

Mason Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.
Delegates Meeting via Zoom
September 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Call to Order/Pledge:

Recording started at 7:00 pm. Carol Eyre called the meeting to order at 7:02 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carol Eyre welcomed Delegates to the new dance season and reminded Delegates that it is their responsibility to take notes at the meeting and pass on to their club members. Carol concluded her presidency by thanking attendees and board members for their support over the past few years, then officially handed over the gavel to Jackie Boggs as the new president of MDSDf.

Roll Call of Clubs:

Laura performed the roll call of clubs with assistance since there were many back-ups as regular Delegates could not attend. All clubs accounted for with a few Board Members covering Delegate positions.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes for the May Delegate Meeting were distributed via email prior to today's meeting. Carol Eyre noted two corrections: for charity listed as 1-2-3 instead of 3-2-1 and Tom McCormick's name misspelled. Dale Barnhart motion to accept the Minutes with changes and motion was seconded by Joyce Duffy.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Pat Marks presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$43,000. The board approved the treasurer's report with no objections.

Committee Reports:

Festival Committee Updates – Jackie Boggs

2026 Final: The festival had 369 registrations and made a profit of somewhere around \$9000. Overall, a very successful festival except for some hotel check-in issues.

2027 Update: Our biggest concern right now is our sixth caller Sandie Bryant's illness. Please pray for her recovery. We doubt she will be able to call at the festival so are reviewing replacement callers. Again, the biggest issue is someone who can call Challenge and is available. Travis Cook who is booked for 2028 is a thought. However, the survey says dancers love Ken Burke (although he doesn't call Challenge-so we are on hold with him).

We extended the early bird registration fee of \$125 from 9/1 to 9/15. A reminder email will go out tomorrow about last day being the 15th.

Location is the DoubleTree Pikesville again.

2028 Update: We have secured Bill Harrison, Eric Henerlau, Ken Ritucci, Ken Burke, and Travis Cook as callers with one opening left. Cuers will be Worlocks, Shotting's and probably Garza's. Contracts will be sent out shortly.

Location will probably be DoubleTree but will not secure until later on.

Membership:

Jackie Boggs reported that MDSDf has 14 active clubs and approximately 356 members. Membership dues notices will be sent out this month, the fee \$1 per member of each Club.

Ambassador Dances:

John Blaisdell sent out an email listing the 5 participating clubs dance dates for this season:

* 10/16/26	Tom Thumb	* 3/14/27	Four County
* 11/20/26	Friendship	* 4/10/27	Belair Square Cats
	* Feb?		Chesapeake Squares

Recruitment and Promotion of New Dancers – Helena Jester

Helena reported on recent dance activities, including the August brush-up dance that was moved from Westowne to Catonsville United Methodist Church due to gym renovations, which had three plus squares attend. Multiple classes across different locations are starting or have recently started, with Chesapeake and DC Lambda having 10+ students each, and several clubs planning open houses and regular classes in the coming weeks. Amy Shotting announced Amyable Rounders new class starting up 9/21 at Catonsville UMC. Bev Sumy volunteered Four County Squares as the host club for the June 13th appreciation dance, and Helena confirmed the scheduling of student-level dances throughout the year at Westowne.

- * Tentative Schedule of this year student dances: 10/25/26 & 1/10/27—both 2-4 pm.
2/28/27 & 4/25/27 – 2-4:30 pm. Westowne Elementary School
- * Appreciation Dance – June 13, 2027
- * Last Chance Dance – July 11, 2027

Google Groups:

Don Pahl emailed that we currently have 333 registered emails

Website:

Kathy Zottman was not present but she and John Blaisdell have done a wonderful job of getting the calendar and the website filled with all of our new dances and classes.

Sickness/Distress/Sunshine:

Laura Vykol reported that she sent a sympathy card for Pat McCarthy to Belair Square Cats.

License Plates:

Helena Jester reported that there have been no new requests

MACA – Mid-Atlantic Challenge Association:

Wendy Pickett reported on the upcoming annual membership dance on November 7th in Falls Church, Virginia, featuring callers Jeremy Butler and Ett McAtee, and mentioned a spring dance with Ed Foote.

USDA: United Square Dancers of America. MDSDF are members and they hold our insurance policy which covers our festival and dances. Interested in webinars and Square Dance info: Visit www.USDA.org

Upcoming Festivals/Conventions:

- * PAFFF, 10/1-3/2026 Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA
- * HFH, 11/13-15/2026 Harvest Festival Hoedown, DC Lambda, Hilton, Harrisburg, PA
- * VASARDA 2027 Swing Thru Caribbean Style, 2/18-20/2027 Holiday Inn, VA Beach, Norfolk VA
- * WASCA 2027 Revvin' in 2027, 3/18-20/2027, DoubleTree Hilton, Herndon VA
- * PTOH, 4/30-5/2/2027 Chesapeake Squares, Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach, DE
- * NSDC 76th, 6/23-26/2027 Loveland, CO *NSDC 77th, 6/28-7/1, 2028 Daytona Beach, FL
- * SSBF 62nd, 7/15-17/2027 DoubleTree by Hilton Pikesville N., Pikesville, MD

Old Business:

- * No old business items were raised during the meeting.

New Business:

- * Dale Barnhardt mentioned that Delegate meeting minutes could be sent in a timelier manner

Club Announcements: Time for Delegates to share special happenings about your club

* Laura Vykol shared venue challenges affecting Friendship Squares due to the Red Cross taking over their usual hall. Classes on Wednesdays are currently being held in the basement and may be able to continue there. Laura stated that she needs to follow-up with Magothy UMC about their venue access for dances.

* Bev Sumy announced that Four County Squares will begin hosting monthly mainstream dances at Westowne Elementary starting October 9th on second Fridays from 7:30-9:30 PM, with visiting callers and separate entrance fees not included in membership dues. These are DANCES, not workshops.

* DC Lambda reported that they need to find a replacement caller for their November festival due to Sandie Bryant's situation.

The group discussed a recent dance event that lost money due to competition with other weekend activities. The good news is that we are growing; the bad is that we end up competing for dancers and dancers have to pick and choose which dances to attend. Bev shared her positive experience with a caller. The group discussed supporting local festivals and

conventions, emphasizing the importance of attending local events to ensure their sustainability. The conversation ended with discussions about the challenges of overlapping dance dates across clubs and the need for better coordination to support both classes and regular dances.

Next Delegates Mtg Sunday 7:00 pm zoom 11/15/26, 1/17/27, 3/21/27, 5/16/27

Next Board Mtg Sunday zoom 10/11/26, 12/13/26 2/14/27, 4/11/27, 6/13/27

***Aug 21, 2027 Board Mtg and SSBF Committee's Picnic, Patapsco St. Park, McKeldon Area**

Motion to Adjourn was motioned by Dale Barnhardt and seconded by Amy Shotting.

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