

Mason Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.

Delegates Meeting via Zoom

21 September 2025 at 7:30pm

Pledge:

Carol Eyre called the meeting to order at 7:32pm and led the Pledge.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. Pat Marks motioned that the minutes be accepted; Jackie second.

Brandt mentioned the format was distorted and Darlene agreed. Carol stated that she received the minutes as a Google doc and converted them to Word. Darlene clarified she had sent them as a Word file.

Cheryl Rakes stated that she did not receive the minutes or the agenda. Laura sent these with the treasure's report via e-mail yesterday evening. Cheryl was on the e-mail distribution list.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting.

Susan Martin, treasurer, discussed the report and explained the error between the original version of the report sent earlier in the week and the corrected report that was sent yesterday. Susan reported that the tax-exempt certificate was received September 4th.

Jackie Boggs motioned that the treasurer's report be accepted; Amy Shotting second. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

60th Festival, July 17-19, 2025 – Final Report, Ellen Linsenbardt and Jackie Boggs

Jackie Boggs reported. The festival was profitable. Everyone had a great time. Biggest complaint was lack of air-conditioning in the halls and in the rooms. Jackie mentioned the hotel will replace cooling towers and provide fans for next year. Callers and cuers were well received.

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

Jackie provided updates on planning for next year's festival. She has a list for callers for next year, and is starting to coordinate callers for 2027.

151 full festival registrants. Hotel rooms are over 100 rooms.

Jackie has been able to get back up hotels.

Becky has a t-shirt in process that dancers will be able to order themselves.

Promotional dances are being coordinated.

Logistics are being worked and vendors are being worked.

Roll Call of Clubs:

Jackie reported that there are 8 clubs in attendance of 13 active clubs at the start of the meeting.

Membership:

Jackie Boggs reported that there are 13 active clubs. She is not sure if Peg's round dance club will be active this year. Spinning Windmills is attempting to restart and Swinging Squares folded in June.

Jackie is sending out dues notices, newsletters, and club information sheets this week.

Ambassador Dances:

John Blaisdell sent a report prior to the meeting.

The 2025-26 series of dances is here:

- October 3, 2025 (Friday) TOM THUMB SQUARES with Felton/Ryder
- October 12, 2025 (Sunday) FOUR COUNTY SQUARES with Hodge/Shotting
- November 21, 2025 (Friday) FRIENDSHIP SQUARES with Harnish/Shotting
- February ??, 2026 (Tuesday) CHESAPEAKE SQUARES (week TBA)
- April 11, 2026 (Saturday) BELAIR SQUARE CATS with Felton/Shotting

Please note that the Four County dance was moved to October from their usual March timeslot because of the WASCA festival. The schedule will be re-evaluated next year.

I am informed that Ambassadors were initiated during the Italian Renaissance, when shifting alliances among the various city-states made it necessary to have a permanent presence in neighboring states' capitals. Gift-giving was a major part of the job. (Bribery had not yet been recognized as a bad thing.) We do not need to spy on each other, but the expectations for our interaction are that each participating club will send two paying guests to each other club on the specified date, and the host club will introduce the Ambassadors and present them with a small gift, comparable in value to the guest fee. Gifts can be purchased, made, or regifted, as works best on the occasion.

I have been asked why the hosting club also introduces its own Ambassadors. When this program started in the 1980s, most clubs appointed Ambassadors for the whole year. The same group met at every Ambassador dance, and the host couple were recognized at home for filling the position. With our busy schedules, we are past having fixed Ambassadors, but the host couple should still interact with the visiting Ambassadors, making sure they get to dance and feel welcome. A club gift to your own Ambassadors is optional.

John requested that if there is someone else who should receive his email and subsequent reminders, to please let him know!

Ambassador dance attendance is recorded in a loose-leaf binder. Usually, this binder goes home with the next club in line, but that did not happen in April last year. If someone has the binder and can send it to Tom Thumbs by October 3 that would be great, else we will start a new one until we connect with it.

Appreciation Dance:

The Appreciation Dance was held June 8, 2025 at Westowne Elem. Carol Eyre thanked Margie Barber and Frederick Promenaders for hosting the dance. Everything went well. Helena reported that there were 71 people in attendance.

Recruitment and Promotion of New Dancers:

Helena Jester reported that Chesapeake, Lambda, Tom Thumb, Frederick, and Village Swingers have started classes.

Belair Square Cats will start in early October and Friendship is starting on September. Amyable Rounders are starting classes September 22nd.

Ad Hoc Committee:

Helena Jester presented plans for student-level dances. Dances will be held October 26th, January 11th, February 22nd, and April 12. The October 26th dance will be at Westowne Elementary. A flyer is being designed and will be provided to students.

Club Insurance from USDA:

No clubs using this program. The Federation is the only "club" on this policy.

Google Group:

Don Pahl sent a report prior to the meeting. There are 349 members in the MDSDF Google Group.

Website: www.marylandsquaredancing.com

Kathy Zottmann not in attendance and no report was provided.

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

Sickness/Distress/Sunshine:

Laura Vykol reported that a get-well card was sent to Natalie Swanson (Friendship) for shoulder surgery and a sympathy card was sent to the family of Gene Lehr (Belair Sq Cats).

License Tags:

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

Helena Jester reported that she has provided information, but no one has taken a form.

MACA (Mid-Atlantic Challenge Association):

Kathy Zottmann not in attendance.

CallerLab:

The next CallerLab convention is March 29 – April 1, 2026 in Reno, NV.

VASARDA:

Virginia State Convention is February 19-21, 2026.

WASCA:

WASCA March 26-28, 2026 at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon, VA. The festival sold out in 2025. The theme is “65 and Staying Alive.”

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

- Carol announced that we received 501(c)3 status.
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New Business

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Club Announcements:

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

Spinning Windmills –

Doren is going to attempt to restart Spinning Windmills on Friday evenings at Westowne Elementary.

Amyable Rounders –

Beginner classes start Monday, September 22nd in Catonsville.

Saturday “Tea Dances” resume in October. Save the date: October 25th from 2:00 – 4:00 at Westowne Elementary.

DC Lambda Squares –

Brian reported that their festival hotel room block ends October 9th and shared they have 7 students in their class. Of the 7 students, 3 are repeats and 4 are new students. They are trying a new format with class and club running on the same night.

Other items of interest –

- Amy Shotting announced the RDTA Ball on October 19th at Westtown Elementary in Catonsville from 3:00 to 5:30 PM.
- Margie reported that Robert called for the club at the Frederick County Fair and did a great job.
- The Tom Miller benefit dance held today had over 100 dancers in attendance.
- Rachel thanked Jackie for helping Village Swingers at the festival.

Next Delegates Meeting, November 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM – Virtual

The next Delegate Meeting is scheduled on Sunday, November 16, 2025 @ 7:00pm via Zoom.

Next Board Meeting, October 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM – Virtual

The next Board Meeting is scheduled on Sunday, Oct 12, 2025 @ 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn – Jackie Boggs motioned, Amy Shotting second. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Mueller