

Mason Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.

Delegates Meeting, Westowne Elem School

19 May 2024 @ 1400

Pledge:

Led by Cheryl and meeting called to order.

Introductions made.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Not available.

Treasure Report:

Bev is asking about the “reserve funds” for Johns Hopkins. The calculation for the donation was made based on tickets sold. The check written based on that calculation. It did not account for “donations” made by some of winners who donated their prize money. Another check needs to be cut to send those donations to Johns Hopkins. Brandt assured everyone that those funds will be distributed. There will not be 3-2-1 tickets this year, but a donation box will be at the festival to support John’s Hopkins.

Per Brandt, “Reserve Funds” is not an either/or category. It was established so that the Federation can see where income is coming from, such as “second hand rose”. Brandt would like to organize the report according to IRS reporting rather than “how” the Federation wants to see the data.

Reconciliation report – Cheryl asked what the \$45 represents? Brandt is looking into this. The \$45 is a “service charge” for two months of bank fees. Brandt is going to go into the branch and investigate. The typical fee is \$25/month, and then it is credited back to the account. No notice was received other than the statement.

Floor fundraiser – Laura was expecting to see another deposit. Those funds were posted after month end April. Laura has another deposit today.

Virgil motioned to approve the report and Jackie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

59th SSB Festival Committee

Ellen Linsenbardt and Jackie Boggs

The festival is July 18 – 20, 2024. Theme = Rockin’ 60’s.

Hotel room reservation cutoff date is June 17th. Ellen stated that we are far behind for hotel rooms. DoubleTree is enforcing the deadline. Hotel snuck a hotel room increase in on the site,

Cheryl reached out and they corrected it. Rate is \$127/night plus tax. Online reservations are the way to go. Gary Felton was mentioned as having success reserving by phone, but he is not on the list per Cheryl. That needs to be investigated. Need 15 people to stay 3 nights each (45 room nights) will cover our obligation to the hotel.

Working on program book. Hoping to get a preliminary version out by late May. Advertising forms are in the back of the room. 3-2-1 donations will be addressed in the program book.

Ellen is working with staff to see if they need transportation from airport.

Need to see how many people have not paid the \$30 increase registration fee. There was no push back on the higher fee. There were 189 registrations as of last night.

May 31 is goal for the dance schedule per Jackie.

Bev asked about "solo" dancers – how many? Don't know yet. Is there a "solo dance"? Yes.

No outside food/reception.

There will be "packaged" ice cream for purchase by the hotel for \$3.

Laura Vykol announced that the flooring fundraising is going quite well. Flooring for the festival costs approximately \$9,000. Currently \$5,000 has been donated. Swinging Squares and Chesapeake Squares offered to have Laura attend their dances in June to continue requesting donations and she will be at the Appreciation Dance.

60th SSB Festival 2025

July 17-19, 2025

The Federation received permission from the PA festival to host the 60th SSBF in Camp Hill PA; the PA festival is in September and one is not planned in 2025. There may be an option to alternate years with them.

Katie Brown is the hotel contact in PA. This is the first place that the Federation has seen that is within our budget.

Hotel @ BWI charges \$15K. Current hotel would be \$10K for just ballrooms, and room rates would be \$135.00/night. Basically, nothing in MD is affordable.

No special theme for 2025 – "Star Spangled", red/white/blue.

A suggestion from the floor is to establish a "rate" deadline similar to PTOH. Basically, register by certain date and get a discount.

Roll Call of Clubs

Laura Vykol

16 clubs in attendance today. Peg's round dance club is missing. It was noted that Crossfires was dancing today, but also noted that the delegate meetings are published at the beginning of the season. The dates for these do not change. Board meetings are sometimes moved, but not the delegate meetings.

Membership

Laura Vykol

Peg's club is missing; they have not attended meetings this year.

Elections

Cheryl Rakes

Open positions are for two Board of Directors and all five officers.

Officers:

Carol for president – approved

Jackie for vice-president – approved

Laura for corresponding secretary - approved

Darlene for recording secretary - approved

Treasure – no one has volunteered for this position and it is still open

Board of Directors: (these positions/ term are for 3 years)

Ellen and Mary for board positions – approved

Ambassador Dances

John Blaisdell sent his report via e-mail.

Belair Square Cats is joining the Ambassador Dance Series! Welcome!

The Ambassador Dance dates for 2024-2025 are:

Tom Thumbs – Friday, October 4

Friendship Squares – Friday, November 15

Chesapeake Squares – TBA, a Tuesday in Dec Jan Feb

Four County Squares – TBA, a Sunday in March

Belair Square Cats – Saturday, April 12

Dates for the 2024-2025 season are posted on the MDSDF site.

Appreciation Dance – Sunday, June 9

Belair Square Cats will host the MDSDF Appreciation Dance on Sunday, June 9, 2024 from 2 – 4:30pm. Mark Franks is calling and Amy Shotting is cueing. The dance will be held at Westowne Elementary School. Dance is for all dancers including newly graduated dancers. There will be at least one “advanced” tip.

Flyer is available in the back of the room and has been sent via the Google group.

Cheryl asked if there is a sign in sheet and someone assigned to work the sign in table. This is a way to find out if there are non-Federation members coming.

Who is providing 50/50 tickets?

No food in the gym. Refreshments will be served in this activity room.

Encourage dancers to bring their own water bottle.

Recruitment and Promotion of New Dancers

Helena provided graduation updates. Eight classes were held this year. Some classes have already graduated. All will be graduated by the first week of June. There are planned summer dances and Helena will be distributing flyers with all the info.

Club Insurance – USDA

Don Pahl was not in attendance; Jackie Boggs reported. Nothing to report. There are no clubs participating at this time. Jackie mentioned that the Festival may need coverage.

Google Group

Don Pahl was not in attendance. Per Jackie Boggs, Don is interested in retaining this position. There are 361 registered e-mails on the list. The list is for square dance info only.

Website

Kathy Zottmann is out of commission. Dayle reported that she is doing as much as possible.

Sickness/Distress/Sunshine

Evelyn Hawkins was not in attendance but sent in her report. Cards were sent to Phyllis McCall, Melanie Jester, Steve Toth, Ray Everett, Carol Eyre, and Bill Phelps.

To request a card, go to the MDSDF website under resources. Include as much information as possible, including your contact information.

License Tags

Helena reported that there have been no new requests.

MACA – Mid-Atlantic Challenge Association

Spring Weekend May 4 – 5, 2024. Even though there was a last-minute change of caller, the weekend was well attended, with lots of positive feedback. Staff was able to find a C3 caller on short notice. The venue worked well for the event.

Summer Dance July 27, 2024 / 2 sessions - 2:30 – 9:30 pm Dayle Hodge and Ett McAtee

Membership Dance November 2, 2024 / 2 sessions - 2:30 – 9:30 pm

CallerLab

The CallerLab convention was held March 25-27, 2024 in Grapevine, TX. Per Virgil, there is a long video talking about the future of dancing. Reaction has been mixed. Looking at a more sustainable entry program. The idea of more entry level clubs. Many of the long-established clubs don't want to hear about the "less than" plus clubs. Shortage of callers has been a CallerLab concern for years. CallerLab gives scholarships for caller school.

Next year - April 13 - 16, 2025 – 50th Convention - Greenville, SC

VASARDA – Virginia State Convention February 20 - 22, 2025

WASCA

WASCA festival was held March 14-16, 2024 in Alexandria, VA. Report: 685 were in attendance.

Next year's festival is March 20 – 22, 2025 at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel.

Contact the hotel directly for rooms; no more going through the committee.

USDA - United Square Dancers of America

The Federation needs two people to serve as delegates to represent MDSDF at the USDA annual membership meeting on June 26, 2024. The membership meeting is held during the National

Square Dance Convention. See www.USDA.org to view past Webinars and to learn more about square dancing.

NSDC – National Square Dance Convention

73rd NSDC – Milwaukee, Wisconsin – June 26 – 29, 2024

74th NSDC – Shreveport, Louisiana – June 25 – 28, 2025

75th NSDC – Waco, TX - June 24 - 27, 2026

Old Business *No other old business*

New Business

- Bev requested that all paperwork for meetings be distributed no later than Wed before the meeting.
- Shortened classes, as in 'zero to mainstream' or 'C-1' in a day. Weekend class – Dayle suggesting. He is looking into it for a beginner class of 24 students in one weekend. Date/time to be determined. Would be Friday night thru Sunday afternoon. Weekend format can work. Teaching choreography is easy; teaching to dance is something else entirely.

Club Announcements

Frederick County Promenaders reported that they graduated eight students on Wednesday, May 15. They will be having four summer workshops to give our recent grads opportunities to hone their skills and 6 summer dances. There will be two dances in June, two in July and two in August. Check out our website for details regarding the workshops and dances. Their annual potluck picnic is Sunday, June 23 from 4-6 p.m. at the Ballenger Hall where they have lessons. The club is encouraging their recent grads and club members to attend the Star Spangled Festival in July.

Four County is dancing May 26th at 2:00, student dance, 2x2 \$5 admission for all.

Hoe Down coming up in Nov in Harrisburg, PA
Looking at "Acey Ducey" and resurrecting an old festival.

Square Cats is graduating 16 students on Tues. Their next dance is Saturday, May 25.

Friendship's last dance of the season is June 1 with Tom Miller & Peg Kincaid. Their graduation is this Wednesday. Their summer program starts June 12th at Glen Burnie Improvement Association on Wednesday evenings with Virgil calling. Dancing is from 7-9 and is \$7 per person. The club may be moving to GB for all dances next year.

Chesapeake's membership is growing, averaging 30 dancers/night. They will be at the Baltimore Pride parade, wearing crinolines, on Saturday 6/15. Joint dance on 8/24 with DC Lamba with 4 hours of dancing in Newark DE. Joint dance with Tom Thumbs scheduled. Joint dance with

Friendship is in the works. Pass the Ocean had 185 in attendance. Attendance is growing with 30 1st time dancers and 30 clubs represented. Fifty door prizes with a total value of \$1200 were given away. The 2025 weekend is planned for May 2-4, in Delaware, with 6 callers. There will be 5 rooms of dancing on Saturday. The weekend has been scheduled for 2026 & 2027 with the hotel contract in place.

Swinging Squares reported that there were 5 squares last night at their "Armed Service Salute". Their last dance, "Summertime is Here", is 6/15 with Virgil calling and Amy cueing.

Next Delegates Meeting

There is no Delegates Meeting in July.

The next meeting will probably be in-person at Westowne ES- Sunday, **September 15, 2024** starting at 2:00 pm.

Next Board Meeting

Virtual via Zoom on **Sunday, June 9, 2024**. Start time 7:00 pm.

[Register NOW & Reserve Hotel Rooms for the Star Spangled Banner Festival July 18 – 20, 2024](#)

Motion to Adjourn – Virgil motioned, motion seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Mueller

www.marylandsquaredancing.com