

NEWSNOTES

Volume 33, No. 3
April 18, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK.

Hi Club Presidents and Club Delegates,

We wish to thank the Club Presidents and Club Delegates for their support and cooperation during this past square dance year. We had two great summer dances, undreamed of last April, with participation in the Taste of Chicago fest, and the representative folk dance of the United States (square dancing) at the Museum of Science and Industry. Added to that, our scheduled MCASD sponsored Great Pumpkin Ball in October and the Sweetheart Dance in February were huge successes. Good things happen when square dancers work together.

Club Presidents will soon be receiving renewal forms for MCASD membership and insurance forms for SCISDA insurance. Included in this packet will be a form requiring YOUR SIGNATURE, indicating you understand the coverage given by the SCISDA policy. Club membership and SCISDA insurance coverage will not be renewed without your signature. Be sure this is returned with the other forms.

HELP! HELP! HELP! We have been trying to place square dance information about all Illinois clubs in the WELCOME TO ILLINOIS information centers around the state. We cannot locate anyone who knows someone who has a friend in the Secretary of States Office who will help us. Do you know those people? If so, please give us call and we will follow up as quickly as possible. States such as Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan provide square dance information at their centers so should we.

REMEMBER, club delegates will indicate at the April 18th General Meeting how your club will participate in the coming years MCASD activities - by sponsoring a Student Dance, working at the Great Pumpkin Ball, working at the Sweetheart Dance or a combination of the preceding. As the number of clubs has decreased, it really helps when several clubs volunteer for more than one activity. Be sure your Delegate has been instructed which ones your club prefers.

Soon many clubs will be sponsoring summer club dances and workshops. This is a great chance for you and your club to TAKE the newly graduated students to their first "real" square dances, and to encourage them to enroll as members of your club. They need encouragement and help to "fly from the nest" the first few times. Don't send them, TAKE them.

While on the matter of new students, I encourage you to review not only the instructor callers role in greeting and motivating first time students to continue with lessons, but to reexamine YOUR role in this exceedingly important phase of lessons. Sad to say, some students never get to know the President of the club sponsoring the lessons, or any officer other than lesson coordinator. In this election year of 2004, emulate the politicians and "press the flesh" at the student lessons, letting them know YOU think their attendance is important.

4/7/04

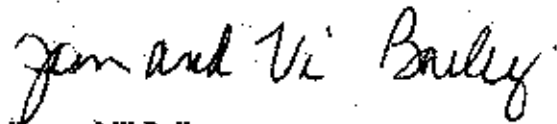
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This summer will also present us with the opportunity to support the 21st Illinois State Square and Round Dance Convention being held in Macomb July 29, 30 and August 1st. If you haven't registered as yet, do so ASAP, and enjoy the three best days of square dancing and fun activities that you, your club members, and your recent graduates can experience. Break the routine of dull summer activities with this great event. We'll be looking for MCASD Club Presidents. If you see us there (we're registered, of course), step up and say Hi!

The MCASD Board has encouraged our Directors to communicate with the President's of the clubs they have been assigned, and request that they be allowed to visit a club business meeting - for the purpose of lending assistance to local clubs, not to spy. This is voluntary on your part. Our Directors do have expertise in square dance matters, and could possibly contribute valuable aid to your club. Please consider it if asked.

REMINDER to current Club Presidents and Delegates - be sure to pass along the NEW Informational Handbook and Delegates badge should someone else be taking your place for the coming square dance year. It will really help the Incoming President or Delegate if you also take some time and show them "the ropes" of their new responsibilities. We stand ready to assist new Presidents and Delegates, but you can make the transition so much easier for them when you share your knowledge and expertise. Thanks.

Sincerely Yours,



Jim and Vi Bailey
President, MCASD

Co-Vice Presidents Message

Our last New Dancer Dance was held Saturday, April 3, 2004 at Midlothian, Kolmar School. This concludes the past New Dancer season 2003-2004. Ten dances were held at three locations: Mt. Prospect, Villa Park and Midlothian. They were hosted by the following ten clubs: Happy Twirlers, Midlothian Squares, Naper Squares, B 'n B Flossmoor, Square Spires, Sidekicks, Country Bumpkins, Woodstock Squares, Dudes N' Dolls, and Swing 'n Sugar Squares.

We thank these clubs very much for their support and assistance with these "New Dancer Dances." Their help was greatly appreciated. Have you EVER attended a "N_D_D"? They are usually fun, and the new dancers appreciate your expertise. Plan to attend several next year.

There were three Re-Sale shops held, one at each location, and were a great success. Many "New Dancers" and angels alike were happy shoppers. We are getting inquiries about next seasons Re-Sale shops already.

The dances averaged a total attendance of 9 squares per dance, including New Dancers, angels, host club members, and MCASD Board members. There were 280 New Dancers in attendance for the 2003-2004 dance season. The callers were outstanding in providing a FUN evening for everyone.

It has been our pleasure to have helped provide dancing time and fun for the New Dancers and angels this season (and last season, too). We hope the New Dancers will join a club and volunteer to be angels for next years "New Dancers. In order to maintain our club memberships, we need to encourage new people to take lessons in 2004/2005.

NEW SQUARE DANCERS WANTED!!

Squarely Yours,

Pat Semple
John & Barb O'Connell
MCASD Co-Vice Presidents

Sweetheart Dance 2004/2005

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2004 Sweetheart Dance a great success. The Board members and Directors who not only coordinate the different jobs but also give us such great ideas - especially the idea to have cake this year - it was a great success. We plan on serving it again next year.

To the callers and cuers who made it such a fun dance for over 500 dancers - thanks again. If you missed the 2004 edition, plan to make the 2005 Sweetheart Dance next February. You will enjoy a super dance!

Dave Sutton and his guest callers made it a fun time for about 67 NEW DANCERS. For the second year in a row the soon to be graduates were invited to come to their first "REAL" dance, and they had a good time. They are now ready to become club members with an MCASD club, and folks you will want to square up with.

Plans are already in the works for next years dance - the details will be announced later. Be on the lookout, and get your tickets before they are all sold out.

Linda and Gary Marron
SWEETHEART DANCE CHAIRMEN

REPORT FROM SCISDA

Summer is almost here - time to get ready for the 2004 Get ready for the 2004 ILLINOIS STATE SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE CONVENTION - July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2004 - Western Illinois University - Macomb, Illinois

The halls are air-conditioned, and all the halls have hard wood floors. DEE DEE DOUGHERTY will be our featured national caller, in addition to many of our favorite callers and cuers from around the area. Great places to stay, a chance to see a beautiful part of the state, and a lot of fun dancing. What more could you ask? So pack your dancing shoes, make reservations soon and join us in Macomb in July.

Plans are also being made to have future conventions held in different locations around the state. This will give us the opportunity to see more of the great State of Illinois, and square

danced with the best dancers, to boot. Encourage those working to prepare the Conventions by attending our state get-togethers whenever they are held. The SCISDA Board is also working on retaining the Traveling Badge - (know what that is?) More on this in later reports.

As directed by our MCASD Board, our SCISDA Northern Vice-Presidents Curtis and Maria Bremer raised the question of having a flyer about Square Dancing in the rest/information areas on the highways. He has contacted a state senator about this, but more help is needed for this to come to pass. Information will be presented at the next Board meeting and at the General Meeting. We will keep you updated.

Gym shoes will be allowed on the dance floors.

REGISTER NOW - LET'S MAKE OUR CONVENTION IN MACOMB THE BEST CONVENTION EVER SEEN. (Be sure to tell the hotel you are a square dancer when you call to make reservations. They have reserved rooms for us.)

MCASD Delegates to SCISDA
Linda and Gary Marron

1) RECOGNIZING MCASD BOARD MEMBERS AT DANCES

From time to time members of the MCASD Board visit MCASD clubs, usually to square dance, but sometimes for an official visit. In either event, it would be appreciated if ALL BOARD MEMBERS visiting your club were introduced. Some square dancers never get to see or meet Board members as they are never introduced. Sometimes Board members have been instructed to make an announcement or two to the clubs they visit. Your introducing them will facilitate their task.

If your particular Club Board is comfortable with the idea, clubs are encouraged to invite their MCASD Director to visit at a Club Board meeting. They will be there to lend assistance if possible, not to spy on you. **CONSIDER IT!**

Jim and UI Balley - MCASD President

2) SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS STATE SQUARE DANCE.

Clubs and individual square dancers are encouraged to support the Illinois State Square and Round Dance Convention by placing an ad in the the 21st Annual Program Book. Ads and checks are being handled by Larry and Ruth Wehmeler - 512 E. East St., P.O. Box 165, Mackinaw, IL 61755-0165 - (309) 359-9882 E-mail: laru@trianglerief.net. Advertise your club dances in the Program Book.

3) IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT PROMOTE SQUARE DANCING

Over the years Arlington Squares has tried various Demo and Community Service dances in hopes of generating interest in square dancing.

The list that follows is a small sampling of the various activities in which we have participated.

We have danced at "Buffalo Grove Dags", "Friday Night Live on the Plaza" in Des Plaines (Glenview Squares, Spare Squares, and Happy Twirlers joined us), "Sunrise Assisted Living Center" in Schaumburg, "Our Friends at Clearbrook" in Arlington Heights, "Country Western Night" for Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church fund raiser in Lake Zurich, "Marriott's Brighton Gardens Retirement Home" in Hoffman Estates, "Apple Fest in Long Grove, "Friendship Village" in Schaumburg, and many others as well.

The idea is simply for exposure of the the square dance activity. When we do community service dancing at retirement homes, etc. the extended relatives of the residents ad workers are ecstatic. When we dance at town and church "Special Events" it allows us to bring our activity up close and personal to a variety of folks.

We believe that every opportunity should be explored and as many functions attended as possible. The more the public at large sees us having fun, the more opportunities we will have to acquire new members to share in that fun.

See you in a square,
Tim and Donna Cardwell

4) DELEGATES BADGES

Delegates and Club Presidents are reminded that it is their responsibility to maintain control of the Delegates Badges. Many clubs have lost or misplaced badges, and a badge **MUST** be worn at all MCASD General Meetings.

Reluctantly, MCASD will henceforth impose a \$5.00 replacement fee per badge - **PAYABLE IN ADVANCE** - when a club's Delegate badge turns up missing. The fee preferably should be paid by check to the Treasurer when requesting a replacement.

5) THE PRICE OF GASOLINE

It was brought to our attention that the increasing price of gasoline may be make it unprofitable for some callers who travel long distances to continue to call. Clubs are encouraged to look at the distance their callers must travel, and perhaps increase their fee to help the caller remain as a caller. We don't want to lose the good ones over the price of gas.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2004 - 2005

GENERAL MEETINGS -

THIRD SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER - SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

FIRST SUNDAY IN DECEMBER - DECEMBER 5, 2004

THIRD SUNDAY IN APRIL (depending on Easter)- APRIL 17, 2005

SPECIAL MCASD DANCES

Third Sunday in October

GREAT PUMPKIN BALL - OCTOBER 17, 2004

Second Sunday in February

SWEETHEART DANCE - FEBRUARY 13, 2005

SUBMITTING FLYERS

AUGUST 25TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FLYERS

FOR THE SEPTEMBER 19TH 2004 M.C.A.S.D. GENERAL MEETING

Clubs should submit flyers following this formula:

STAPLED - 34 PACKS OF 10 (OR FEWER) FOR EACH OF THE CLUBS

LOOSE - 75 INDIVIDUAL SHEETS FOR PRESIDENTS AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PACKETS -

ALL FLYERS MUST BE 8.5 X 11 INCHES IN SIZE

Remember to submit flyers to us by August 25, 2004 for the

September 19th MCASD General Meeting.

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