

June 5, 2016

SDM Members:

The SDM Spring Festival was held on April 2, 2016, at the Whitney Center in St Cloud. The idea exchange, before the dance, was well attended with 64 dancers. At the dance there were 14 squares (112 dancers), 8 callers, 3 cuers, USDA Plains Vice Presidents Judy and Floyd Engelhardt with USDA information, Come Square Dance sold script to help finance their grants, \$448 was donated to the Whitney Center, awards were presented, and great desserts were shared. Thanks to Beaux & Belles and ETTA Square & Rounds for hosting the dance and Tom Allen for being the emcee and all the callers and cuers for donating their services.

The SDM Summer Festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 23, 2016, at the Whitney Center in St Cloud (see attached flier). Idea Exchange from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., healthy potluck lunch 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., square dancing with rounds between tips 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., with annual membership meeting, election of one board member, and awards presentation at about 3:00 p.m. between tips. If you need callers or cuers for your dances, this is a great opportunity to schedule them in person.

The majority of the comments on the critique sheets returned after the April Idea Exchange were favorable and indicated that we should have another idea exchange. I realize that we used a lot of the time to provide SDM information and that the time allocated for discussion was limited. The focus for this one will be for the members to share their ideas. We have a different room which should be more conducive to discussion so come prepared to provide your ideas.

At the Idea Exchange members expressed interest in having a SDM member directory. We will need member permission in order to include their information in a directory. When you pay your dues this fall, you should complete and sign SDM Form 005 - Individual Membership Application, available on our website.

We experienced problems with verification of insurance payments made through non-SDM organizations resulting in some SDM organizations not getting their insurance certificates until March (instead of January). To preclude this problem in the future, the board decided that future dues and insurance will have to be paid through an SDM organization.

All of our organizations are registered as businesses and we need to ensure that our actions as officers are in the best interest of the organization. A copy of Operating Procedure (OP) 16-04 – Standards of Conduct, should be provided to every organization official and the officials should acknowledge that they received, read, understand, and will comply with the policy by completing SDM Form 009 – Annual Conflict of Interest Certification. Organization secretaries should maintain the signed copy. Organizations will verify that officials have complied with this requirement when they complete their SDM Form 003 – Annual Report and Financial Certification each March.

If you are participating in the Most-Active Dancer program for the period January 1 through June 30, 2016, make sure that you send your documentation to SDM Marketing Director Dee Scott by July 10, 2016. This is also a good time to submit your nominations for the Live-Lively and Traveler programs. These awards will be presented at the SDM Summer Festival.

Our website averages about 1,700 hits each month. This is a great opportunity to publicize your organization and its activities. Usually information, news, and calendar updates are posted within a day or two of submission to squaredancemn@aol.com. Don't miss a free opportunity to let everyone know what your organization has done or plans to do.


SDM has a Scholarship/Grant program to assist individuals or organizations when funds are needed and not available locally. See Operating Procedure 16-03 – Scholarships/Grants Program for information. Our mission is to promote and teach square dancing in all its heritage forms (by promoting square dancing and training new people in the activities of square dancing). Don't forego an opportunity to get a new dancer or have classes due to lack of funding, SDM will help as much as it can.

A reminder that SDM is your organization. Let us know how we are doing, if we should be doing something different, or if we are doing things right.

The next SDM Board meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305-1908. All members are invited to attend.

Are you familiar with the new slogan and logo for square dancing? We are encouraged to use the new slogan and logo on all square dance publications, flyers, and ads. This is the link where you can copy any of the approved www.arts-dance.org versions of the logo.

If you know of a member who does not have e-mail, please give them a copy of this update.
Thanks.


LeRoy Elfmann
Chair, SDM