

Mason Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.
Delegates Meeting via Zoom
March 22, 2026 at 7:00pm

Call to Order/Pledge:

Recording started prior to 7:00pm. Carol Eyre called the meeting to order at 7:07pm and led the Pledge.

Roll Call of Clubs:

Jackie and Laura performed roll call of clubs. Laura reported that there are 13 clubs in attendance of 14 active clubs. Village Swingers were not in attendance.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes for the January 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:

Pat Marks is the new MDSDF treasurer. The treasurer's report was distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. 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:

Festival registration was "launched" on March 7th with the first promotional dance at Friendship Squares followed by the SSBF Fundraiser Dance on March 8th. The festival schedule was sent out via email and via the website. Festival rates increase beginning April 1st. Registration increases to \$140 on April 1st. Jackie wants the big push to begin earlier than last year. Last year the rate increase was also April 1st, but we didn't start early enough pushing the "Register now before rate increase" card. Income at the Fundraiser dance totaled \$1496.00. That's more than \$500 over last year. This amount includes a donation from the winner of the 50/50 at Friendship's dance in the amount of \$46. The winner of 50/50 at the Fundraiser Dance donated their winnings of \$106 to the dance. In addition, there were around 6 couples who were unable to attend the fundraiser dance but donated funds. Overall, a great turnout and lots of fun. The committee is grateful for all the supporting callers, cuers, and dancers in our Federation.

Registrar Melanie has advised that registrations have greatly increased. Melanie reported that there are 218 registrations to date. This time last year, there were only 122 registrations. Becky and Jackie will be attending the WASCA festival where they will have the festival trifold and t-shirt promotion table with flyers. Anyone who wants to stop by and staff the table would be appreciated. Feel free to

help dancers register on our website! Becky and Jackie will be dancing some and staffing the table at other times. April Promotional dances include 4/7 at Chesapeake, 4/17 at Tom Thumb, and 4/26 at Sunday Dancers. We encourage the Board to attend and support these dances and the festival. Jackie took the second deposit check to the hotel last Friday and met with our Sales Rep, Cherise. They had a great conversation about what the “snack” stand will have for lunches and for ice cream sundaes on Friday and Saturday. Also reaffirmed ability for Second-Hand Rose to drop off boxes on Wednesday. Becky is working hard on “registration and gift card” raffles. She has some great ideas. Graduate flyer has been created and sent to Helena. Jackie and Becky are meeting with the decorating committee on April 10th to review their plans. Carol and Ellen have graciously agreed to be the “Staff Refreshments” committee. There will be a meeting in May. Contacts for other federations have been made. Jim Miller has agreed to distribute our emails to reach Susquehanna Valley, Delaware Valley and Central PA. We are on the NJ google group and can send emails to their dancers. We are considering paying to have a flyer in their brochure or posted on their website. Jackie has been invited to attend future PA Square and Round Dance Federation meetings. 62nd Festival, July 15-17, 2027 – Jackie Boggs requested an “assistant” to mentor them for the 63rd Festival. She will not be director for the 63rd.

Membership:

Jackie Boggs reported that there are 14 active clubs.

Ambassador Dances

Chesapeake Squares held their ambassador dance in February. The remaining dance for 2025-26 series of dances is:

- April 11, 2026 (Saturday): Belair Square Cats with Felton/Shotting. John Blaisdell expects next year’s schedule to be similar to this year’s.

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 MDSD! 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.

Village Swingers started a second Mainstream Class in February and has 7 enthusiastic students. Also, some of their new graduates are coming back to angel the second class. Belair Square Cats is also planning to start a second MS class. They plan to hold an Open House on March 31, then start the class in April.

Unfortunately, the third student level dance on February 22 was cancelled due to the weather.

The fourth (and final) Student Level Dance is scheduled for Sunday, April 12th from 2:00-4:30 pm at Westowne Elementary School. Gary Felton will be the caller and Amy Shotting will be the cuer. In addition to the 50-50 sale and the door prizes, there will also be a Second-Hand Rose sale.

Club Insurance from USDA:

No clubs use this program. The Federation is the only “club” on this policy.

Google Group:

Don Pahl was not in attendance and no report was provided. Kathy reported that she was adding new Chesapeake graduates to the group.

Website: www.marylandsquaredancing.com

Kathy Zottmann reported that she is receiving flyers for the festival dances and for the student dances. Website traffic is good. QR code?? Discussion about paper vs website registration. Brandt has the “card reader” and that would be useful for registration. Reminder: All clubs should check and make sure that their club pages are current.

Sickness/Distress/Sunshine:

Laura Vykol reported that thank you cards were sent to Chesapeake Squares and Swinging Squares. Laura is going to send get well cards to Carol Eyre and to Glenda for their broken bones.

License Tags:

Helena reported that several people have asked about the license plates, but no one had taken a form. Link to license plate info: <https://www.marylandsquaredancing.com/license-plates>

MACA (Mid-Atlantic Challenge Association):

The spring weekend is April 25-26, 2026, with Don Moger from Montreal, Canada. Dancing will be held at Westowne Elementary in Catonsville. 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.

Caller Lab:

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

VASARDA:

Less than 200 dancers attended the 2026 festival in February.

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 March 26-28, 2026, at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon, VA. The theme is “65 and Staying Alive.” Over 700 dancers have registered. They are expecting at least 800 dancers with last-minute and walk-in registrations.

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

Jackie recapped the meeting held after the Festival Fundraiser dance discussing the new Caller Lab calls. The consensus is that a Mainstream club is needed in a central location, and we are looking to Doren to facilitate this. Jackie reported that it was a very good meeting.

New CallerLab Plus calls will be worked on over the summer at Tom Thumbs & Friendship Squares. Both clubs have summer dance programs.

New Business

Next delegate meeting will be election of the board officers and directors. Need a vice president.

Club Announcements:

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

- Chesapeake Squares: Their Pass the Ocean weekend is May 1-3, 2026, in Rehobeth Beach, DE.
- DC Lambda Squares: Anniversary Dance on Saturday, April 11th from 2 – 5 with Jeremy Butler at Francis Scott Key School, Silver Spring. \$15 admission. Hoe Down info on website. Multiple callers including Sandy Bryant and Dayle Hodge (006).
- Dayle’s Dancers: Challenge dancing after WASCA on March 29th from 10:30 – 1:30 at the Hilton.
- Friendship Squares: Friendship’s next dance is being held at Westowne on April 4th. There is no class this Wednesday. Wednesday night summer dances are coming with an “intro” to square dancing planned for the first hour.

- Four County Squares: Four County is hosting a Sunday dance on April 26th with Ken Burke calling and Amy Shotting cueing. Dancing is from 2:00 – 4:30.

Next Delegates Meeting, May 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM – Virtual

The next Delegate Meeting is scheduled on Sunday, May 17th @ 7:00pm via Zoom.

Next Board Meeting, April 15, 2026

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th. This is an in-person meeting.

Please eat before attending.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Mueller