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Grapevine

A publication of
Associated Square Dancers, California

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***Our new way of connecting:
Mike Seatrom at the
February General Meeting
Mike will be the Key Note Speaker at the
Jackson, MS, National Convention***

Associated Square Dancers

The purpose of this Association is to promote Modern American Square and Round Dancing as a healthful, fun-type family recreation; to provide leadership and direction for its members and to collect and disseminate information regarding square and round dancing on a local, state, and national level. The association does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, age, national origin (ancestry), marital status, or sexual orientation, in any of its activities or operations.

The *Grapevine* is the official publication of Associated Square Dancers. Deadlines to submit information are:

October 16 for Dec., Jan., Feb. issue April 16 for June, July, Aug. issue
Jan 16 for March, April, May issue July 16 for Sept., Oct., Nov. issue

What we would like to receive for publication:

- Special dances for the three months following date of issue.
- Articles on activities that have had a **major impact** on the club's membership, dance attendance, and classes.
- Fundraisers and/or outings your club has enjoyed.

Please be positive and helpful with your articles. Sharing ideas helps all clubs be more successful.

A Square D Website: www.asquared.org

A Square D Calendar:

JUNE

June	1	National Olive Day, National Heimlich Manoeuver Day, Go Barefoot Day, PenPal Day, & Say Something Nice Day!
June	14	Flag Day
June	20	Father's Day
June	20	First Day of Summer

JULY

July	4	Independence Day
July	5	Independence Day observed
July	20	National Lollipop Day
July	25	Parents' Day
July	30	National Father-in-Law Day

AUGUST

Aug.	1	Sisters Day
Aug.	9	National Book Lovers Day
Aug.	15	General Meeting via ZOOM, 2 p.m.
Aug.	21	World Honey Bee Day
Aug.	27	National Just Because Day

Please visit the Associated Square Dancers web site (www.asquared.org) often to check for up-dates on activities as they resume. To contact clubs directly, refer to Affiliated Clubs on the back cover.

President's Message



Hello everybody!

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the ASqD elections and voted for the current board of directors. This is an incredible team and it is my honor to serve as your current President. We have been very busy during the last year and look forward to the return

to dancing. The Social Square Dancing Project (SSD) is going very well. Almost all of our clubs are planning to participate and that should give all of us a great opportunity to pave the way for a thriving square dance future. Interest and enthusiasm is starting to grow about changing how we dance. You have heard me speak about the fact that square dancing is down by 90%. That information comes from the number of attendees at the National Square Dance Conventions and the number of clubs in ASqD. I have been researching what modern square dancing was like in its heyday and I am trying to figure out what made it so exciting. I think it had to do with being lots of fun, easy to learn, and a way to make friends.

Soon it will be time to stop social distancing and try social square dancing. This is a great opportunity to market and promote square dancing. The Board has been diligently working on creating a marketing plan. We have studied and discussed the Callerlab Marketing Manual by Mike Hogan. Mike is always teaching dancers and clubs what marketing strategies are and basically how marketing theory works. Marketing models are based on planning, product, price, distribution, and promotion. At ASqD we are preparing to market SSD to folks that have been

Reminder — 50-50 drawings are illegal in the State of California, and are not sanctioned by A Square D.

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shut in during the pandemic and want to dance. We have a new product, SSD, and the ability to create fun and friendships. The new post-pandemic price will be determined and certainly will be reasonable; square dancers are good at that. Distribution will be done by conducting exciting SSD classes. Promotion will make the public aware of us and how to reach us through social media. People must be able to find us easily for class information, start dates, and locations.

ASqD is just about ready to hire a marketing company. We are seeking a firm which will provide us with rebranding, including a logo and slogan. We will also be asking for the creation of an overarching website design that connects to clubs' websites...And we are looking for search engine optimization along with the best possible visibility on the internet. If you know of a marketing firm you would like to recommend, please contact us at ASqDancers@gmail.com

We are off to a new start! I hope to see all of you on the dance floor!—Freda

A Square D Club Happenings

Boots & Bows

The general meeting of the Boots & Bows was held in March by means of a ZOOM conference call. Members either voted by mailing their ballots or verbally on the conference call. The elected officers are Doug Purinton who is continuing as our President, Sandy Baker as Vice President (with Assistant VP Rosemary Walters), Connie Carroll as Treasurer, Laural Purinton as Secretary, and Kaye Roll as A Square D Delegate. The Boots & Bows is encouraging and supporting the introduction of a new member to the board every year and this year we welcome Sandy.

It was determined at the February board meeting to commit to the SSD (Social Square Dancing) program for the next two years. The monthly dances will also transition to SSD. We are in the process of planning how to provide an opportunity for dancers who desire to participate in some Plus squares and round dances. Our By-Laws were modified to reflect this commitment.

The Boots & Bows are tentatively anticipating a return to dancing in September 2021 dependent on what the safety requirements are for group gatherings, insurance availability, and the availability of a location for dancing and for classes.

Buckles & Bows

What a year we have had. Through the kindness of Mike Seastrom and with dances by Johnny Preston through OneSquareInternational, and with David and Dawn Mee, and other callers, we have continued dancing, albeit with fairly weak phantoms. We have noticed a drop-off in attendance as the sequester dragged on. However, now folks are beginning to get vaccinated, and we are finally gathering, with one or two full squares, and the dancing, via ZOOM calling, has been magical, and such a relief.

The callers are coming together with a newer concept called Social Square Dancing (SSD). The idea is to make the initial learning process easier and shorter, hoping to keep more folks interested, and offering a couple of classes each year. There will still be Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Challenge classes and dances.

The next step will be opening up dance halls so we can begin holding classes once again. We are working closely with our hall, The Gobel Adult Community Center in Thousand Oaks, and we will be ready when they are. The procedures that will be in place for everyone are yet to be determined.

We all hope everyone is staying safe, healthy and remain focused in returning to square dancing together, as soon as possible.

Happy Squares

Our Happy Squares club has been having meetings by ZOOM each third Tuesday of the month.

Although there have been discussions held about square dance and how we can start dancing again, no definite plans have been made yet. We are looking forward to Solvang 2022 and other activities as soon as they are scheduled and we can attend.

I believe our club members have remained healthy. Take care of yourselves. We look forward to dancing with you as soon as possible. — Marie Gray, ASD Representative

Lads 'n' Lassies

Not much has changed since our last article. We heard from the City of L.A.'s Federation of Senior Citizen Clubs in mid-March. Membership information and club status was requested and provided. As of this writing, we have no "open" date for the Wilkinson Center.

Our secretary continues to routinely contact club members to see how they are doing. Everyone appreciates her concern and they provide information for the monthly newsletter. The Sunshine chairperson continues to send out a variety of cards.

Our non-member workshop dancers are also contacted monthly and the editor includes their news, too. Most say that they are anxious to return but safety remains a concern.

These caring acts have made a huge difference for our members. The only thing better than the friendship calls is a face-to-face meeting. We can't wait to see everyone again.

The club's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LnLsqaredanceclub/>) is active and square dance related information is routinely posted.

Ribbons & Souls

Everyone knows how important it is to have a hall in which to dance. For us, this is going to be challenging for the next couple of years. Our long-time hall is in the Felicia Mahood Community Center, which is going to be demolished and rebuilt. So, we are on a search for a new, temporary venue, for when we all can get back to dancing.

We hold board meetings via ZOOM. Recently we added a monthly gab session on ZOOM, for people who wanted to chat with other members whom we haven't seen a quite a while. Several people show up each time for this social event, and we continue until someone cries uncle because it is getting too late. No one wants to leave. Members of our club are in virtual square dances and round dances. ZOOM has helped us to stay connected.

In my Spring article, I had asked many of our members how they were surviving the pandemic. So, I called more of our members

An Important Note about Insurance Insurance, List of Officers, and Safe Dancing



We know everyone is anxious to get back to dancing in person. I have been in touch with our insurance agent and also have been looking at other places where we can get coverage when the CDC says it is okay for us to dance again. We will be able get insurance, but as expected it will cost more than we have paid in the past. We are still looking for better rates and will keep you informed when we get more information.

Thank you to the clubs who turned in their Special List of Officers. For those who didn't turn it in, please click on <https://asquared.org/wp-content/uploads/Forms/SpecialListofOfficers2021.pdf>. You can download it, fill it out on your computer and email it to me. We need accurate counts in order to get insurance for everyone.—*Judy Fisher, Judy.ASqD@jfsfmail.com; 310-820-7191*

Club Happenings (continued from pg. 4)

with the same question for this article. This survey was taken in April, and the world may be very different when the *Grapevine* is published. Such is the nature of the pandemic.

Our members are gardening, doing jigsaw puzzles, walking or biking to the beach, and learning Spanish. People range in how much they take in the world around them, from taking a trip to Las Vegas on one extreme to severely quarantining on the other. In the ZOOM space, people are taking classes on yoga, Shakespeare, and drawing and painting, plus classes from Silver Sneakers. For one person, the latest challenge during the pandemic has been to get all the documents together to obtaining a Real ID. Another person is creating virtual fraud-prevention programs to educate the community.

Health concerns continue, pandemic or no pandemic. People continue to get COVID-19 vaccines. One person fell down her stairs, injured her shoulder, had surgery, and is recovering. She sends her thanks to everyone who sent her get well cards! Another person took advantage of the down time to have a much-needed hand surgery. Concerns about dementia are on one person's mind, and she and her partner do sudoku and crossword puzzles to ward this off.

Some of our best friends are other square dancers. One person



High Flyers

Hello High Flyers and Future Flyers! I so wish we could all dance together in Jackson, Mississippi in June! Really miss convention-going with you all. Miss touring

interesting sights together, learning about your families and interests as we ride on the tour bus, eating and learning about cultural and site-specific cuisine, historical backgrounds and special events. But most of all I will miss your friendship, supportiveness, and camaraderie!

Hope to gather together next year in Evansville, Indiana for the 71st National Square Dance Convention! Be well and take good care!—*Pamela Bailis*



Club Happenings *(continued from pg. 5)*

is missing a square dancer who moved out of town, and another person misses a square dancer who passed away over a year ago.

People are looking forward to their church opening up for in-person services. People are missing in-person square dancing. We seem to be on the verge of a changing world, with society opening up, a little bit.—*Jan Bartholomew*

Shirts 'n Skirts

Our classes and dances were previously cancelled through the end of June 2021. The facility that we use for our classes and dances, the Anaheim United Methodist Church on State College Blvd., says that it will allow organizations to start booking events if we can meet their “conditions” one of which is “social distancing,” that is impossible to accomplish during square dancing. We are hopeful that as more people become vaccinated, this requirement may become less stringent.

Our club meetings so far have been via email. But we may be able to use one of the church’s meeting rooms for in-person monthly general membership meetings in July. There seems to be a much better exchange of information and ideas when we can have personal interactions.

Our club members voted by email to support the Social Square Dancing (SSD) format for lessons. However, we cannot do so until A Square D is able to obtain insurance for us! Without insurance none of the venues will even discuss renting their facilities to the individual clubs. The State also has to allow us to have square dancing before we can begin classes.

We are also hopeful that other A Square D clubs will support the SSD format for teaching and dances. Our support for SSD is conditional—based on at least four (4) other OC clubs also adopting the SSD program. When A Square D is able to obtain insurance and the State approves square dancing, we would like to resume hosting square dances. We would especially like to hold our 62nd Anniversary Dance on September 11th with Buddy Weaver and “Bill” Berry (cuer).

Over the coming months we continue to hope that we will be able to resume classes and dancing!!

FUTURE NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTIONS
JUNE 22–25, 2022: EVANSVILLE, IN
JUNE 21–24, 2023: MOBILE, AL
JUNE 26–29, 2024: MILWAUKEE, WI



Sierra Hillbillies

Our current president, David Neill, continues to host ZOOM meetings of our Management Committee every four-six weeks with all club members invited to attend. So far in 2021 our January through July dances have had to be canceled due to an on-going lack of a dance venue and A Square D insurance. However, the club has started booking callers for our 2022 dances as restrictions on indoor gatherings have started to be relaxed in Los Angeles County.

The Management Committee has also voted to offer Social Square Dancing lessons at least twice a year through the City of Santa Clarita, but we are waiting for the City to eliminate the current rules prohibiting any indoor activities that involve touching other class members and requiring everyone to stay six feet apart at all times. Please check wheresthedance.com for our latest dance information and find us on Facebook for the latest information on the club. —
Alan Willis, A Sq. D Delegate

Trail Dusters

We are now more hopefully that we can return to dancing! The past year or so was difficult on so many levels and we hope that all our square dance friends and colleagues have stayed safe and healthy. We will look forward now with anticipation to connecting in person with family and friends and returning to dancing!

Our club continues to have a monthly virtual dance hosted by our Presidents Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig, Paul Waters calling two-couple squares and our own Caren Blumfield teaching and leading us in line dancing. To be honest, the most important part of 1.5–2 hour event each month is the break-out rooms between dancing where we can socialize with a smaller group of members.

These dances do have themes, which for a virtual dance need to be creative. It needs to be a theme you can express either by wearing an accessory (hat, T-shirt, jewelry, etc.) that can be seen on the screen or making a large sign that you can show on your screen. Some of our successful themes have been: Crazy Hat, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and Trail Dusters' Oscars!

Stay safe, stay healthy and we will see you in a square soon!

Valley Trailers

The Valley Trailers are having restaurant fundraisers that are proving to be successful. Also, some of our members are participating in ZOOM dances. Various members have reported taking the COVID vaccinations that are being offered. Our VT community is looking forward to a safe return to square and round dancing not only for our group but for everyone else that enjoys our wonderful activity.

Western Weavers

While, like many of us, the Western Weavers cannot wait to return to the dance floor, many members have been busy with other projects, some that have been put off for years. We have been cooking, cleaning up (and out) our homes, working on our gardens (especially now since the weather has cooperated) and working on and learning crafts.

The Weavers are excited about Social Square Dancing and to keep the social aspect going President John Garcia has been holding online chat sessions, either with video or without, each month since January. It's a chance for members to login and see and catch up with one another. These will continue until class resumes, which we anticipate will be sometime before the year ends.

We are hopeful that our 40th Anniversary Dance will be able to go forward in October, so look for information about that on our website, www.westernweavers.org, or follow us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/westernweavers, for all the latest news about the Western Weavers and when we plan on returning the dance floor.

SAVE THE DATE!

Solving Spring Fling

While this year's 2021 Solvang Spring Fling was a no-go, next year's 2022 Spring Fling *IS* scheduled for March 4-6. And, tickets for this year's event have been extended to be valid for the 2022 event, and registrations have been updated. Hope to see you then—*Buddy Weaver*

19th USA West Convention

The 2021 USA West has been postponed until August 17-20, 2022. We're grateful that our convention venue, the Handlery Hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley, has offered us the exact same contract provisions for the following year. So we will be ready for you in 2022.

If you have already registered for the convention we hope that you will rollover your convention registration to our new dates in 2022. If, for some reason, you are not able to join us in August of 2022, you may request a full refund.

If you made hotel room reservations at the Handlery for this year's dates, we'll be sending further information about cancelling and rebooking rooms. The hotel is in the process of setting up the room block under the new dates and will give us new reservations codes shortly.

Stay safe, keep dancing, and we hope to see you in 2022!



Ed. Note: Planning for the Future

Depending on your response to this request, I hope to reinstate the "Theme Dances" section of the newsletter with the Sept-Oct-Nov. issue of the *Grapevine*. We book dance callers years in advance, so that is not an impediment to resuming this section. If your club is optimistic, usually holds dances with a theme, please send me the details of your anticipated dances for the end of the 2021 year. (2022 dances would be in the Dec. Jan. Feb. issue.)

Because it will be a short list send whatever you have in whatever form (even handwritten snail mail) whenever it's available. Yes, we expect changes (be sure to include venues)! But invest a little time, be optimistic that life will go on, and let's get ready to succeed!
—*Karen Geller-Shinn, Ed.*

A Square D Board

• ELECTED OFFICERS:

President: Fredi Levitt, 310-287-1434, frediasqd@gmail.com
Vice President: Vicki Moeckel, 714-894-7207, lutzmoeckel@gmail.com
Secretary: Barbara Schwartz, 310-973-2479, petlwing@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Judy Fisher, 310-820-7191, Judy.ASqD@jtsfmail.com

• SENIOR DIRECTORS:

South Bay-Westside: Open
Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara: Pamela Bailis, 310-351-1061
bailis@gseis.ucla.edu
Orange: Open

• DISTRICT DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES:

Orange: Lutz Moeckel, 714-894-7207, lutzmoeckel@gmail.com
South Bay/Westside: Mervis Reissig, 310-944-0191, merv4peace@gmail.com.
Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara: Linda Kaplan, 805-231-6171,
lkaplan.g@gmail.com
Jr. Past President: Alan Lubberts, c/o Fredi Levitt 310-287-1434, frediasqd@gmail.com

• APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Caller/Cuer Committee Director: Open
Caller Discussion Committee: Dale Hoppers, 909-223-0108, callerdale@aol.com
Cuer Discussion Committee: Dawn Mee, 951-206-1746, dawnadele@aol.com
Facilities Director: John & Barbara Taylor, 310-541-6501, johntay@cox.net or bartaylor@cox.net
Grapevine: Karen Geller-Shinn, 661-252-2210, kgshinn@socal.rr.com
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A Square D Affiliate Clubs:

1. Club name, regular dance, and contact info 2. Club web address given where available.
Please contact me to correct errors in the information for your club. *Thanks, KGS, Ed.*

- **Boots & Bows** — Redondo, 3rd Saturday, <http://bootsandbows.net>
- **Boys 'n' Berries** — Buena Park, 1st Saturday, www.boysnberries.org
- **Buckles & Bows** — Thousand Oaks, 4th Saturday, www.bucklesandbows.org
- **Buttons & Bows** — Anaheim Hills, 1st & 5th Saturdays, www.buttonsandbowssquaredancing.com
- **Church Mice** — Anaheim, 3rd Saturday, www.churchmice.com
- **Dancing Stars** — Huntington Beach, 4th Friday, ocdancingstars.com
- **Farmers & Charmers** — Northridge, 1st Saturday, <http://www.farmersandcharmners.com/index.html>
- **Fun Wuns(A-1)** — Westminster, 4th Friday
- **Grin-N-Square It** — El Monte, 3rd Saturdays, www.grinnsquareit.com
- **Happy Squares** — Simi Valley, 2nd Saturday, www.happysquares.com
- **Ichabod Squares** — Garden Grove, 3rd Friday, <https://ichabodsquaredance.org/>
- **Inglewood Guys and Dolls** — 3rd Friday
- **Lads 'n' Lassies** — Northridge, 1st Saturday, on Facebook <https://facebook.com/LnLsquaredanceclub/>
- **Major Keys** — Whittier, 4th Saturday, www.majorkeys.org
- **Orange Coast Lariats** — Garden Grove, 2nd Friday, on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Orange-Coast-Lariats-460788400686291/>
- **Phantom Squares (C-1 & 2)** — Canoga Park, 2nd or 3rd Sunday, www.phantom-squares.com
- **Ramblin' Rogues** — Mission Viejo, 1st Friday, www.ramblinrogues.org
- **Ribbons & Souls** — Los Angeles, 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays, www.ribbonsandsouls.com
- **Shirts N Skirts** — Santa Ana, 2nd & 5th Saturdays, www.shirtsnskirts.net
- **Shoreline Squares** — Long Beach, 4th Saturday quarterly, www.shorelinesquares.com
- **Sierra Hillbillies** — Santa Clarita, 1st Sunday; email: hillbillies.pres@gmail.com; www.sierrahillbillies.org; www.facebook.com/groups/sierrahillbillies/
- **Simi Valley Boots & Slippers** — Simi Valley, 1st & 4th Saturdays, www.bootsandslippers.com
- **Taws & Paws** — Santa Barbara, Wednesdays weekly
- **Trail Dusters** — Northridge, 2nd Saturday, www.traildusters.com
- **Valley Trailers** — Northridge, 3rd & 5th Saturdays, www.valleytrailers.org
- **Western Weavers** — Burbank, 2nd & 4th Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; www.westernweavers.org; www.facebook.com/westernweavers

Thank you for reading the Associated Square Dancers' *Grapevine* newsletter, and supporting square dance. You can read it on-line & in color at www.asquared.org