

2023-24 ASRDA  
Officers



Brooke Peters,  
President



Tricia Morley  
& Dennis Artz,  
Vice-Presidents



Cheryl & Chuck  
Sherman,  
Secretaries



Shirley & Steven  
O'Neal,  
Treasurers



President's Message

**Happy New Year Everyone!**

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays, and you received at least one gift that you really wanted. I did. I bought myself something I have wanted for over 25 years – a house in Colorado! I am very excited to start a new chapter in my life, but sad to leave many friends and the square dance community in Texas.

I begin my President's message with this announcement to highlight the importance, *this year more than ever*, for people to volunteer to make a difference in the square dance community in some way. Opportunities include, but not limited to:

1. Serving on the Mid-Tex Committee, the President's Weekend Committee or as a club or ASRDA officer.
2. Help out at the club level.

**No experience needed:** You don't have to have experience to hold an appointed officer or committee position in ASRDA. There are experienced people around to help you. All it takes is a desire to help out, an interest in the position, and a willingness to learn.

I knew extremely little about square dancing when I became an ASRDA delegate and a member of the Mid-Tex committee a month after I graduated from Mainstream lessons. I had no idea what was involved in being on the ASRDA Board a year after I became a delegate, but I accepted the Vice President position anyway. It was a steep learning curve, but I asked questions and learned how to find answers when others did not know them. Did I make mistakes? Sure. But I learned from them. You can do the same.

In addition to being the current President of ASRDA, I am responsible for education, publicity, writing articles for the Texas Star (TSFSRD newsletter) and the ASRDA newsletter, taking photos for the newsletter, website and ASRDA

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*Facebook page, helping Vickie Merchant and Mike Goggin out with the website, being responsible for the used square dance clothes, as well as being a delegate to the TSFSRD, and serving on the Mid-Tex and Presidents' Weekend committees.*

I mention this only to highlight the number of positions that are going to need to be filled next year. If you like the changes that have made in ASRDA, or if there are things you would like to see done differently, **please volunteer for one of these positions to keep ASRDA strong. ASRDA needs you!**

I don't plan to leave Texas permanently until after July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Besides, my current term as ASRDA President doesn't expire until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 and I still have things I want to complete. If you have ever considered one of the positions I mentioned, please volunteer for next year **NOW** and I will mentor you as much as I can. I know we have incredibly talented people in ASRDA and your participation at the association level will make a huge positive impact on square and round dancing in our area.

I'll see you on the dance floor soon!

*Brooke Peters  
President, ASRDA*

### **ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS:**

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS  
SATURDAY, JAN. 6, 2024 AT 2:00 PM. AT HYDE PARK CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH. NO DANCE. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.

## **2024 Election of ASRDA Board Members**

By Brooke Peters

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** will be our next ASRDA delegate meeting. A "Nominating Committee" will be formed to help find dancers who would like to run for a position on the ASRDA Board next year. Their terms would be from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Board positions that will be vacant will be Secretary and Vice President, but if you have a desire to be treasurer or President, you can run against the individuals who have volunteered to fill the slots.

We will also be looking for volunteers for the following Appointed Officer positions:

- Ambassador at Large – South
- Education
- Publicity
- Texas Star Reporter
- Photographer

We **desperately** need volunteers for next year's **Mid-Tex Committee**. A theme must be determined soon so that the 2025 Mid-Tex flyers can be designed and available for the 2024 Mid-Tex Dance in May!

Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Happy New Year!

By Tom Bohmfalk



How did you celebrate the arrival of the New Year? As I am writing this, Helen and I plan on attending the New Year's Eve dance in Ft. Worth ("Around the World In One Enchanted Evening"). They plan on having the first tip of 2024 at 12:05 A.M.! The title of that dance made us wonder just how **New Year Traditions** are celebrated around the world.

Here are some examples:

**Argentina:** After everyone has shredded old documents and paper, the scraps are thrown out the window like confetti.

**Denmark:** As a sign of friendship, people save their old dishes in order to break them on each other's front doors. Residents will allow these broken dishes to pile up in order to show who has the most friends!

**England:** For good fortune in the newly arrived year, Brits believe the first guest to enter through the front door should be a young, dark-headed male bearing gifts such as bread (to be full), salt (to be wealthy) and coal (to stay warm).

Helen's mother always opened the front and back doors of their house exactly at 12:00. One comment I found stated, "*All doors and windows of the house must be open at midnight to usher out the old year, which clears the way for a promising new year to enter with a fresh, untainted beginning.*"

### **What about foods?**

**France:** Partiers will feast for hours on foie gras, goose or turkey, oysters, and of course plenty of champagne.

**Greece:** Many Greek families hang onions in their homes in hopes of attracting unity and fertility.

**Spain:** Their tradition requires that people eat 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve—one for each time the clock chimes.

**Switzerland:** They simply drop whipped cream on the floor and leave it there!

**Mexico:** Homemade tamales (yum!).

**USA:** Black-eyed peas and cabbage. These promise to deliver health and wealth over the next 12 months. (We substitute cornbread for the cabbage! Ah, black-eyed peas and football!)

**Ireland:** To ward off evil spirits, families bang loaves of bread against the walls.

### **What about clothing?**

**Brazil:** red underwear is the order of the day! Also in Turkey, Italy, Spain, and Mexico.

## ***What will bring good luck?***

**Belgium:** Farmers rise early on New Year's Day and promptly head out to the stables to wish the cows a happy New Year!

**Columbia:** Carry an empty suitcase around the block. This tradition is meant to bring celebrants a year of travel. How about that, you 'round the world cruisers!

And then, of course, there are those New Year's resolutions! We are committing to continue our square and round dancing and to improve our dancing skills. To love more and criticize less. And most importantly, to share the good news that Jesus came to forgive us for all of our sins, give us new life, adopt us into His family, and finally, "take us to heaven, to live with Thee there."

It is our prayer that each of you will have a blessed 2024, full of joy, peace, and love.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tom and Helen

P.S. Don't forget the one thing I failed to mention above: ***the New Year's kiss!***



## **2024 President's Dance in La Grange**

By Brooke Peters

### **MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS!**

The **TFSSRD President's Dance Weekend on October 4 & 5, 2024 in La Grange.**

ASRDA is hosting it so if you are asked to help - set up, clean up or assist in some other way at the dance, please do so. Your help is definitely needed for important weekend.

The weekend will be a little different in 2024 than it has been in the past.

- Friday evening - Experienced callers from the Texas State Caller Association (TSCA) callers will be showcased.

- Saturday, the "Newbee" callers will meet with the caller coach in an all-day workshop. They will need dancer volunteers to be present at this workshop for the new callers to practice with.

- Saturday evening, Darryl Lipscomb, the caller coach, will call the dance.

- Round dancing both nights will be cued by TSCA cuers.

One hour of pre-rounds will begin each evening with round dance between tips.

Plan to come and have a great time! Flyers for this dance will be out soon.

Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## **ASRDA Officer Positions Opening for Next Year**

By Brooke Peters

**Mid-Tex Volunteers** – Looking for dancers, callers or cuers to help plan and implement the 2025 Mid-Tex Festival. Duties include:

- Choosing a theme,
- Designing, printing, and distributing flyers,
- Planning and implementing theme-based decorations,
- Choosing and contracting a caller and cuer for the 2026 Mid-Tex Festival,
- Promoting the Mid-Tex festival to all ASRDA clubs and Associations within TSFSRD,
- Coordinating snacks and water for the festival,
- Coordinating Split-the-Pot and any other fundraisers,
- Contacting vendors to come to Mid-Tex,
- Getting a contract for the Georgetown Community Center and Christ Lutheran Church,
- Recruiting additional help to set up and clean up the hall before and after the Mid-Tex festival and
- Assist at the Sign-in table, Split-the-Pot and other fundraising tables.

Please contact Brooke Peters or Bob Kurczewski if you can help in any way.

**TRDTA Round Dance Volunteers for Feb 23 – 24** –Need round dance volunteers to help at this level 3 & 4 Round Dance weekend. Duties include:

- Assist at the sign-in desk with Split-the-Pot,
- Set up and cleaning up the hall, and
- Providing refreshments.

Contact Tricia Morley or Dennis Artz if you can help in any way.

**ASRDA Secretary for 2024 – 2025** – Duties can be found on the ASRDA website under “Who’s Who” or click on

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfdd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64da4902a5dd974091e9a522/1692027138329/Secretary.pdf>. Contact Brooke Peters or Tricia Morley.

**ASRDA Vice President for 2024 -2025** – Duties can be found on the ASRDA website under “Who’s Who” or click on

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfdd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64187bfcdd5538220d436f09/1679326205065/Vice\\_President\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfdd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64187bfcdd5538220d436f09/1679326205065/Vice_President_Guidelines.pdf). Contact Brooke Peters or Tricia Morley

**ASRDA Appointed Officer Positions for 2024 – 2025** Some of the position descriptions are quite extensive but can be negotiated between the ASRDA President and the person interested in filling the position.

**Education Chairperson** - Duties can be found on the ASRDA website under “Who’s Who” or click on

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfdd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64187eb5de0c6168d96f67a0/1679326901225/Education\\_Responsibilities.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfdd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64187eb5de0c6168d96f67a0/1679326901225/Education_Responsibilities.pdf)

**Publicity Chairperson** - Duties can be found on the ASRDA website under “Who’s Who” or click on [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/6418843aa0ca1878f5f6550e/1679328314883/Publicity\\_Responsibilities.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/6418843aa0ca1878f5f6550e/1679328314883/Publicity_Responsibilities.pdf)

**Texas Star Reporter** - Duties include attending quarterly ASRDA meetings to be able to:

- Report on events happening in ASRDA,
- Attending as many special club dances and ASRDA dances as possible to write about them firsthand,
- Write a summary of what has been happening in ASRDA five times a year for the Texas Star. The report is due to TSFSRD Texas Star Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the month of publication.

**ASRDA Photographer** – Attend ASRDA and club special dances and take photos and videos. Forward the pictures to the webmaster, and/or the person responsible for the ASRDA FB page, and/or the ASRDA TX Star Reporter. Photos and videos can be posted on ASRDA’s and clubs’ Facebook pages.

**Hospitality Chairperson** - Duties can be found on the ASRDA website under “Who’s Who” or click on [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/641880a69a9b573447b290ec/1679327398681/Hospitality\\_Chairman.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/641880a69a9b573447b290ec/1679327398681/Hospitality_Chairman.pdf)

**Ambassador-at-Large South** - Duties can be found on the ASRDA website under “Who’s Who” or click on [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64187e504e500c50989f3dbe/1679326800709/Ambassador\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63debfd1fbf712bfa954f8c/t/64187e504e500c50989f3dbe/1679326800709/Ambassador_Guidelines.pdf)

**Round Dance Rooms at the Texas State Festival** – Volunteers are needed to help set up three round dance rooms and possibly help with the equipment. Contact Dennis Artz.

## **Waco Convention Volunteer Opportunities**

By Brooke Peters

**2026 National Convention in Waco** – Volunteers will be needed for “on the ground” help as well as in the current planning stage.

**Round Dancing** – Volunteers are needed to be MCs for each dance hall, need volunteers must change signs in front of each round dance hall, count chairs, help set up the halls and tear them down at the end of the festival.

*These duties do not require travel or meeting attendance prior to the festival. Dennis Artz would like to have a list of names to contact as the date of the National Convention in Waco gets closer.*

**Education Committee** – Volunteers needed ASAP to

1. Help create and organize a list of classes to be included in the Leadership Development Program.

*(Waco Convention Education Committee Continued)*

2. Oversee the National Executive Committee's (NEC) archive room which includes getting a minimum of one volunteer to remain in the archive room at all times during the festival. Shifts of an hour from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm will be needed.
3. Organize a *Round Table Discussion* of dance leaders.
4. Serve as the Education Committee's Secretary – this involves taking notes at all Education Committee meetings – most will be via Zoom, preparing correspondence as directed by the Education Chairperson and Assistant Chair
5. Multiple 'on the ground' volunteer positions during the Convention such as education room monitors, keeping signs on the education rooms current, helping out in the education room, Sew & Save, and NEC archives room, and manning the Education Information Booths.
6. To learn more about these jobs, please contact Brooke Peters.



## **Attention: Current and Future Leaders of Clubs & Organizations!**

By Brooke Peters

Would you like to build or enhance your skills to become a better leader? Are you interested in enriching your knowledge about the operations of dance clubs and organizations? Do you need resources to support and promote dancing in your area? Do you need opportunities to exchange ideas with others about issues and challenges facing our activity? If so, the Leadership Certification Program (LCP) may be for you.

To obtain your "Certification," all you have to do is **participate in Eight (8) Education Sessions at the National Square Dance Convention**. There are two mandatory Sessions (Friday Bid Session and Keynote Address), a range of education classes considered "Core" of which you pick four, and Elective Sessions (Education Classes, Sewing Seminars, Dance Clinics) of which you pick at least two. Then return to your club and apply your new skills and knowledge within your club or organization. *You have up to four years to complete the program!* The topics that will be offered will be listed in the 73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC Program Book, in future editions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC E-Magazine OR you can go to <https://73nsdc.com/education/> to see examples of classes being offered as well as finding detailed information about the LDC program and how it works.

## Texas 3<sup>rd</sup> in Registrations for Milwaukee Nationals

By Brooke Peters

Texas currently has 112 people registered for the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Square Dance Convention in Milwaukee. Illinois is #2 with 131 registrants, and as expected Wisconsin has the most with 254 people preregistered.

If you want to learn more about the upcoming National Convention, go to <https://nsdcnec.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Dec-23-e-Magazine-Submittal-12172023-FINAL.pdf>. If you want to see all issues so far, go to <https://nsdcnec.com/national-squares-e-magazine/>. In the December issue, there is a list of all the tours you can take in Milwaukee. There is a “Beer Barons Tour” and a “Ethnic Bakery” Tour and there is also one with hamburgers and cheese. Lots of eating to be done in Milwaukee! There is still time to register and if you can get a group of 8 together, Brooke Peters will explain how to travel cheaply by train to Milwaukee.

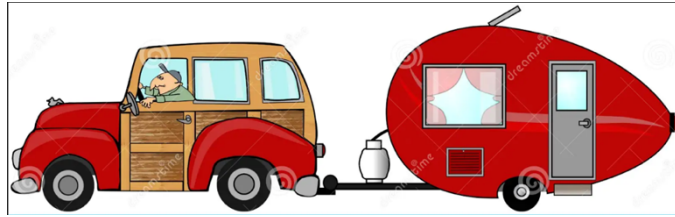


### Top 15 Things to do during/after the 73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC in Milwaukee

1. Milwaukee Art Museum – located near the lakefront.
2. Harley-Davidson Museum - shares the success story and evolution of the company along with impressive motorcycles.
3. Milwaukee Brewer’s Baseball Field
4. Lakefront Brewery – first American brewery to brew an organic certified beer.
5. Pabst Mansion – representing America’s Gilded Age. Contains 66 rooms, 10 bathrooms, 14 fireplaces, 210 windows, 137 doors and 14 hidden compartments.
6. Great Lakes Distillery – Wisconsin’s oldest distillery.
7. Basilica of St. Josaphat – cathedral built with old building materials from Chicago.
8. Milwaukee Public Market – mixture of retail and restaurants.
9. Milwaukee County Zoo- lots of animal species.
10. Historic Third Ward – changed from a warehouse district to a neighborhood.
11. Milwaukee Public Museum -National History Museum
12. Miller Brewery.
13. Mitchell Park Horticulture /Conservatory.
14. Grohmann Museum
15. North Point Lighthouse.

Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

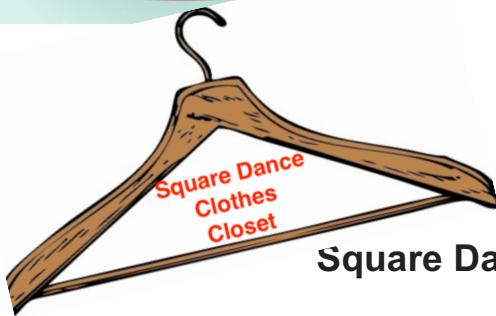




## Milwaukee National Square Dance Convention Campground Update

By Brooke Peters

Due to the significant increase in the cost of the recommended RV Park in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Convention Leaders and the National Executive Committee decided not to offer a group rate for RV camping. The 73<sup>rd</sup> National Square Dance Convention posted a list of RV parks in the area. The list can be found in the November E-magazine at <https://73nsdc.com/>. RV owners can now select their own preferred location and make their own reservations. Because of this change, the 73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC will be unable to offer bus transportation to and from the original camping site. Any camping deposit RVers may have paid through the convention registration will be refunded to those individuals. The 73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.



## Square Dance Clothes at Wheel-N-Deals

By Brooke Peters

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, all the ASRDA's used square dance clothes will be available at the Wheel-N-Deals for anyone interested in getting some new frocks for 2024. The clothes will be available from about 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Our mainstream class is from 6:30 – 8:00 pm with regular club dancing until 9:30 pm. Chet Miles will be calling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Gary Bible will be calling on January 9<sup>th</sup> so you can shop and dance all in the same night. All proceeds will go to ASRDA. We hope to see you there!



**Mid Tex 2024**



We have organized a super staff for this year for Mid-Tex Festival 2024. We will have **Dan Sahlstrom, Caller**, from Minnesota and **Chris and Steve Davis** from Texas as the Round Dance Leaders. We are planning a great “Hawaiian” themed festival for you. All the Committee Chairs have everything well under control as of this date.

However, we will be losing **MANY** members on the current Mid-Tex Committee. Please volunteer now to be on the Mid-Tex 2025 Committee. This special association dance will not be as those in the past without a fully staffed Mid-Tex Committee.

**Tony Oxendine, international caller** and Round Dance Leaders, **Carolyn & Tony Ahart**, are contracted for 2025. A theme is needed so that a flyer can be designed and distributed for Mid-Tex 2025 at Mid-Tex 2024. This will enable individuals to sign up for the 2025 Festival during the 2024 Festival. I am looking for a sell-out for the 2025 Festival due to the people who will be entertaining us.

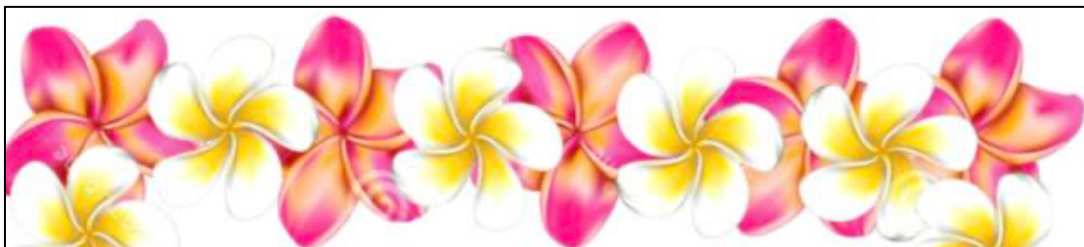
After determining the theme, decorations can be purchased throughout the year. We are also in need of people who can serve as the following committee chairs: Hospitality, Lodging, Raffle, Brown Bag, even Chairman.

This is **YOUR** Association and Dance. We need **YOU** to make it happen. Without volunteers, this Festival will not occur like so many other Festivals have due to a lack of participation or volunteers.

Right now, pre-registrations are slow. We need all ASRDA clubs and members to register right away so that we will have an idea of how many people to plan for. **See page 12 of this newsletter for the Registration Form. Please fill it out and make checks payable to ASRDA and mail to: ASRDA, P.O. Box 1195, La Vernia, TX 78121.**

I’m sitting by my computer with my phone waiting to hear from you. Please call me at 956/781-8453 or email me at roundsbyskis@juno.com

- - Ski’s, Mid-Tex Chairman



# ASRDA 75TH MID-TEX FESTIVAL

## "Hawaii"

**MAY 10 & 11, 2024**



**DAN SAHLSTROM**    **CHRIS & STEVE DAVIS,**  
**CALLER**                      **CUERS**

**GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**455 MORROW ST, GEORGETOWN, TX**

*Vendors*

**FRIDAY: TRAILS END AND EVENING DANCE**  
**SATURDAY: WORKSHOPS AND EVENING DANCE**

*"Heads or Tails"    Hex Squares    Split the Pot*

**Singles & Couples Welcome**  
**Tropical Attire Encouraged Fri. & Sat.**

## 2024 Mid-Tex Schedule and Registration

**LODGING:** Our **HOST HOTEL** is Best Western Plus Georgetown Inn and Suites at 600 San Gabriel Village Blvd, Georgetown, TX 78626. Phone 512-868-8555. Price/room is \$120.00 + tax and fees. We have a block of rooms reserved. There are 30 rooms for May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – 15 kings & 15 with 2 beds. The last day for the \$120.00 + tax rate is **April 21, 2024** at 10 PM. Make your reservations online at [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.44689.html?groupId=5B6LR1V6](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.44689.html?groupId=5B6LR1V6) or call the hotel, tell them you are with the Mid-Tex Festival on 10 and 11 May 2024 and you will get the discounted rate.

### OTHER HOTELS

<b>Comfort Suites</b> 11 Waters Edge Circle Georgetown, TX 78626 512-863-7544	<b>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites</b> 160 River Oaks Cove Georgetown, TX 78626 512-688-5300
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### RV CAMPING

<b>JIM HOGG PARK</b> 500 Jim Hogg Rd. Georgetown, TX 877-444-6777 <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a>	<b>Berry Springs RV Park</b> 131 Market Street Georgetown, TX 512-864-2724	<b>New Life RV Park</b> 1200 Co. Rd. 152 Georgetown, TX 512-931-2073
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### SCHEDULE

**Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

2:00 – 4:00 pm  
 7:00 – 7:30 pm  
 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Georgetown Community Center, 455 E. Morrow Street, Georgetown, TX

Trails End dance – Callers and Cuers present

Pre-Rounds

Square and Round Dance – M/S with tips 3 & 6 Plus. 2 Round Dance between each tip

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024**

ROUND DANCE WORKSHOPS		SQUARE DANCE WORKSHOPS	
Christ Lutheran Church, 510 Luther Drive, Georgetown, TX		Georgetown Community Center, 455 E. Morrow Street	
9:30 – 11:30 am	Phase 2 - 3	9:30 – 10:30 am	A2
12:15 – 2:00 pm	Phase 3 - 4	10:30 – 12:00 pm	DBD
2:15 – 4:00 pm	Phase 4 - 5	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Plus
		2:00 – 3:00 pm	Intro to Hex Squares
		3:00 – 4:00 pm	Mainstream

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### EVENING DANCE

Georgetown Community Center

6:00 – 7:00 pm  
 7:00 – 7:30 pm  
 7:30 – 10:00 pm

A2

Pre-Rounds

Square and Round Dance M/S with tips 3 & 6 Plus. 2 Round Dance between each tip.

### PRICES AND REGISTRATION

Advanced Ticket Sales for entire weekend (Includes Trails End Dance)	\$40.00 per person
Entire Weekend at the Door on Friday (Includes Trails End Dance)	\$45.00 per person
All Day Friday (Includes Trails End Dance)	\$20.00 per person
All Day Saturday (Includes all workshops and evening dance)	\$30.00 per person
Teens	Half Price

### MID-TEX REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Your Home

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Level you Dance (Please circle all that apply)

- |                                   |            |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rounds:  | Phase 2    | Phase 3 | Phase 4 | Phase 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Squares: | Mainstream | Plus    | A2      |         |

Please check the box that corresponds to the days for which you are registering.

\$40 per person for **ENTIRE WEEKEND** (including Trails End Dance)

Friday Trails End & Evening Dances (\$20 per person)

Saturday Workshops and Evening Dancing (\$30 per person)

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ASRDA and mail to: ASRDA, P.O. Box 1195, La Vernia, TX 78121 Contact Pres. Brooke Peters at (210) 392-5433 for more information. You can download this flyer at [www.ASRDA.org](http://www.ASRDA.org). Pre-Registration is available through **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. The last date to cancel for a full refund is **May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. To cancel, please notify Shirley O'Neal at [asrdatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:asrdatreasurer@gmail.com) by **May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

## Other Mid-Tex News

### Do-Si-Do Designs Returning to Mid-Tex

Brenda Stewart of Do-Si-Do Designs wants everyone to know she will be at the 2024 Mid-Tex Festival. She will have a beautiful selection of custom designed skirts and blouses, as well as the all-time favorites. She will also have a large selection of beautiful resale petticoats and she is working on a new line of skirt and blouse sets. Plan to shop at the Do-Si-Do booth at Mid-Tex this year!



### Snacks at Mid-Tex

To save the ASRDA Clubs money, the ASRDA delegates voted to provide pre-packaged snacks and water at Mid-Tex this year. However, any dancer who would like to bring a finger food (something you can pick up with your fingers, eat off a napkin rather than a plate, without utensils, and does not require refrigeration), we highly encourage you to do so. Examples include, but are not limited to, cookies, brownies, homemade bread, etc.

**“In square dancing  
you should either be facing a  
Head Wall or a Side Wall,  
most of the time. If you ever  
happen to be looking at the ceiling  
or at the floor, then something  
definitely went wrong with that  
*‘Anything and Roll’* call.”**



**-CorBen Geis**

**75th National Square  
Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>**



**June 24-27 2026**

**DIAMOND JUBILEE WE ARE GOING TO WACO Y'ALL!!**

By Ramona Padilla

Frenetic rounds of applause, ear curdling yells and strong voices resounded during the Closing Ceremonies at the 72nd National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup> in Mobile Alabama! The Texas bid for the **75th National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup> - the Diamond Jubilee** was accepted! Cowboy hats soared high; people hugged; tears sweetly glistened as the **Eyes of Texas** played to the crowd! It was a scene of genuine support and glee, not just from fellow Texans, but from the entire attendance at the convention. General Chairman Claudia and Gary Lester approached the podium and yelled loud and proud: **"WE ARE GOING TO WACO Y'ALL!"** For Texans, it meant that after 20 years, their state would be celebrating a National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>. For Texas and the surrounding states, it meant that square dancing would begin to swell toward a new beginning. For Waco, it means that at last, the city that has been historically nick-named the Heart of Texas, will be able to show its' unique and novel presence to square dancers near and far. Waco is excited and eager to host these visitors! Waco is changing every day, month, year with innovative activities for families, tourist sites, exotic as well as down home restaurants, nature parks, river walks, top tier museums, architecture both vintage and modern, and all the way cool night life! Let's begin to discover what ignites excitement when being in Waco!



Here are a few places you might want to see while there:

1. Waco Mammoth National Monument
2. Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum
3. Dr. Pepper Museum
4. Armstrong Browning Library and Museum
5. Mayborn Museum
6. Texas Sports Hall of Fame
7. Cultivate d7twelve Art Gallery
8. The Red Men Museum Waco Suspension Bridge
9. Waco's Haunts and Legends Mobile Ghost Tour
10. Fixer Upper Bus Tour

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Claudia and Gary Lester and Ramona Padilla and Billy Grimsley, General Chairmen and Assistant General Chairmen respectively, have already preregistered almost 500 dancers for the 75<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention in Waco, TX happening in June of 2026. That is a record since COVID!

Since it is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Square Dance Convention, when you pre-register this early, you will get a cute little armadillo dangle for your square dance badge and, ladies, you will get a HUGE plastic diamond blinking bling ring. Wear it to all the dances and show what a trend setter you are.

You can also buy very nice crew neck or V-neck T-shirts with a choice of colors and a choice of logos. Just ask Billy Grimsley or Ramona Padilla and they can get one for you. They run a bit small so you might want to order up one size. The T-shirts and some other goodies will be on sale at Mid-Tex, the State Festival, and of course Nationals in Milwaukee. The money from the sale of T-shirts and other paraphernalia helps fund the convention.



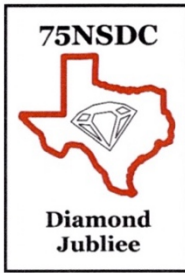
Diamond Jubilee Convention T-Shirt



It takes a small army to host a National Square Dance Convention®. We need volunteers to help the Convention Teams prepare for their Convention. Do you have a few hours you'd like to rest from dancing to volunteer, or maybe you have a special talent or expertise that you can offer. We need YOU!



WACO will be an exciting convention! **WACO**  
**Y'ALL!!**  
**W-We**  
**A-Are**  
**C-Coming**  
**O-Over**



Pre - Registration
75th National Square Dance Convention®
Waco, Texas
June 24-27, 2026



Registration #
Ribbons

REGISTER ONLINE at www.75nsdcinc.com
This form expires on March 22, 2025

Zelle® your registration fee to 75nsdc@gmail.com

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Primary Last Name: First Name:
Email Address:
Partner's Last Name (if different): First Name:
Email Address (if different):
Youth Names & DOB:
Address:
City: State: Zip: Country:
Phone: Alt Number:

Check if you want to opt out of email sharing. Email addresses shared only with the NEC for upcoming convention information

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Pre-Registration Prices, Youth born after June 27, 2009, Credit Card Processing Fee, Sub Total, and Total Due.

Cash Received \$ Check # (Payable to 75NSDC) Zelle
Credit Card Type: Credit Card #:
Expiration Date: Security Code: Name of Cardholder:
Statement Mailing Address (if different):
Authorized Card Signature:

If Registering by Mail: 75NSDC 9597 Jones Rd Ste #122 Houston, TX 77065
Or Email to: register.75nsdc@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP US PLAN! Please CIRCLE all that apply
Dancers: SSD Only, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging, Handicapable, SOLO
Leaders: Squares, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging. Education Presenter Topic:
Arrive Early or Stay Late # Days? Stay at Convention Hotels, RV Camping or
Other Accommodations?
Group Name: Do you need Block Rooms, Meeting Rooms or Storage Space:
Room Blocks Expire September 15, 2025

\$10.00 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2026. This form and registration rate is void after March 22, 2025. Registration Long Forms will be mailed in January, 2025 for selection of hotel or RV park and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on March 22, 2025.

Convention Badges Required for Entrance to all Convention Activities; Dressy Casual Attire allowed until 6:00 pm. Proper Dance Attire is Requested After 6:00 pm for all Dancers.

(Internal Use Only) Accepted by: Date:
Registration Location: Receipt Sent: Date Sent:

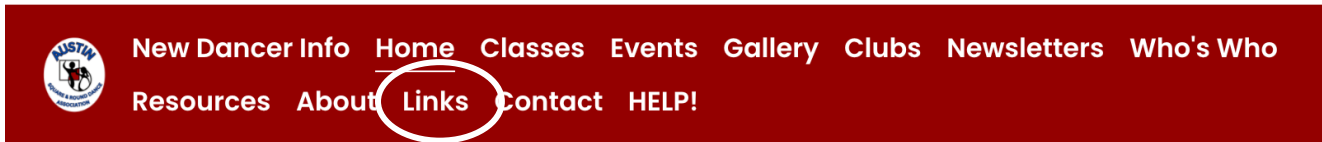
WE'RE GOING TO TEXAS Y'ALL!

Hotel reservations may be made AFTER March 22, 2025!
Room blocks expire after September 15, 2025



# Website Works

By Vickie Merchant



- On the **Links** page,
1. You can access the TFSRD news through their newsletter or website.
  2. Check out the activities of the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Convention.
  3. For anyone who has a question about a call, see online Video Square Dance Lessons or Taminations, which uses symbols to show the movements.
  4. Find additional information about Square and Round Dancing with these organizations.
  5. To see the latest caller and cuer news, check out these specialized organizations.



**Texas Federation of Square and Round Dancers**  
[Web Site](#)     [Facebook](#)

[Texas Star Newsletter](#)

**73rd National Square Dance Convention**



**Square Dancing Online Help**

**Video Square Dance Lessons**

Online

Watch the calls being danced and hear the instructions.



**Taminations**

Watch overhead animations of all the calls



**Organizations for the Development, Promotion and Growth of Square and Round Dancing**

You 2 Can Dance



United Square Dancers of America - (USDA)



Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square Dance - ARTS



**Caller and Cuer Associations**

Texas State Callers' Association



Texas Round Dance Teachers Association



1

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3

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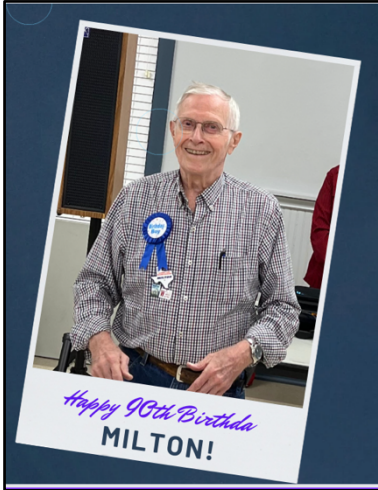
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## Happy Birthday, Milton!

By Vickie Merchant

Milton Vaverek celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends. Entertainment was provided by Arnold and Marie Gladson. The crowd enjoyed a grand march, line dancing, the stroll, and squares. Snacks were plentiful.

We're all looking forward to next year's party!



## What Square Dancing Has Meant to Me!

*Prior to the 2023 State Festival, TSFSRD asked dancers from all over Texas to write about what square dancing has meant to them in their lives. The responses were submitted to the Federation with the understanding the documents would be on a display table at the festival. The display acknowledged the significance of the letters.*

*There were nine responses and SIX of them were from dancers in ASRDA! Many people stopped to read the documents and repeatedly commented "I never knew that about \_\_\_\_\_."*

*All the ASRDA responses will be shared in the next few months. Here is one of the responses:*

My husband John and I were empty nesters looking for something we could do together. He saw a car in a parking lot with a square dance banner on the antenna. The person in this vehicle gave him information about square dancing. We began lessons in San Antonio, Texas where there were a lot of square dance and round dance clubs.

After a few years of dancing and retirement approaching, we sold our home, bought an RV and travelled the United States and Southern Canada for 2 years. Our goal was to see the country, find a church, square dance clubs and golf facilities.

My husband passed away in 2010 at which time I began dancing as a single. Currently I have a dance partner and companion, Jan, and he is ready to begin Plus lessons. We are also taking round dance lessons. At age 88m we are both enjoying dancing and friendships.

After nearly 40 years of dancing, I think it is the best mental and physical exercise you can have plus meeting many good friends locally and in your travels. Jan and I intend to continue to dance as long as we can. Dancing is the perfect activity to do together.

Thank you,  
Melba Harper

### DANCING MAKES YOU SMARTER

The 21-year study of senior citizens, 75 and older, was led by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, funded by the National Institute on Aging, and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

**% = reduced risk of dementia**

0% = Bicycling, swimming or playing golf

35% = Reading

47% = Doing crossword puzzles at least four days a week

76% = Dancing frequently

Quoting Dr. Joseph Coyle, a Harvard Medical School psychiatrist who wrote an accompanying commentary: "The cerebral cortex and hippocampus, which are critical to these activities, are remarkably plastic, and they rewire themselves based upon their use."

- Reduces stress and depression.
- Increases energy and serotonin.
- Improves flexibility, strength, balance and endurance.
- Strengthens bones and boosts cardiovascular health.
- Increases mental capacity by exercising our cognitive processes.
- Dynamic and rapid-fire decision making, creates new neural paths.

### CELEBRATE LIFE THROUGH DANCE

**Please** share your experiences with square dancing, please send “What Square Dancing has meant to me” or any other article to [vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com](mailto:vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com) and we’ll get it in one of the future newsletters.



**Want to improve your Mainstream dancing?  
Free Review Lessons Available on Mondays**

Sometimes we all need a review of Mainstream calls. Dan McDonald, a Wheel-N-Deals dancer, and budding caller is offering a **FREE** review of Mainstream calls to new Students, current dancers and/or Retreads, those who are getting back to square dancing.

You can join Dan and others on Monday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm at the VFW Hall in San Marcos at 1701 Hunter Road, which is before the Cen-Tex Plus Club dances.

During this review, Dan will also be practicing his calling skills, while the dancers practice too. To help the dancers and Dan, at least eight dancers need to attend. If you would like to take advantage of this square dance review, please contact Dan McDonald at 512-694-0654 or send a text to Bob Anderson at 512-426-8855.

We hope to see you soon in a review square!



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## Newsletter News

By Vickie Merchant



**Website Stats:** From November 28-December 27, 2023, [www.asrda.org](http://www.asrda.org) had 500 people view the Home Page of our new website; 168 have viewed Upcoming Events. 68 readers have checked out the Newsletters, while 65 people have looked at Classes. We are definitely making headway to get the message out about square dancing.

**Facebook Followers** have increased to 613 with 9 new followers. In the past month, 1,565 people have seen our posts and 535 have clicked or liked or shared! Not only do we have followers in the US, but people in 9 other countries are also followers. Congratulations! We're growing! Your help is getting results. *Please continue to "LIKE" and "SHARE" our news.*

*Please tell our **new dancers** about our **website** and **Facebook** page. Hopefully, they will share the info with their friends and possible new dancers! Have them subscribe to the ASRDA Newsletter.*

•What do you like about the newsletter? What don't you like?

\*Please send me your suggestions, articles, photos, recipes, etc. as attachments to [vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com](mailto:vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com)

•Please send flyers for dances as soon as they are complete so they can be added to the ASRDA.org website under "Upcoming Events."



You can **subscribe** to **Round the Capitol Square!** Go to <http://www.asrda.org/newsletters> and scroll to the bottom of the page. Fill out the form and you will be subscribed or Download RCS for no charge.

**Printed newsletters are ending when subscriptions lapse in 2024.**

*Round The Capitol Square* is the official publication of the Austin Square & Round Dance Association. There are eleven issues per year (no July issue).

All articles and flyers (8.5 x 11) must be received by the 15th of each month preceding the month of publication (i.e., 15th of August for publication in the September issue). When sending your articles in, please **attach** the **document (.docx)** to an email. Any photos should be sent as a **jpg file and as attachments to** [vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com](mailto:vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com) The Editor reserves the right to condense, rewrite, omit, or rearrange any items submitted. Ad Cost: \$25 for non-ASRDA clubs per issue.

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