

Mason Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.

Delegates Meeting via Zoom

17 May 2026 at 7:00pm

Call to Order/Pledge:

Recording started prior to 7:00pm. Delegates were late joining the meeting.

Carol Eyre called the meeting to order at 7:13pm and led the Pledge.

Roll Call of Clubs:

Laura performed roll call of clubs. Laura reported that there are 12 clubs in attendance of 14 active clubs. Missing Amyable Rounders and Swinging Aces.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes for the March Delegate Meeting were distributed via e-mail prior to today's meeting. Margie motioned that the minutes be accepted; Jackie second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. The format of the report is different due to new system. Several commented that it is going to take some getting used to. Jackie motioned that the treasurer's report be accepted; Maggie second. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

61st Festival, July 16-18, 2026 – Jackie Boggs and Becky Cate

Jackie reported the following:

Our current registration number is 258. We will be working on dancers' levels soon so we can decide whether we need to swap rooms. I am pretty sure we will need to put Mainstream in the pre-function area at least on Saturday.

A few things have changed with the hotel since our last meeting.

- We have a new hotel Manager and also a new Sales Coordinator named Olivia. She is great and really wants our business.
- The hotel has made changes. The biggest is that ballrooms C & D carpeting has been replaced with laminate flooring, so there is no longer need for purchased flooring in ballroom D (C was never floored by us before). Dance Jams has lowered the flooring price by \$1876 for this change. Yes!
- The hotel has also developed their former outside pool area into a cemented large patio, covered seating area or event area. Dancing? LOL. Doubt it at 95 degrees! This area is outside the glass doors that are next to the fireplace in the pre-function area.
- We have approximately 7 room nights available for Thursday-Saturday at this point. We were allocated 428 rooms and the hotel just added about 17 more. Since in 3 days we have gone from 15 rooms each night to 7, I have asked DoubleTree to decide if we can just sell out the hotel, go way over our allocated room counts.

- Two back-up hotels are available at \$189.00 a night. The Hampton Inn in Owings Mills, call 410.654.2780, or Hilton Garden Inn, also in Owings Mills, at 410.654.0030. This info will be sent out shortly.

TN Shoes contacted Jackie. They will be unable to attend which is actually a relief since we need the space. We will have flyers and various Festival displays along the windows. Ohio contacted us about bringing their Festival display this year!

Gaming and Gathering Permits have been completed and dropped off with the county. Three people scrutinized them so they should be ok.

Becky has a committee of 2 helping with her gift card/registration raffle and it is really taking off. I am personally looking forward to it! Kudos Becky-great job! A letter was sent out to Club Presidents and Delegates to request a donation from clubs for either the gift card raffle or a general donation. This is in lieu of the former donated baskets, 1-2-3 ticket sales, program book ad fee and the flooring fundraiser we have held the past few years.

Thursday evening during Opening Ceremonies we will give out 6 restaurant gift cards for the area at no cost. PTOH does this and it is a nice incentive for dancers to attend on Thursday. We will do this with raffle tickets handing them out as folks enter the seating area.

There will be a food kiosk for lunch from 11:00 – 2:00 on Friday and Saturday. Chocolate and vanilla scooped ice cream will be available on Friday and Saturday; hopefully we can treat folks since we are saving on the floor. Working on pricing now. Serving would be at Kiosk in hallway. Second Hand Rose sign-up sent out. Don Pahl already sent out version one of sign-up to help registration table. Floor plans are being reviewed. Spoken with all committees and all are on point. Opening and Closing ceremonies are being worked on.

Survey development is underway. Jackie has editing rights for last year's survey and is planning to edit that document.

62nd Festival, July 15-17, 2027 – Jackie Boggs

Jackie reported the following:

Flyer front and back are completed • Sandie Bryant has accepted to be caller #6 and Carol has sent her the contract • Hotel contract signed • Need to contract with Dance Jams but no hurry on this.

Membership:

Jackie Boggs reported that there are 14 active clubs with 348 dancers.

Ambassador Dances:

All dances have been held for this season. John is expecting that next year's schedule will be similar to this year's schedule.

Appreciation Dance:

The 2026 Appreciation Dance is scheduled for June 14, 2026, at Westowne Elementary School. Dancing is from 2:00 – 4:30. The program will be 2x2, alternating MS and Plus, with one Advance Star tip. Shawn Brown from Pittsburgh is calling. Barb Buchanan is the cuer. Tom Thumbs is hosting.

Recruitment and Promotion of New Dancers:

We have 8 classes this year in MDSDF! Five of the classes have graduated their students at the MS level. Three clubs are continuing their classes into the Plus program. Those clubs are Frederick County Promenaders, Friendship Squares, and Tom Thumb Square Dance Club.

The fourth (and final) Student Level Dance was held on Sunday, April 12th.

License Tags:

Several applications have been issued.

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

Google Group:

Don Pahl was not in attendance, but it was reported that there are 356 in the group.

Sickness/Distress/Sunshine:

Laura Vykol reported the following:

- Tom McCormack – get well
- Ida Rogers – get well
- Nancy Koles – thinking of you (mother had a stroke)

Website: www.marylandsquaredancing.com

Kathy Zottmann is out of town. No report.

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

MACA (Mid-Atlantic Challenge Association):

The MACA Summer Dance is Saturday, August 8th with John Marshall and Brian Jarvis calling. The dance will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Kensington. Dancing is from 10:30 – 5:00.

CallerLab:

The next CallerLab convention is March 21-24, 2027, in Indianapolis, IN.

VASARDA:

Virginia State Convention is February 18-20, 2027. Theme is Swing Thru Caribbean Style! The festival will be held at Holiday Inn Virginia Beach, Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center.

WASCA:

WASCA Festival is March 18-20, 2027, at the Doubletree by Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon, VA. The theme is “Revvin’ in 2027.”

USDA (United Square Dancers of America):

Visit the USDA website, USDA.org, to view previous webinars and learn more about square dancing.

NSDC (National Square Dance Convention):

- 75th NSDC – Waco, TX, June 24 - 27, 2026
- 76th NSDC – Loveland, CO, June 23 – 26, 2027
- 77th NSDC – Dayton Beach, FL, June 28 – July 1, 2028

Old Business

- Election for the board. There is no nominee for vice president. All Board Officers serve for 2 terms. Board of Directors will serve for 3 terms; there are two director positions. Roll call vote for the slate of officers and all nominees were approved.
- New CallerLab calls will be worked over the summer at Tom Thumbs & Friendship. Both clubs have summer dance programs. There will be new calls taught at Festival.
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New Business

- Motion to delete the July delegate meeting due to SSBF. Helena motioned, and Bill Houston second. Motion passed.
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Club Announcements:

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

Friendship

Friendship will be hosting plus level summer dances every Wednesday night from 7:30-9:30pm starting on June 3rd. The new plus calls will be taught during the dances. Prior to the dances, they will host an “intro” to square dancing planned for potential new dancers.

DC Lambda Squares

Their Anniversary Dance on April 11th had the best attendance ever.

New dancer classes start August 6th.

Harvest Festival Hoedown 30, 13-15 November 2026 in Harrisburg PA. Next year's event is scheduled for 12-14 November 2027. The 2028 committee is looking for a new venue and welcomes suggestions.

Dayle's Dancers

Advanced Blast at Westowne May 22-24. There are 33 dancers registered so far.

Dancing in Germany and Sweden in the fall. See the club website for details.

Four County Squares

Four County is hosting their 2x2 student/Star Spangled Banner Festival Promo dance on Sunday, May 31st at Westowne Elementary. Cameron Harnish is calling and Amy Shotting is cueing. Dancing is from 2:00 – 4:30. Cost is \$8/guest.

Next Delegates Meeting, September 20th, 2026, at 7:00 PM – Virtual

The next Delegate Meeting is scheduled on Sunday, September 20th @ 7:00pm via Zoom.

Next Board Meeting, June 10, 2026

The next Board Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, June 10th. This is an in-person meeting. Please eat before attending.

Motion to Adjourn – Maggie motioned, Jackie second. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Mueller