____ \$ _____
	Total Due: \$ _____

Cash Received \$ _____ Check # _____ (Payable to 75NSDC) Zelle
 Credit Card Type: _____ Credit Card #: _____
 Expiration Date: ____/____ Security Code: _____ Name of Cardholder: _____
 Statement Mailing Address (if different): _____
 Authorized Card Signature: _____

**If Registering by Mail: 75NSDC 9597 Jones Rd Ste #122 Houston, TX 77065
Or Email to: register.75nsdc@gmail.com**

PLEASE HELP US PLAN! Please CIRCLE all that apply

Dancers: SSD Only, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging, Handicapable, SOLO
 Leaders: Squares, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging. Education Presenter Topic: _____
 Arrive Early or Stay Late # Days _____? Stay at Convention Hotels, RV Camping or
 Other Accommodations? _____
 Group Name: _____ Do you need Block Rooms _____, Meeting Rooms _____ or Storage Space: _____
Room Blocks Expire September 15, 2025

\$10.00 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2026. **This form and registration rate is void after March 22, 2025.** Registration Long Forms will be mailed in January, 2025 for selection of hotel or RV park and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on March 22, 2025.

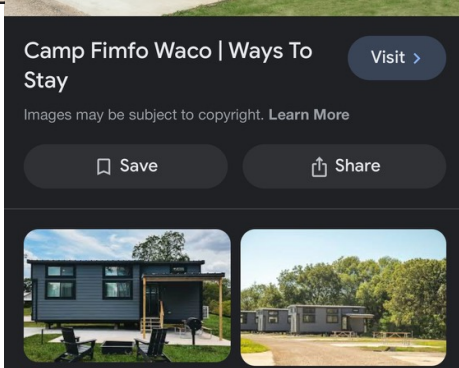
"Convention Badges Required for Entrance to all Convention Activities; Dressy Casual Attire allowed until 6:00 pm. Proper Dance Attire is Requested After 6:00 pm for all Dancers."

(Internal Use Only) Accepted by: _____ Date: _____
 Registration Location: _____ Receipt Sent: _____ Date Sent: _____

WE'RE GOING TO TEXAS Y'ALL!

**Hotel reservations may be made AFTER March 22, 2025!
Room blocks expire after September 15, 2025**

Photos from Camp FIMFO in Waco



ASRDA Website/Facebook Statistics

From Dec. 29, 2023 through January 27, 2024, www.asrda.org has had 608 Visits on Home Page (an increase of 149 from Nov. 2023) 226 have viewed Upcoming Events (an increase of 76 views). 125 readers have checked out the Newsletters, while 88 people have looked at Classes. 47 folks have examined New Dancer Info, while 13 checked out the HELP page. Please let new dancers know about our website.

Facebook Followers have increased to 639 (an increase of 36 (including 26 new followers). In the past month, 3,831 people have seen our posts and 977 have clicked or liked or shared! Thanks for SHARING and LIKING the ASRDA Facebook page.

Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century

Website Works

The articles in past ASRDA Newsletters assist our readers in using the ASRDA website.

- September** - Upcoming Events, Social Secretary's List and Classes were highlighted. If you want to add new dances to your personal calendar, please see *Upcoming Events*. The flyers for each dance are posted there.
- October** – How to use the Home page www.asrda.org
- November** – *New Dancer Information*. Encourage your new graduates to learn more about the culture of square dancing and information they might need to know as they advance through the Mainstream Program
- December** – *ASRDA Resources and Policies such as:* ASRDA Constitution & Bylaws; A list of Callers, Cuers & Line Leaders; Relationships between ASRDA Clubs, ASRDA, & TFSRD; Publicity Reimbursement; Teen Scholarship Program; and Policies on Firearms, Photography, Inappropriate Behavior and Covid Protocol.
- January** – *Links* – How can you access information from:
 - Texas Federation of Square and Round Dancers through Newsletters, Facebook and their website; 73 National Square Dance Convention in Milwaukee; Square Dancing Online Help (Videos or icons); Organizations for the Development, Promotion and Growth of Square and Round Dancing.



[New Dancer Info](#) [Home](#) [Classes](#) [Events](#) [Gallery](#) [Clubs](#) [Newsletters](#) [Who's Who](#)
[Resources](#) [About](#) [Links](#) [Contact](#) [HELP!](#)

The last page is **HELP!**

On that page, you will find directions on how to use each page of the website. Click on the one you want information about.



Did you know you can **SUBSCRIBE** to the **NEWSLETTER**? **YES**, you can. Click on *Newsletters*, then scroll down to the bottom of that page and fill in the blanks. The newsletter will come to your email in box! To locate the 2023 Newsletters, click on **Archive**.



For 2024 Newsletters, click on **Recent** and catch up on what you may have missed.

ASRDA Club News

Canyon Lake Square Dancers

By Wayne Weston



The Canyon Lake Square Dance Club welcomed **17 new dancers** to a Mainstream class at the Open House on January 17th. All have come back and are learning the calls quickly and dancing great. We hope to have them all dancing Mainstream in June. Before you know it, they will be out dancing at your clubs and special dances.

Canyon Lake Square Dancers are still dancing every Wednesday at Goofy's. It is great to have some of our travelers back. We have had some dancers fall (not at the dances) and are recovering from their injuries. We hope they will be back dancing with us soon.

Our Round dancers are progressing well and are having fun with Two-Step, Waltz, and are now learning Rumba. Our Round Dances classes meet at Goofy's on Mondays, most of the time from 2:45 to 4:45. If you would like to come, call Wayne to check to see if they are dancing because February and March dates are a little mixed up.

We dance every Wednesday, class 6:00 to 7:30, club 7:30 to 9:00. We have rounds or lines between tips and have a Plus tip for Tip #3.

Keep watching our Facebook group "Canyon Lake Dancers." We try to advertise all dances coming up and share pictures and videos of our club activities.

Come on out and visit us. We would love to see you and have you dance with us.



Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century



Before the regular dance on Monday nights, Dan McDonald, a Wheel-N-Deals dancer, and budding caller is offering a **FREE review** of Mainstream calls to new Students, current dancers and/or those who want to get back into square dancing.

You can join Dan and others on Monday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm at the VFW Hall in San Marcos at 1701 Hunter Road, which is before the Cen-Tex Plus Club dances.

If you would like to review Mainstream Calls, please contact Dan McDonald at 512-694-0654 or send a text to Bob Anderson at 512-426-8855.

For all PLUS dancers, dance with us on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00 pm. You never know what sequence his calls are in. Always a great time with Chet Miles.



Country Cuzzins'
Marble Falls, TX
By Jenny Saunders



Graduation

Country Cuzzins is excited to share that new Marble Falls dancers will graduate on February 8, 2024! We will celebrate the new dancers with dancing and goodies! Hope you can join us and welcome them into our square dance family.

Wildflower Dance

Tickets will be available starting February 1 for the **35th Annual Wildflower Dance** at the Boys & Girls Club at 1701 Broadway in Marble Falls being held on **April 20**. **Tim Tyl** will be calling and **Ron and Pat Plouch** will cue. For more information, please see the flyer posted on ASRDA.org/events.

Scrumptious appetizers and beverages will be available to dancers. A silent auction, and a Split the Pot drawing will be held.

Fliers and tickets will be available at Country Cuzzins dances on Thursday nights (6:45-8:45 p.m.) at First Methodist Church in Marble Falls or from Country Cuzzins members who will be visiting other clubs. You can also contact Terry Martin, club VP, at tjmartin227@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!



Some of our members attended the New Year's Dance with Camping Squares in Fredericksburg. Lookin' good, ya'll!



Shirts 'N Skirts

By Linda Davis

Currently, our club is in process of filling new board officer positions. Hubert and Lorraine O'Neal have filled our secretary's position for over 9 years, so they have defiantly earned the right to step down from this duty. Much appreciation to them and others that have served.

Our new mainstream student lessons will go through February with graduation in March. Brad has invited all students to stay the entire evening and practice to become better dancers. As we all know, floor time makes for a better dancer.

Our theme week dance is every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our last theme was "Trivia Night" lead by Mike Goggin and, of course, Brad always contributes as well. They came up with some good ones. An example the definition of a call was given, and we were to guess the name of the call or vice versa. Other questions related to the history of square dancing etc.

Coming soon (Wednesday February 14) is our annual *Death by Chocolate Dance*. You can enjoy rounds with Lucy and Jerry Pate, squares with Brad and lots of chocolate goodies. So come on out for a fun evening. Prerounds 6:30 to 7:00 with squares/rounds 7:00 to 9:30.

Every Wednesday evening, we are dancing at Christ Lutheran Church in Georgetown. 510 Luther Dr. Would love to have you join us.



Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century

Step 'N Style



Step 'N Style has a busy February. Please join us on February 4th from 2-5pm at the Sun City Atrium, 1 Texas Dr. in Georgetown for our monthly *Let's All Dance Together*, Phase II-V.

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9-10, the Houston Festival, Ph. IV-VI will be held in La Grange.

Friday and Saturday Feb. 23-24 will find us again in La Grange for the TRDTA with Ph II-IV.

Look for us on Facebook: Step 'N Style Rounds. FMI: call Tricia at 713/598-8875 or email at morleyprop@gmail.com.

Monday	Cypress Weekley Center	2:00-3:30 pm Waltz, Ph II-III, wkshp & figs. 3:30-5:00 pm Beg Slow Two Step, Ph III & IV, wkshp & figs
Wednesday	Bastrop Community Center	6:00-7:00 pm New SSD Square Dance Lessons 7:00-8:00 pm Mainstream Square Dance Lessons 8:00-9:00 pm Beg. Waltz, Ph II Round Dance Lessons
Sunday	Sun City Atrium, 1 Texas Dr. Georgetown	1: 00-2:30 pm Beg Waltz, Ph II wkshop & figures. 2:30-4:00 pm Beg Slow Two-Step Ph.III, wkshp & figs. 4:00-5:30 pm Advanced All Rhythms, wkshp & figs.



Waterloo Squares

By Sue Gillar

Wow!! We got through another holiday season with much happiness and laughter. While our graduation happened in December with Gary Bible bestowing the honors, we had some unfinished business. Gary Bible was our first caller on January 2, 2024 and he wanted to help us take care of that unfinished business.

Some of our students could not be at the ceremony in December. Others earned their candlelight and lifesaver danglers. Another date for a mini-graduation has been set as we will present diplomas in the proper setting. Everyone who wanted to earn these prestigious danglers were given the opportunity. As a result of graduation, we added two new members to our club roster.

We have a big February coming up with:

- Tim Tyl from White Oak, TX on February 6th.
- Ken Ritucci from Springfield, Ma, February 13th and
- then February 20, the “Cowboy”, Gary Sanders from Onalaska, TX.

You may want to “Save the Date” for May 21 when we will have Craig Abercrombie all the way from Portland, OR.

As you can see, we have a very busy schedule and are looking forward to having all these callers come to our area. We have not lost sight of the wonderful support of our local callers and how essential they are to our success.

Waterloos have made the decision to delay any new classes until a further date. As a small club, it has taken everyone participating in Angel-ing and we will appreciate the break.

Come and see what we are all about.

WHEEL-N-DEALS



SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

Wheel-N-Deals

By Don Rankin

We will celebrate the graduation of 7 students on Tuesday, February 6th. Our students have done very well in learning the calls. We expect all to join our club. They have earned their badges.

Please join us for Wheel-N-Deals' 53rd Anniversary dance is scheduled for March. Stay tuned for more information.



Have you ever had one of those days when everything has just gone wrong and when you get home from work you just can't seem to clear your mind of all the problems? There is an answer...Square Dancing. Yes; square dancing will clear your mind because you can't think about your problems because you have to listen to the caller and the music. Believe me, it REALLY works. After an evening of Square Dancing you'll leave with a clear mind. Best therapy I've ever seen. Go give it a try, you won't regret it

Moving Square Dancing into the 21st Century

Newsletter News

- What topics would **you** like included in the ASRDA newsletter that would make it more interesting to YOU?
 - What questions/suggestions do you have for any of the ASRDA officers?* These can be anonymous.
 - Do you have a favorite recipe to share?
 - What do you like about the newsletter? What don't you like?*

Please send me your suggestions, articles, photos, recipes, etc. as attachments to vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com

Please send your flyers for dances as soon as they are complete so they can be added to the ASRDA.org website under "Upcoming Events."



Hopefully, new students will *Like* and *Share* our Facebook page with their friends. Please tell them about it.

You can **subscribe** to **Round the Capitol Square!** Go to <http://www.asrda.org/newsletters> and scroll to the bottom of the page. Fill out the form and you will be subscribed or Download RCS for no charge.

Round The Capitol Square is the official publication of the Austin Square & Round Dance Association. There are eleven issues per year (no July issue).

All articles and flyers (8.5 x 11) must be received by the 15th of each month preceding the month of publication (i.e., 15th of August for publication in the September issue). When sending your articles in, please **attach** the **document (.docx)** to an email. Any photos should be sent as a **jpg file and as attachments to** vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to condense, rewrite, omit, or rearrange any items submitted.

Ad Cost: \$25 for non-ASRDA clubs per issue.