



# ASARDA NEWS

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Live Lively -



Square Dance!

## From the President:

I saw this post on Facebook and I wanted to share it with all of you, because this is what it's all about:



*Well the work is over the decorations are down and we are all still smiling. Was a GREAT DANCE. Everyone worked very hard and it showed. There was a lot of teamwork involved. Proud to say we are a part of this organization.*

*If you are a dancer and you are not involved with your clubs' activities and event planning - it takes all hands-on board to keep a successful club going. So, if you haven't stepped up in the past please give it a try.*

*My favorite saying is "you get out of a club what you put into it". If your time and energy are invested you are going to be more enthusiastic, happy, and proud; then you will pass these feelings on to your fellow dancers.*

*Let's all work together to make Alabama Square Dancing everything it can be.*

*Joy LeCroy*

I would like to thank every dancer, board member, caller, cuer and instructor that attended our state convention last month for helping to make it another success! As Joy said, it takes all hands-on board, and we had so many volunteers step up this year it was amazing to be a part of it. Yes, there were some minor complaints and problems that will be adjusted for next year, but overall, everyone had a great time – and that was the ultimate goal of everyone involved.

A special thank to Steve Reggel and Michael Dueck who rallied the troops to ensure the flooring was both laid and taken up; and thanks to all those who helped accomplish this task. A big thank you to Judy Gault who manned the registration table with her group of volunteers to ensure our dancers were meet with a smile; before she asked for their money 😊. It was wonderful to see all the dancers who showed up to help get ready for the Luau, and mostly how EVERYONE helped tear down and put it away when it was over. I received so many comments on how our state goes over and above to put on a great convention and how we work as a team to make it happen. There are so many to thank that made this a great convention, especially the ASARDA board members.

As we head into the fall and winter months – please look for opportunities to support dances within our state as well as outside of our state. Most of us can be in another state within a short drive. We really need the support of our neighboring dancers to grow our convention, and the best way to get them to support our convention and special dances; is to visit and support theirs.

Also, as most of you know, we don't pay callers or cuers anything for coming to our convention. Most not only donate their time and talents; they also pay transportation and hotel expenses, especially those from out of state. One way to "pay them back" is to "hire" them to call or cue at local dances. So, the next time your club is "paying" a caller or cuer for a special dance, how about giving one of them a call and see if they are available! I know we all favor our own state callers, but sometimes they enjoy having a night off, and its great for club dancers to experience somebody different every now and then.

You guys have no idea how PROUD I am to be the President of such a wonderful organization filled with wonderful dancers and volunteers! We may be small, but we are mighty, and most of all – we are fun and friendly!

*ASARDA President – Tom Wilkins*

## DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Wow! That was one fun Convention wasn't it? We had such positive feedback from the convention. We really tried a number of new things, from completely re-vamping how we used our facility space, adding new dance floors and fans, adding an entirely new feature in the mid-day luau and exhibition, and starting a new education program. We are always working to include things outside the standard items that we think will be popular like our Intro to Round Dance (a huge turnout), Caller-oke, and our evening contra program which was well attended.

I cannot express my gratitude enough to the volunteers who made it happen, particularly those from North Alabama who showed up en-mass to make this a spectacular success. Special thanks for our North Alabama volunteers go to Judy Gaut – our registration chair, Bobby Johnson – our volunteer chair, Darryl McMillian our caller program lead, Pauline Angress our cuer program lead, and my husband Dennis Pinnix who spent countless hours helping me with more execution and organization than I can tell you about. Please take a few minutes to read the list at the end of this article of our volunteers, callers, cuers, and staff who worked so hard to make the Convention successful. The next time you see them – tell them “thank you” – they deserve it! Many people do not understand the degree that we rely on our Board to make the convention a success, and I think that we do not say “thank you” often enough to the people behind the scenes. Putting the Convention on is hard work, and the ASARDA Board works on this all year long. Special thanks is due to Margaret Snyder who led our decorations, Mary Anne Howard who works hard on all our hospitality, ways and means and many logistics exhibition items, Steve Reggel last year's VP who was responsible for purchasing and leading the laying our new flooring and taking over as treasurer mid-convention from Kevin Cozad who also managed the raffle. He will be missed at ASARDA as he takes up his new position as president of the Alabama Callers Association.

Of course, we would not have the convention we have today without the endless hard work of Tom and Tina Wilkins. Tom provides clear thoughtful leadership and a top down commitment to an excellent Convention, and Tina is a tireless producer of quality work and an unending supply of energy. They know everything there is to know, know everyone, and pick up the loose ends. From making financial and contract arrangements, leading the programming, to organizing the program book to loading and storing everything at their home, they are not just leaders in name, but they both work as hard as anyone I know to make our Alabama Convention successful.

As some of you know, I have been looking to step down from my position as North Alabama Coordinator for a while. I am employed at Lockheed Martin in a senior capacity, and my job sometimes demands my full attention even outside normal work schedules when we have deliveries or major milestones. I also have significant commitments as a member of the Executive Board of the North Alabama Square Dance organization which is working locally in our area to promote square dance. Our North Alabama ASARDA District is spread tip to tip across 5 hours of driving to get between clubs – many of which are 2-3 hours driving distance from my home. While I made it clear when I took the position that I absolutely could not visit the clubs, the job of Coordinator and Delegate is really best served by someone who has the bandwidth to visit our clubs and provide a personal touch to that leadership. Now that the responsibility of doing this year's Convention has been completed, I will serve one more quarter and ASARDA Board meeting to close out the 2019 convention, then retire from my position of District 1 Coordinator. I feel good about it being the right time to turn the reins over to your new coordinator, Celeste Penny! I hope that you will all welcome her and support her as she takes over this responsibility.

You will continue to see Dennis and I across the square at our dance events and hear from me as I work in the community to promote square dance and grow our numbers. These are the two things that I am committed to and must prioritize with the limited spare time that I have. NASDA has already committed to being an ASARDA affiliate organization and is a pre-paid member for the next 4 years, so you should continue to see and hear from us occasionally. **As always**, please feel free to contact me if you need support for any work you are doing to promote square dance or grow your club regardless of whether you are in North Alabama or anywhere else in the state. A healthy and growing square dance community in Alabama is my vision. Yellow Rocks!

*District 1 Coordinator – Terry Cassis*

## DISTRICT 2 NEWS

With great sadness, we mourn the recent passing (September 18, 2019) of **Mark Trimm**, husband of Kay Trimm, President of Clog Wild Cloggers. If you had the pleasure of meeting or knowing this wonderful gentleman – then you were familiar with his infectious “smile”. Although he didn’t get to dance with us, he was often there supporting dances and was certainly on hand to operate the sound system for the Clog Wild Cloggers. Thank you to the many friends



that attended his Prayer Vigil on September 7th. It meant a lot to Mark and Kay. Mark’s smile will be remembered for many years. A

special “Thank You” to Kay for sharing Mark with us. Please continue to lift Kay and family up in Prayer for strength and comfort as they seek life’s path without Mark.



As is “normal” for the Dancers and Delegates of District 2, we were once again all over the states and territories in the southeast region to attend dances, clubs and events. In June, we visited the Shelby Shufflers. Annie Marrs – it was great to have you “back on your feet” and cueing again. Know you are pleased that ordeal is over. Hope you missed us as much as we missed you.

Then we took another trip to District 1 and enjoyed dancing in Guntersville to lively renditions of **FIVE “Internationals Callers”**, plus **Caller Rusty Willoughby** from Boaz Squares. Other than some of the larger dance venues we all know, can you image having so much talent “Calling” in one of our Alabama local clubs!!! The tall guy, Jaden Frigo, is a Caller from Australia. And aren’t we proud to have ‘joining’ the list of Alabama Callers – Jet Roberts and his lovely wife Sylvia (second & third from



left). Welcome to Alabama. We certainly look forward to you both Calling at many dances and events. Thank you, Callers Tom Miller, Darryl McMillan and Rusty Willoughby, for joining in the night’s festivities.

Of course, you know our next stop – Square Dance Nationals in Atlanta where more than 4,000 dancers converged for great fun and great dancing to a lineup of great Callers and Cuers. We had a lot of ALABAMA dancers in attendance. As is normal for them, the Kurly Qs had an entire ‘clan’ there. Thank you “Alabama Officers and Dancers” for pitching in to “help” Georgia with the many requirements it takes to have a successful “National Dance”. But for Alabama – it was especially great because Alabama made a ‘pitch’ and **WON the BID for the 72nd National Square Dance Convention (72 NSDC) to be held in Mobile in 2023.** THANK YOU “ASARDA” PRESIDENT TOM AND TINA WILKINS FOR “HAVING THE VISION” THAT BEGAN THE JOURNEY. Thank you for all your hard work and that of the team you put together. Thank you, Alabama dancers, for attending the BID Session and making such a great “Mardi Gras” display during the Parade of States during closing ceremonies. If you haven’t registered yet, we hope you will show your continued support of this journey by registering soon. We appreciate those who have registered – Thank You.



And we appreciate all who have supported this by purchasing a “Party Gras” purple T-Shirt. Also, we appreciate those of you that are “giving up” a little of your ‘dance time’ to work a registration table for the 72nd NSDC. If you would like to help, please contact Tom or Tina Wilkins, Ann Leithauser, Ted or Diane Moss or Carol Varner. When we can, we like to have two individuals working the booth or table for this. Here you see Ala dancers participate in the “Dance on the I-85 ‘Bridge’”. And Tom and Tina Wilkins “Accepting” Alabama’s BID for the 72nd NSDC. Our motto: “**Come Dance and Play on Mobile Bay**”

Into July, we donned our Red White and Blue to celebrate the Fourth of July at several different club dances and events. One trip took us to **Fun Bunch** in Decatur which is always “Fun”. Another took us to **Plus-R-Us** at the Heardmont Senior Center for hotdogs, watermelon and plenty of dancing. Of course, there was plenty to ‘eat’ and celebrate at the **Eastern Wranglers** July Celebration. And guess who Stole the Eastern Wranglers Banner while they were there – yep – the **Kurly Qs**.



Then we ventured to Duos and Solos Club in Ft Payne to enjoy a “Tribute to Alabama” by **Caller Tom Miller**. As you can imagine, the place was packed. **Pauline Angress** Cued Rounds for us and **Callers Tom Miller, Darryl McMillan and Rusty Willoughby** closed the event with the ‘Three’ Calling in Harmony’.



They are famous for this - - the **Wheel Arouds** provided another wonderful Christmas in July Dance for us at the BSDA Hall in Fultondale. Guest Caller for this event was Caller Rob Baird from Mississippi (pictured right). What fun we had. And isn’t it great to watch the expression of the “public” as they observe us in our Christmas Square Dance attire (smile).



At the end of July, the **Kurly Qs** got a taste of their own – when the **Swingin’ Squares** swept in from Jasper AL and “Stole” the Kurly Q Banner.







We started our August dancing with a trip to the Tennessee State Convention in Gatlinburg. As always – ALABAMA had an impressive attendance at their dance. Tom & Tina Wilkins and Bobby & Ramona Parker gave a “Pitch” for the 72 NSDC by “pitching” four of the ‘now famous’ purple T-shirts to a lucky ‘Winner’. Rolled inside one of the T-shirt was a free registration to the 72<sup>nd</sup> National Square Dance



Convention®. The Kurly had several club members at the 2019 TN State Convention. But the Kurly Qs “aren’t just another pretty face”. As you can see they also dedicated time to working the 72nd NSDC desk. Several others also worked, to include some ‘more’ of the Kurly Q members.

Also, during August, we packed a LOT of dancing into our own state clubs. We had some dancing and mini-workshops with **Caller Jerry Handley** at **T-Squares** in Trussville AL and at the **Pelham Promenaders** with **Caller Kevin Cozad**. If you are 55 years old or older, we hope you will visit with these Senior Centers.



Next we attended our own State Convention in Oxford which was a huge success. Thank you ‘again’ Tom and Tina Wilkins, and Convention Chairman Terry



Cassis (District 1). There is a TON of work and preparation required to successfully host a quality dance like this. If you don’t believe it, stay “after” the convention is over and help “load” all the props and supplies. Tom and Tina bring so much to the convention each year they transport supplies with a large ‘trailer’. As always – Margaret Snyder did a phenomenal job on decorations.





OK District 2. It is your time to Host the 2020 Convention. The Theme is the Wild Wild West. Dust off those old Western boots and hats and get ready to party hardy. Each club in District 2 will be asked to help in some way. If you are willing to 'head' or be on one of the committees, just contact your Convention Chairman Carol Varner or any one of "your" delegates, Vera Simpson (Kurly Qs); Connie Wood (Eastern Wranglers) or Sabrina Horsely (Wheel Arounds).

Rounding out this quarter of dancing was the Southeastern Swing at the BSDA Hall with **Callers Darryl McMillan and Ted Kennedy**. This is a great dance for those who enjoy "Plus" dancing and feel adventuresome enough to try some "Advance".

Last by not least was the BSDA Fall Appreciation Dance. **Caller Ronnie Purser** was presented the BSDA's Lifetime Award. Jim Choate was honored with the Perseverance Award, which was accepted on his behalf by his siblings Eunice Spritzley, Paul Choate and Priscilla Newton. The BSDA Recognition Award was presented to Rusty Swafford (Wheel Arounds).



**Many many** dances and **Special Events** are coming up - so be **SURE** to go to the **Alabama Square and Round Dance Association website** @ [www.alabamasquaredance.com](http://www.alabamasquaredance.com) to FIND "ALL" the Dances, Clubs and Events – even dances out of state. As you can see from following the District 2 Delegates and Coordinator around, there are PLENTY of Events and dancing opportunities out there for you. Join us as we dance our way across regions. Several of our clubs are conducting Square and Round Dance lessons. Tell your friends about the lessons. Better yet, 'take' them to lessons. Invite friends and neighbors to your club. Let them see what a fun time you have dancing.



The Kurly Qs celebrated their **47th Anniversary Dance** Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Travis Cook was the special caller and John Romano was the cuer.

*District II Coordinator – Carol Varner*

## DISTRICT 3 NEWS

This past June, the Montgomery Area Square Dance Association (MASDA) sold the MASDA building on Ann Street. Since then, the **monthly MASDA Board Meetings and Dances have been held at the Dalraida United Methodist Church 3817 Atlanta Highway (near the intersection of Atlanta Highway and Perry Hill Road).**

MASDA Association Dances are held on the second (2nd) Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. Squares & Rounds from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm with announced Plus tips. The MASDA monthly association dances are FREE for MASDA members. A donation for non-MASDA members is \$5.00 per person.

Remaining 2019 Dances:

October 12	MASDA Caller: Kevin Cozad	Cuer: John Williford
November 9	MASDA Caller: Wayne Nicolson	Cuer: Jim Brown
December 14	MASDA Caller: Larry Belcher	Cuer: John Romano

The clubs that formerly danced at the MASDA Hall have relocated as well, so it's probably time to give an updated listing of all the ASARDA member clubs in District 3 (for all the Alabama Travelers planning to visit our District)

- **B-Sharp Plus Dancers** – Dance every Tuesday night from 6-8 at the VIA Senior Center, 1717 Dauphin Street., Mobile. Caller: Ted Kennedy. PL, DBD, and Advanced. Visitors always Welcome. Casual Attire.
- **Beaux & Belles** – Dance every Tuesday night from 7-9 at the Dalraida United Methodist Church, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery. Caller: Larry Belcher. Alternating MS, PL, and Lines. Visitors always Welcome. Casual or Traditional Attire.
- **Dixie Plus Dancers** – Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, Dance Every Tuesday night from 6:30-9 at the Rock Church Family Center, 3401 Harrison Road, Montgomery. Caller: Kevin Cozad. Cuer: John Williford. Alternating DBD, PL, and Rounds. Visitors always Welcome. Casual Attire.
- **Magnolia Springs Squares** – Dance every Monday night from 7-9 at the Magnolia Springs Community Hall, 12191 Magnolia Springs Highway, Magnolia Springs. Caller: Patty Ping. MS and Lines. Visitors always Welcome. Casual or Traditional Attire.
- **Pairs & Spares Round Dancers** - Dance every Monday night from 6:15-8:45 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 4475 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery. Cuer: John Williford. Visitors always Welcome. Casual or Traditional Attire.
- **Prattville Promenaders** – Dance every Thursday night from 7-9 at the YMCA Day Care Center which is behind the YMCA, 600 East Main Street, Prattville. Caller: Wayne Nicholson. Beginners, Basic, MS, Plus and Lines. Visitors always Welcome. Casual or Traditional Attire.
- **Randolph Promenaders** – Dance 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday nights from 5:30-8:30 at the Woodland Community Center, 646 County Road 51, Woodland. Caller: Chris Michaelson. MS, Plus and Lines. Visitors always Welcome. Casual or Traditional Attire.
- **Village A's** – Dance every Thursday night from 5:30-7 at the Harris Center, 425 Perry Street, Auburn. Caller: Larry Belcher. Advanced. Visitors always Welcome. Casual Attire.
- **Village Rounds** – Dance every Monday night from 6-9 at the Harris Center, 425 Perry Street, Auburn. Caller: Dee Dee Barge (every other week). Rounds Teach when cuer is on site, Rounds workshops on alternating weeks. Visitors always Welcome. Casual Attire.
- **Village Squares** - Dance every Wednesday night from 7:15-9 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, Auburn. Caller: Larry Belcher. Alternating MS & PL, and Rounds & Lines. Visitors always Welcome. Casual or Traditional Attire.

*District III Coordinator – Tina Wilkins*

## **ASARDA WEBSITE**

Hey Dancers – Hopefully you know that the ASARDA web ([www.alabamasquaredance.com](http://www.alabamasquaredance.com)) has 2 calendars; one that looks like a paper calendar, with events listed by date, and the other listing events in order.

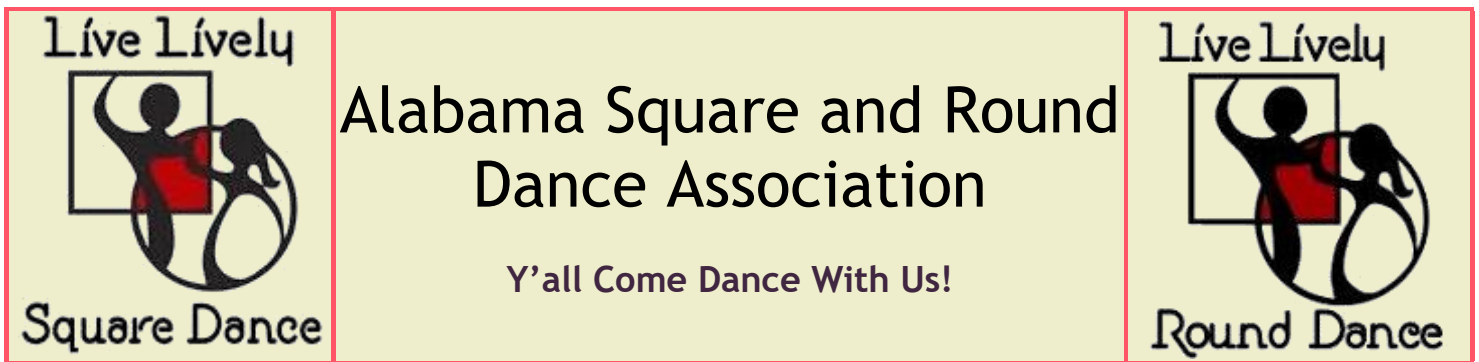
⇒ But do you realize that your club is listed (1) in alphabetical order, (2) by meeting day of the week, (3) by district, (4) by zip code and (5) on a map of Alabama? “By Zip Code” might not be obvious; put in your own (Alabama) zip code and you’ll get a list of clubs that are nearest to you.

Check to see if your club’s information is correct. If your club officers are listed, are they the current ones?

⇒ Your caller and/or cuer has a page just for himself/herself. Do that person a favor and see if the information is correct.

⇒ Have you invited non-dancers to get involved with square/round dancing? Click on the tab “Non-Dancers”, then “Lessons.” Are any of the lessons near you?

⇒ I invite everyone to make corrections and suggestions to our ASARDA web! Click on the “Contact us” link or send a message to me at [jimwolfe46@gmail.com](mailto:jimwolfe46@gmail.com)



*ASARDA Webmaster – Jim Wolfe*

## **ASARDA MEMBERSHIP**

I want to thank everyone that joined ASARDA for 2019 as there was 40 clubs and 405 members. Dancers' Membership runs from 1 September thru 31 August, so everyone's 2020 membership is now due. The dues are still \$10.00 per person if using your e-mail address for the newsletter but if for some reason you can't receive the newsletter by e-mail then it will cost an additional \$10.00 for printing & postage. For 2020, I currently have 192 members and 6 clubs that have already joined, and this is great. So please let all your club members know their dues are due. Also, remember your club can't get the ASARDA Insurance unless your club has joined. I welcome Kay Grove as the new Insurance Chairman, she will be getting in contact with all clubs soon. I also want to thank Tom and Tina Wilkins and all callers, cuers and line dance instructors and of course all the dancers for a wonderful ASARDA Convention. I have attended a lot of conventions over the years, but I think this one was the best. I really enjoyed the luau and think this convention ran really smooth.

### **ALABAMA TRAVELER PROGRAM**

Congratulations to everyone that really worked hard and earned their Alabama Traveler Dangle this year. If you would like to participate it cost nothing to join. Let me know and I will get you a card. If you attended the Convention in August, you will receive 2 points. If you did not attend, you must make these points up. Then you must visit a club in all 3 Districts. Then go to a dance in another state. You CAN'T count your own club you are a member of. You have until July to complete this mission. You don't have to go in a group unless you want to. I started this program 4 years ago to try and encourage everyone to go out and visit to other callers. This has been a lot of fun so let's all go and dance and dance.

*Membership Chairman - Anita Southern*



## CAMPERS AND DANCERS #152 NEWS

Our **fifth** campout was held **July 12 – 13, 2019**. The campout was held at Nashville Shores Lakeside Resort in Hermitage, TN. It was busy and fun. We had **6 rigs** of members plus tons of visitors. We ate (Five Daughters Bakery), shopped (antiques), explored Nashville (Parthenon, the Hermitage [home to our 7th President Andrew Jackson], the Nashville Shores Water Park, the Lazy River, and the American Pickers Museum), and danced. Two couples travelled to Lebanon, TN and checked out the fairgrounds. [This will be the location of the 63rd NSDCA International Camporee in 2020.] Each day, we were free to explore Nashville at our leisure. It was wonderful.

On Thursday, we had dinner at McNamara's Irish Pub. The pub was authentic and charming. The food was good and plentiful along with great service. The owners were gracious and allowed us to have a quiet area upstairs so that we could sit together and visit. The wagon master's selected the restaurant because it was featured on Tennessee's PBS and close to the campground. The restaurant was locally owned and operated.

Following dinner, some of us decided stay and listen to Irish music that was played. It was wonderful; a mix of traditional Irish music and oldies. The rest traveled to a local area square dance club, the Barnlofters, and danced to Gene Aldridge. He was the club's regular caller. We had an opportunity to lend a helping hand as angels to new dancers. It was great.

On Friday, our traditional potluck was held. There were 5 guests of Barnlofter members to attend. The food was great; lots of choices. By the time everyone was finished eating, tummies were pleasantly full. After dinner, we had a wonderful dance. Gene (Joyce) Aldridge called squares and Susan (Don) Wolford cued rounds and lines. Gene did a great job calling. Susan did a wonderful job cueing. Because of a high energy dance, they helped us work off dinner. We had lots of visitors; a wonderful turn out. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The split the pot winner was Vehra Verrilze. Many thanks to Gene and Susan for a fun and exciting time.

On Saturday, we were aroused in the morning by the smell of donuts. After we had our fill of donuts, ten hands of Bingo were played. Thirteen people came to play. There were lovely prizes. Our coverall winner was Tom Connor. [Don Wolford hand made a RV cup holder as one of the coverall gifts.]

After an afternoon of exploring, everyone attended the Annual Barnlofters Aloha-Rock-A-Hula Dance. Rob Baird was the caller and Robbie Carrington was the cuer for the evening. They both did a fabulous job. It was high energy as well. Everyone had a blast. There were a lot of people that attended the dance. Tom Connor won the door prize at the dance; a lovely bouquet of flowers. Many thanks to Rob Baird and Robbie Carrington for a great evening of dancing.

Yellow Rocks to our wagon masters Martha & Hank Sweetman and Susan & Don Wolford for a great campout! They did a fabulous job. Everyone had fun; members and visitors alike.



Our **sixth** campout was held **August 16 – 17**, at River Country Campground. It was fun and relaxing. We had **11 rigs** of members that camped. Marcita & Wayne Scharnhorst came to camp with us and decided to join our chapter. They had been involved in square dancing for thirty-five years and camping for thirty. Since we were centrally located for camping, some of our members attended activities and not camp. We had a great time fellowshiping and catching up on past news. During our dances, we had a ton of visitors which was always exciting. Our chapter Chaplain, Larry Boone, blessed all our meals and dances with sweet prayers.

On Friday, we began the evening activities with potluck. We had a large spread. There were meats, vegetables, breads, salads, and deserts. There was so much it was difficult to choose. My compliments to all the hands that graciously prepared the dishes. We have such wonderful cooks.

On Saturday, we woke to a donut breakfast provided by the Wagon Masters. There was also fruit and cheese. Breakfast was great. Afterwards, we played 10 games of Bingo. There were a lot of neat gifts in each bag. Debra Howard won the coveted coverall. In the overall bag was a special handmade gift by Rusty Emmons; a 15pc set of wooden Noah's Ark ornaments. Later that day, starved and ready to eat, we converged on Top of the River. As always, the food was great and plentiful.

By the time we finished eating (Friday and Saturday), we were ready to dance so that our dinner could be shaken down to our toes. To begin our weekend of dancing, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance (led by Friday = Barry Herndon / Saturday = Joe Hester) and welcome our many quests. Our guests were from Boaz Squares, Gadsden Twirlers, Kurly Qs and Lake Twirlers. For the weekend, we had Rusty Willoughby as our caller on squares and Pauline Angress as our cuer for rounds / lines. They did a fabulous job. On Saturday night, during the fourth tip, Rusty asked Kevin Cozad to call a duet with him. It was great; such a treat. Their voices blended together smoothly. Everyone had a great time dancing. Many yellow rocks were extended to Rusty for calling and Pauline for cueing at our campout. You guys rock. The winner of Split the Pot was Larry Boone.

Thanks to Diane and Tom Connor for being our wagon master partners. Rusty and I could not have done it without them.

Be sure to make your reservations for our next campout for **September 27 - 28**. The exact details are being worked out. They have planned to attend the Cumberland playhouse, eat at a local restaurant, play Bingo, have breakfast, and potluck. To make reservations, please call: Spring Lakes RV Resort, 255 Fairview Drive Crossville, TN 38571. **Reservations:** (877) 707-1414. Wagon Masters: Hank & Martha Sweetman (615) 481-5941, and Don & Susan Wolford (256) 673-0170. Caller: Terry McGill, Cuer: Susan Wolford.

If you have a camper and would like to join us, please contact us at (205) 492-2397 or (205) 492-9663.

Submitted by Elizabeth Emmons

## Request for HELP

Hello fellow square dancers. Every year, the Alabama Campers and Dancers square dance club saves the Pop Tabs from beverage and beer cans. They are turned in at our annual NSDCA International Camporee. The chapter with the most tabs wins the traveling Pop Tab plaque and all of the tabs that are saved are then turned into the Shriners Hospital for Children. This past June the twenty NSDCA chapters who took part in the project amassed 181.2 pounds of tabs. That is roughly 246,463 tabs. Florida chapter 128 won the travelling plaque this year; Louisiana came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Alabama 152 was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are hoping that the Alabama square dance clubs will help Chapter 152 win the plaque in 2020. If your club would please start now to save the beverage and beer cans tabs, it would be greatly appreciated. Only tabs from these cans are saved because they are pure aluminum. We have from now until mid-June of 2020. My husband and I will arrange to pick up the tabs that you are able to save. As the Project Coordinators, we will be the ones transporting the Alabama tabs to the Camporee and then all of them on to the hospital after the Camporee.

You can let me know if you will be able to help us by emailing Tom and I at [tocnnr@gmail.com](mailto:tocnnr@gmail.com). Thank you in advance.

Diane Connor, Alabama Campers and Dancers 152  
2020 Pop Tab Project Coordinator



**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children®  
*Love to the rescue®*





## Image is Everything

Calvin Campbell

Most people are attracted to a recreation by what they visually see. If the hobby looks like it's fun to do, they will try it. In the advertising trade, it's called "eye candy."

Square dancing used to look like fun to do. Modern Western Square Dancing, now, has a big image problem because, from the viewpoint of the spectator on the sidelines, it no longer looks like fun to do.

The square dance routines that used to please audiences visually are no longer used at the average Modern Western Square Dance. When they are occasionally revived, they are poorly danced by most dancers.

20 step Grand Squares are the most glaring example, but good timing and good styling have also vanished from dancing other square dance "basics." The name of the game, now, is to get to the next waypoint any way the dancer can. The image the spectator sees is much like watching a large ant pile.

Most of the movement seems random to the spectators. Unless callers plan otherwise, it is often random. MWSDing is presently a process of following, ever-changing directions, given by a leader to a group of eight people moving around a confined geographic area. In many ways, it looks like eight people trying to navigate a miniature maze, and they keep running into each other.

Any successful recreation must appeal to a large population base or die. The recreation must have a constant input of new people. Recruiting new people is dependent on presenting an attractive product for consideration. However, any product must be accessible to the average user.

There is a large population of people who want to dance. Many dance forms are attractive to watch. However, many dance forms appear difficult to learn. Most people are afraid to try any kind of dancing for fear of embarrassing themselves in public. They want to look good for the audience.

Traditional square dancing and contra dancing look easy to learn. All you have to be able to do is walk. Beginner Dance Parties look like dancing anyone could do. Most of their dance leaders use only the most simple "basics."

Square Dancing, at the beginner party level, is probably the most accessible form of any dance form if presented correctly. That's because it's a team dance format. It's difficult not to be able to Circle Left and Circle Right if you are holding hands with other people in a circle. It's also easy to learn "basics" such as Forward and Back, Arm Turns, Stars, and Promenade. I've entertained many groups of beginner dancers for over two hours using these five "basics."

Beginner Dance Parties have remained popular with the public because anyone can enjoy a Beginner Dance Party with no prior dancing experience. There are no lessons. New dancers just need to be willing to get out on the dance floor and move to the music.

Square Dancing is a dance of the hands and not of the feet. It's an excellent form of dancing for people who learn visually. At the beginner party dance level, almost every movement can be learned by watching someone else do it. When I do beginner dance parties, I dance with the people. What I do is as important as what I say.

Traditional Square Dancing has survived mainly because almost every dance is walked-thru before it is danced. The other critical element is the dance sequence repeats rather than being different each time. That is an essential difference between Traditional and Modern Western Square Dancing.

In general, people are more comfortable with dance routines than with extemporaneous directions provided by some leader. Most dancers want a predictable pattern to follow. It is also true in other forms of dancing. Almost any other form of dancing is composed of repeating movement patterns.

Modern Western Square Dancing has evolved away from all the above attributes. Presently, callers take great pride in being able to move dancers around with short commands with very detailed definitions. Unfortunately, this type of "dancing" is only popular with a tiny segment of the general population.

Each one of these goals of MWSDing, in the present form, contributes to the unattractive visual picture the spectator sees. So, as MWSDing continues to evolve the prospective pool of recruits will get smaller and smaller.

Can this be changed? Sure it can. We have the "basics" to create beautiful movement patterns that will appeal to spectators. We teach many of them during the first few square dance lessons and then abandon them. Many callers no longer have any idea how to match timing with music correctly. Most callers can learn that skill. CALLERLAB has excellent publications that show good styling. There is knowledge available from older callers that still know how to dance with good styling. We need callers that are willing to teach these skills and dancers that want to learn how.

*Education Chairman – Wayne Nicholson*

## ALABAMA SQUARE DANCE CALLERS ASSOCIATION (ASDCA)

Greetings from the ASDCA! We are very proud to announce the first two inductees in the Alabama Callers Hall of Fame. They are Mr. Dewey Lee Glass and Mr. John Paul Bresnan. Both were past members of ASDCA and both were founding members of ASARDA and ASDCA. Each served in many capacities throughout their calling careers in both organizations. Both were great callers, instructors, and mentors to new callers.



ASDCA has talked about having a Hall of Fame since at least 2008 and it became a reality this past year. If anyone would like to nominate a caller, cuer, line dance instructor, contra prompter, clogging leader, you can do so with the form on line at <http://www.alabamacallersassociation.com/> There are guidelines within the document with the form to nominate someone. The form must be filled out as completely as possible and presented to the ASDCA VP, currently Kevin Cozad, by Nov. each year to be considered and approved for the ASDCA Hall of Fame. All inductees will be listed on the ASDCA website and if not deceased will be presented a plaque signifying their induction into the ASDCA Hall of Fame.

Thank you,  
Larry Belcher, President ASDCA

## *Darryl McMillan Celebrates 50 years of calling 7/12/69 - 7/13/19*

One very Special Event was Celebrating **50 Years of Calling for International Caller Darryl McMillan**. What a treat this was. He went ALL the way back to some of the FIRST songs and music he used when he started this Square Dance journey. And speaking of 'first' – check out the 'first' Square Dance photo we found of Darryl and Ann McMillan (smile). Wouldn't it be interesting to know just how many Square Dancers Darryl has "produced" in all these years – not to mention the countless number of dancers that are "much improved and more confident" because of his diligence to Square Dancing.



Thank you, Darryl. I for one am proud to be among those that are much more confident in their dancing. Here you see Darryl being presented with a new Bose Sound System, compliments of his Fun Bunch Dance Club – and yes – some of us from District 2 pitched in money toward this purchase. We are so proud that Alabama has Darryl. Thank you, DARRYL, for sharing your square dance "Calling" talents with us!!

Submitted by Carol Varner, District 2 Coordinator



This article appeared in the Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> issue of The Cullman Times newspaper. Jim & Tammy Melton's daughters planned this SURPRISE party for over a year to honor their square dancing and Jim's calling for 50 years. By Bullard Benjamin Jun 25, 2019

## Square Dancing's cool couple

When Jim and Tammy Melton do-si-do toward their 60th wedding anniversary next year, it won't be the first milestone celebration that's been thrown in their honor.

The Vinemont couple, known for decades in North Alabama's tight-knit square dancing community, walked in on a surprise Saturday at the Vinemont Community Center, where around 100 people — many from out of state — were waiting to spring a party on them to commemorate spending more than half their lives keeping a time-honored part of Americana alive and thriving.

If you square dance in this part of the country, there's a good chance who know who the Melton's are. Jim's been calling dances for decades, back when the music relied on records instead of computers. Originally from Anderson, Indiana, the couple moved to Alabama when Jim took a job at Nicholson File in Cullman — where he worked more than four decades until retiring in the 1990s.



Neither Jim nor Tammy much cared for square dancing at first. Married and in their early 30s, friends from work tried to get Jim interested — but in the early going, he wanted no part of it.

“Some friends of ours up in Anderson, where we were living at the time, they squared danced. And they tried to get me to come along and square dance with them, and I wouldn't do it. I just didn't want to,” he explained. “Well, they kept at me, and eventually I agreed. Finally I said ‘I'll do it — one time.’”

After a few sessions, it was Tammy who thought maybe they'd stepped into something that wasn't for them. “But after we'd gone and done it a few times, I said, ‘We're not quitting this. We are going back,’” Jim jokes.

From there, it wasn't long before Jim wasn't just swinging his (at first) reluctant partner; pretty soon, Tammy warmed to the tradition too, and he began calling dances — a task that came with its own hesitations.

“When I started calling, I started in by myself, and at that time in Indiana, all the callers — they wouldn't help you,” he explained. “They didn't want you coming in on their territory. They took it seriously, and so I had to learn it as I went along.”

When the Meltons first moved to Cullman, their daughters Kelly and Jama — then in high school and middle school, respectively — already were part of the family's square dancing tradition. But, as Kelly observed Saturday, it's a piece of culture that seems to be eroding with the passing of time.

“When my sister and I were kids, that's what mom and dad did. Dad was around 30 when they started dancing, and we were going to those dances when we were kids,” she said. “I'd say the average age at the dances now is probably around 65.”

“I don't dance now,” she added, as Jama nodded that she doesn't either. “But back then, the whole family danced. Square dancing now is not near as big as it used to be — especially with younger people. But for mom and dad, square dancing has always been their life. And I really think it's kept them, in some ways, young.”

Now in their 80s, the Meltons are still part of the local Friendship Squares dancing club, and they still show up at the East Point Community center on Tuesday evening, where the club gets together each week. Tammy's had to pull back from active dancing following a recent health issue, but Jim still calls dances — even for clubs in Decatur and Florence, whose memberships were well represented in Vinemont Saturday to honor the Meltons' life inside the square.

If you're interested in learning more about a tradition with roots dating back to America's earliest days (and beyond), check out Cullman's Friendship Squares (their slogan is “Friendship set to Music”) online at [friendshipsquares.alabamasquaredance.com](http://friendshipsquares.alabamasquaredance.com).

# *YELLOW ROCKERS' RAIDING PARTY*



Then, on June 28th, while so many folks were in Atlanta, we hired a substitute caller and offered a place to dance for those who stayed behind. The theme was Island Party and we had a lot of fun. The Krazy 8s showed up in numbers that warranted the surrender of our banner.

On June 14th (Flag Day) the yellow rockers celebrated - uh - Flag Day! We had a good crowd, enjoyed honoring "Old Glory" and then had to give the Kurly Q's back the banner that we had stolen from them. All in all, a really fun time. And note that our venue, Mountain Chapel United Methodist Church helped us decorate by displaying all of their flags!



July 26th saw the return of the Yellow Rocker's famous annual Ice Cream Social. Lots of fun, ice cream and dancing.

August 3rd was the Krazy 8s day of reckoning as we showed up in over-powering numbers and retrieved our banner. A fun evening with the Jamie and the K8s. They always live up to their name!

Then we turned loose our raiding party. We now have in our possession the flags from the Kurly Qs as well as the Eastern Wranglers. Watch out - they are still prowling around.



The Yellow Rocker's current class had a "Halfway Dance" on a Tuesday night August 27. An amazing turnout for such a dance and we thank all in attendance for all the fun!

Yellow Rocks! (Yes, yes it does!)  
- Harry Miller  
President, Yellow Rockers





## ALABAMA CONVENTION WRAP UP

Well Alabama, we had another great convention this year. Thank you to all of our dancers that attended! We are greatly increasing the number of out of state visitors and callers, and it sure makes for a lot of fun and fellowship!



Congratulations to Carol Varner, District 2 Coordinator, for winning the ASARDA Presidents Award this year (pictured left). Carol is a member of a lot of clubs in District 2 and visits clubs all over the state, as well as dances across the region. She is a great ambassador for Alabama Square Dancing and extremely deserving of this honor.

Congratulations also to Darryl and Ann McMillan for receiving Distinguished Lifetime Membership in

ASARDA. Darryl has been calling for 50 years, not only nationally but internationally. Darryl has several clubs in Decatur and has been a long-time promoter of Square Dancing.

The Last Square Standing winner this year were the Cross Independent Twirlers (pictured below). This is the 4<sup>th</sup> win for Rosie Caudle, the 2<sup>nd</sup> for Stephen Caudle, Everette Bailey, Vicki Bailey, and Karen Beatenbough. Other members included Dylan Bailey and Lamont & Diane-Martin Hamilton.



The 5 ASARDA Raffle ticket winners of \$100 this year were: John Steffens from Singles and Doubles, Lynn Doshier from Duos and Solos, Maybelle Mangrum for 8ers from Decatur, and Bubba Roper and Elaine Wheeler from Krazy 8s. The winner of the

Receipt drawing was Rita Canada from McCalla, AL. The winner of the Survey drawing was Bob Broderick from Hendersonville, NC. Congratulations to all the winners.

More than 300 attendees attended our Luau Luncheon this year! Attendees were treated to a buffet luncheon with exceptional entertainment by Polynesian dancers Dawn Mahealani Douglas. The highlight of the event was the audience participation sections. If you missed this, please check out the videos on our Facebook page.

Submitted by Tina Wilkins

### *CLUB ATTENDANCE*

Kurly Qs	33
Wheel Arounds	30
The Fun Bunch	29
8ers from Decatur	24
Singles & Doubles	19
Campers & Dancers	18
Lake Twirlers	18
Yellow Rockers	16
J&R Rounds	15
Village Squares	15
Duos & Solos	14
Eastern Wranglers	13
Gadsden Twirlers	13
Boaz Squares	12
B-Sharp Plus	10
Magnolia Springs	10
Swingin' Squares	9
Village Rounds	9
Village As	8
Pelham Promenaders	7
Rocket Rounds	7
Bee Bop Arounds	6
Prattville Promenaders	5
River City As	5
Dixie Plus Dancers	4
Krazy 8s	4
Pairs & Spares	4
Beaus & Belles	3
Domino City Squares	3
Randolph Promenaders	3
Shelby Shufflers	3
T-Squares	3
Quad City Squares	2
Swinging Stars	1





A special **Thank you** from Terry Cassis, 2019 Convention Chairman to everyone who volunteered: ASARDA board members, callers, cuers, and dancers, namely. Garland Frazier, Chris Roberts, Becky Reggel, Judy Gaut, Margaret Snyder, Katie Snyder, Mary Wolfe, Ted & Nancy Kennedy, Huffy Gaines, Jim and Janice Purvis, Elizabeth Brisco, John Nolen, Bobby Johnson, Bobby & Ramona Parker, Richard Gray, Larry Leonard,

Gary Ping, David Maddox, Roy Kirkland, Kathy Arnone, Michael Dueck, Tom Miller, Keith Branham, Beth Zilinkas, Jon & Veronica Steffens, Sandra Cummings, Claudia Lively, Jason Turner and "girls", Steve Allums, Brenda Rowell, Brenda McBride, Dennis Faulkner, Julia Baxter, Dennis & Mary Reid, Bob & Johanna Soli, and Rick & Liz Sorrell.





## ALABAMA TRAVELERS

88 Alabama Dancers attended the Tennessee State Convention August 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Gatlinburg.



Ted & Nancy Kennedy & Tom & Tina Wilkins attended the North Carolina State Convention August 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh.

ASARDA Members John & Elizabeth Nolen and Tom & Tina Wilkins, Rick & Cindy Wilcox (KY), Gary & Claudia Quinlan (SC) attended the Kentucky State Convention September 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in Lexington.



Several Alabama Dancers attended the Georgia State Convention September 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in Gainesville. Carol Varner was amazing in the Fashion Show representing the 72<sup>nd</sup> NSDC® (pictured left), some Village Squares members (pictured right).



Gadsden Twirlers who just missed the group photo at the Tennessee Convention 😊



## **72<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® UPDATE**

We currently have 398 registrations for our National Convention in 2023. We have filled many of our committee positions, but we still have a few spots we need to fill. If you are interested in being a part of the planning process, please let us know, we would love to have you involved.

We will have our 90-day Meeting with our NEC Advisors in Mobile on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be from 9-1 for 72<sup>nd</sup> NSDC® Committee members. After the meeting, around 2pm, we will tour the Mobile Convention Center to see the dance halls, and the Renaissance hotel meeting spaces we will use for Education sessions. Anyone may join us on the tour. So, if you would like to check out the venue, please join us!

## **UPCOMING DANCES**

### **Wheel Arounds Pajama Party**

Date: Friday, Sep 27, 2019 BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL  
Caller: Larry Belcher Cuer: David Holladay

### **East Meets West Plus & Advanced w/Rounds**

Dates: Oct 12 - 13, 2019 SDI Center, 828 Tulip Ave, Knoxville, TN  
Callers: QP Hara, Max Ringe, Rascal Araki, Steve Kopman & Gary Shoemake Cuer: Martha Ogasawara

### **If you would like a little extra spice in your square dancing, please come to our Plus and More**

Date: Sunday, Oct 13, 2019 Central Hall Activity Center, 1931 Central Pkwy, STE 'A', Decatur, AL  
Caller: Darryl McMillan

### **Benefit Dance for Roy and Connie Dutton to help with medical expenses**

Date: Sunday, Oct 13, 2019 Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. BSDA Friendship Hall

### **We hope you will join us for our 2019 Octoberfest**

Dates: Oct 17 - 19, 2019 Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam, NC  
Callers: Wes Dyer & Darryl McMillan Cuer: David Holladay

### **57th Midsouth Square & Round Dance Festival**

Dates: Oct 18 - 19, 2019 St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2949 Davies Plantation, Lakeland, TN  
Caller: Tim Tyl Cuer: Terri Wilaby

### **The Halloween Dance Lake Twirlers Sing Along Dance**

Date: Monday, Oct 21, 2019 Guntersville Senior Center, 1503 Sunset Drive, Guntersville, AL  
Caller: Wayne Mahathey

### **Join the Gadsden Twirlers as we celebrate Halloween**

Date: Thursday, Oct 24, 2019 Downtown Civic Center, 623 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL  
Caller: Ronnie Purser

### **The Wheel Arounds Halloween Hoedown**

Date: Friday, Oct 25, 2019 BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL  
Caller: Larry Belcher Cuer: David Holladay

### **2019 NWFSRDA 45th Annual Roundup**

Dates: Oct 25 - 26, 2019 PASARDA Hall, Hall, 17 Industrial Street, Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Caller: Skip Cleland Cuer: Terri Wilaby



If you would like a little extra spice in your square dancing, please come to our **Plus and More**

Date: Sunday, Oct 27, 2019 Central Hall Activity Center, 1931 Central Pkwy, STE 'A', Decatur, AL

Caller: Darryl McMillan

**Huntsville Singles & Doubles invite you to Come Dance with Us**

Date: Wednesday, Oct 30, 2019 Berachah Gymnasium, 3011 Sparkman Dr., Huntsville, AL

Caller: Sylvia Roberts Cuer: Diane- Martin Hamilton

**Celebrating our 30th Anniversary Indiana Square and Round Dance Convention**

Dates: Nov 08 - 10, 2019 French Lick Resort, 8670 West State Road 56, French Lick, ID

**Eat and Be Thankful Join us for a Thanksgiving Square Dance**

Date: Wednesday, Nov 20, 2019 Berachah Gymnasium, 3011 Sparkman Dr., Huntsville, AL

**Join the Gadsden Twirlers as we celebrate Thanksgiving**

Date: Thursday, Nov 21, 2019 Downtown Civic Center, 623 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL

Caller: Ronnie Purser

**46th Annual Turkey Strut**

Dates: Nov 22 - 23, 2019 Smoky Mountain Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

Callers: Bob Baier, Jerry Biggerstaff, Tony Oxendine, Johnny Preston

**You're invited to the Capital Twirlers 2019 Annual Holiday Dinner and Dance**

Date: Monday, Dec 02, 2019 Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL

Caller: Elmer Sheffield

**Huntsville Singles & Doubles Christmas Dance**

Date: Wednesday, Dec 18, 2019 Berachah Gymnasium, 3011 Sparkman Dr., Huntsville, AL

Caller: Skip Cleland Cuer: Diane-Martin Hamilton

**Join the Gadsden Twirlers for our Christmas Dance**

Date: Thursday, Dec 19, 2019 Downtown Civic Center, 623 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL

Caller: Ronnie Purser

**New Year's Eve Dance**

Date: Tuesday, Dec 31, 2019 Grand Square Hall, 1105 Bob Little Road, Panama City, FL

Caller: Ted Kennedy Cuer: Sandy Sturgis

**BSDA New Year's Eve Dance - The Roaring 20s – 2020**

Date: Tuesday, Dec 31, 2019 BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL

Caller: Kristy Williams Cuer: Pauline Angress

**Estill Springers Snowflake Special**

Date: Saturday, Jan 25, 2020 The Barn, Ada Wright Center, 328 North Woodland St., Manchester, TN

Caller: Justin Russell Cuer: Robbie Carrington

**Dixie Round Dance Council**

Dates: Jan 31 - 01, 2020 BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL

Cuers: Sandra & Gunter Hirschler, John & Pat Romano, Doug & Cheryl Byrd

**For more information visit our website at: <http://www.alabamasquaredance.com/calendar/calendar.php>**

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

**ALABAMA SQUARE AND ROUND  
DANCE ASSOCIATION, INC**

**4433 32nd Street SW  
Lanett, AL 36863-6607**

**PUBLICATION POLICY**

The *ASARDA NEWS* is published quarterly in March, June and September and December with a special Convention issue in August. Input to the newsletter must be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Any information to be published should be sent to the Editor at asardanews@gmail.com.