

## Chapter 2 - Goals, Benefits and Functions

Your membership in the Association provides your club with an option for group liability insurance coverage, opportunity for federal tax exempt status, also membership booklets, club friendship awards and plaques, delegate badges and dancer activity badges.

### MCASD's Goals Are:

- To promote square dancing throughout the Chicago area;
- To offer membership to all formally organized square dance clubs in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties;
- To continue to provide the maximum insurance assistance to all member clubs; and
- To provide educational and leadership training opportunities.

### The Benefits of Membership Are:

- **Insurance Program:** An optional group liability plan subsidized from Association funds is available to all member clubs. This policy covers members and guests at all club activities.
- **Tax Exempt Status:** The Association, along with those member clubs who have made application to the Association, have been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.
- **Newsnotes:** Information on current area, SCISDA, and USDA square dance activities is published three times each year and distributed at the general meetings for the benefit of member club dancers.
- **Clearing House:** A listing of Association and member club's special activities is printed along with Newsnotes. These listings can help clubs schedule their events so that conflicts in dates can be minimized.

## **Banner Stealing Rules, Friendship Award and Dancer Activity Badges**

Banner stealing rules are published by the Association to provide uniformity between clubs who participate. The requirements for both Individual Dancer Activity badges and the Club Friendship Award are also provided. The individual Dancer Activity Badges for all those who qualify on a first-time basis, and the bars for succeeding years, for those who qualify, may be purchased by the club or dancers at the clubs discretion. The Friendship Award is awarded free of charge by the Association.

## **Square Dance Information Phone**

For information on callers, club dances, special events or any other question on square dancing in the Chicago metropolitan area, call the **SCISDA Toll Free Information Phone** (800) 822-7856. This phone is answered by a volunteer with information about clubs throughout the state of Illinois.

## **Principal Functions Sponsored by the Association**

- **New Dancer Dances:** Dances for all individuals currently taking lessons are provided to allow them to gain more floor time, meet other new dancers and to dance to different callers. These dances are held at various locations in the Chicago area beginning in October and ending in April.
- **Sweetheart Dance:** Annually on the third Sunday in February, the Association celebrates Valentines Day with a dance featuring a National Caller along with one of our local Callers and local Round Dance Leaders.
- **Great Pumpkin Ball:** (formerly called the Octoberfest) The Great Pumpkin Ball is held annually on a Sunday afternoon in October and has halls for several levels of square dancing and a hall for round dancing.
- Member Clubs, as part of the **Membership Requirements**, provide the many workers that it takes to put on these events. While these dances are put on by the Association, they are open to all square and round dancers. The Great Pumpkin Ball and the Sweetheart Dance are the two (2) major events sponsored by the Association each year, and are the primary sources of income for the Association.
- **General Meetings:** The Club Delegates meet as prescribed in the by-laws to conduct the business of the association. These meetings also serve as a communications link between the clubs and Executive Committee. The Newsnotes, Clearing House and other literature are distributed at these meetings.

## **Summary**

The Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers (MCASD) is made possible by the dancers and the Clubs working together. Your club's support and attendance at the Association sponsored functions provides the funds to underwrite the above listed benefits and to work toward the stated goals.

If you need more information, if you see something that needs to be done, or if you would like to help, contact your MCASD Director.