

Mason Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.

Delegates Meeting via Zoom

16 March 2025

Pledge: Carol called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and led the Pledge.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: The minutes were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. The delegates reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting, with a minor correction noted. Jackie Boggs motioned that the minutes be accepted with the requested changes; Maggie Ciotti second. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report was distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. Jackie Boggs moved to accept the reports, and Maggie Ciotti seconded the motion. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented and the motion passed.

Committee Reports- 60th Festival, July 17-19, 2025 – Ellen Linsenbardt and Jackie Boggs. Jackie reported. Finalize festival dance schedule by May. Make final decision on mainstream hall availability based on registration numbers by mid-April. Find a replacement for Virgil Forbes as Master of Ceremonies. Develop a contingency plan for Tom Millers absence. Send out the promotional dance schedule to MDSDF members. Send out sign up sheet for WASCA table staffing. Develop a solution for handling credit card payments at the WASCA registration desk. Email Jackie or Ellen with the number of students planning to attend and dance mainstream. Prepare and distribute student registration forms after WASCA festival.

Roll Call of Clubs: Laura Vykol reported that all 14 active clubs are represented this evening. Spinning Windmills, Round Ups and Galaxy Stars are on hold.

Membership: Jackie Boggs reported a total membership of 356, with 14 active clubs and 3 clubs on hold.

Ambassador Dances: The next Ambassador Dance is Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Belair Square Cats.

Appreciation Dance: Margie and Helena discussed the Appreciation Dance, with Art Levine as the caller and Peg Kincaid as the cuer. Helena also mentioned a 2 by 2 program with an advanced star tip. The date is planned for June 8, 2025, at Westowne Elementary School, Catonsville, MD and hosted by Frederick County Promenaders.

Recruitment and Promotion of New Dancers: Helena mentioned that Friendship had to cancel their class, and their remaining student joined Tom Thumbs. The clubs are continuing with plus classes, except for Belair Square Cats, which will not be doing plus this year. There was also a mention of Chesapeake Squares coming over to Tom Thumbs to learn plus.

Club Insurance from USDA: This program is currently not utilized by any clubs. The Federation is the only “club” on this policy.

Google Group: Don Pahl was not in attendance. Kathy and John are supporting him. Kathy suggested that the Google group be advertised to the new dancers as they finish up classes. **Website:** www.marylandsquaredancing.com

Kathy Zottmann makes updates on the website for clubs as she receives them. The website is going well, with new student dance flyers being added every week.

Reminder: All clubs should check and make sure that their club pages are current.

Sickness/Distress/Sunshine: Laura Vykol provided the following update: Get well card, Jan Dommerich, Pat and Roger Hicks, Sharon Fleming, Tom Miller, Sympathy, Margie Barber.

License Tags: Helena mentioned the license plates increased to \$30.00. Two dancers have applied.

Link to license plate info: <https://www.marylandsquaredancing.com/license-plates>

MACA (Mid-Atlantic Challenge Association): Kathy Zottmann reported that the MACA spring weekend is April 26-27 with Ken Ritucci at Westowne Elem. Dancing is C1 through C3. The summer dance is being planned.

Caller Lab: Doren provided an update on caller lab, which is scheduled for April 13 - 16, 2025 in Greenville, SC. The group has discussed a proposal for a new program, which would combine the existing four programs into two, with the first program having no more than 50 calls and the second having no less than 50 calls. The proposal is still under consideration.

Simplifying Square Dance Programs

The group discusses the potential changes to square dance programs focusing on simplifying the structure and improving dancer retention. Doren explains that the proposal aims to reduce the entry level to something more achievable. Margie shares that her club has extended the mainstream learning period and alternates between mainstream and plus tips to accommodate different skill levels. The group agrees that providing more floor

time for new dancers is crucial. Dayle suggests that reviving a past practice of holding weekly student-level dances organized by the federation, which could improve dancer retention and provide exposure to different callers.

A motion was made by Brandt Braunschweig to form an ad hoc committee to look into hosting class level dances monthly. The motion was seconded by Jackie Boggs . The motion passed.

VASARDA: Virginia State Convention was February 20 - 22, 2025. (Reported over 200 attendees.)

WASCA: Festival is March 20 – 22, 2025 at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel.

USDA: United Square Dancers of America annual meeting is held the Wednesday before the National Square Dance Convention. The meeting typically starts around 1:00pm. The Federation needs two volunteers to represent MDSDF at the meeting. Visit the USDA website: USDA.org to view previous webinars and learn more about square dancing. Helena Jester mentioned that she will see if she is at the convention that day.

NSDC (National Square Dance Convention):

- 74th NSDC – Shreveport, Louisiana – June 25 – 28, 2025
- 75th NSDC – Waco, TX - June 24 - 27, 2026
- 76th NSDC – Loveland, CO – June 23 – 26, 2027

Old Business: Carol announced that the board is still working 501c status.

New Business: Elections : Derek Haber's term expires August 31, 2025. Derek is willing to continue on board. The voting takes place May 18, 2025. The board has one vacancy (Peggy Lea Gosnell). Carol urged anyone interested in joining the board to contact her.

Club Announcements: Time for delegates to share special happenings about their club(s).

Swinging Squares – June announced that Swinging Squares will be dancing at GBA on March 29th from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, with Virgil in attendance. The event is their 46th anniversary, and they are collecting donations for Toys for Tots under Virgil's name. Doren clarified that the event is a Swinging Squares dance held at the Friendship location.

Friendship Squares- Laura announced that Friendship will have a summer dance program from 7:30pm – 9:30pm with Doren McBroom and David Hartman as callers. They also canceled their May 3rd dance due to low turnout expectations.

Four County Squares – Bev Sumy announced that their last dance for the season is May 25th, 2025 with Rick Gettleman as the caller and Amy and Ken Shottling as the cuers. The event is being held at Westowne Elementary School, Catonsville, MD

Amyable Rounders-Round Dance at their location on March 18, 2015, with Ray & Sherry Garza phase 2-4

DC Lambda Squares-Had their Anniversary dance with over 2 squares, and they had a runoff for the presidency position. They also promoted their festival flyer.

Chesapeake Squares- Dance March 18, 2025, with Dale Hodge as the caller. 60th SSBF dance on March 30, 2025. Mark Franks is calling.

Sunday Dancers – Sunday Dancers will have Stacey on April 13th, 2025, and Ett McAtee on May 11, 2025, for the MDSDF theme dance.

Village Swingers- Dances on the first and third Saturdays of the month with Kenny Ferris.

Dayle's Dancers- will have a dance on March 18th and a Sunday dance after WASCA.

Next Delegates Meeting – Virtual March 16, 2025 @ 7:00 pm via Zoom

Next Board Meeting – Virtual Sunday, Feb 9, 2025 @ 7:00 pm Motion to Adjourn – Jackie motioned, Darlene second. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Boggs and Carol Eyre