

This article is part of a series highlighting people active in the NNJSDA.

Bio: Ann Cavanaugh



Ann Cavanaugh was working six nights a week when a friend's mother suggested she accompany her to an informal square dance Fran Wadel was holding weekday mornings at the Dumont Senior Center. "They didn't seem to mind that I was about 30 years younger than most of them," Ann recalls. "When fall came, I signed up for Andy Woerner's Circle Eights Mainstream class, since Monday was my only night off."

Ann has been a stagehand since the late 1970s. She was the fifth woman member of Local 1 IATSE, the stagehands union that covers New York's Broadway. Ann's job is to run automation, the computer that moves scenery during a show. She has also worked as an electrician in various scenery construction shops and theaters, including the Metropolitan Opera. Over the years, she has worked on shows including the original *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Showboat*, Elton John's *Aida*, *Xanadu*, *Jersey Boys*, and many more.

Ann grew up in Cincinnati, where her brother and parents still live, and graduated from Wittenberg University with a degree in theater and biology. She moved to New Jersey to earn a master's degree in theater at Montclair State University. Being near New York and Broadway, our state seemed like the logical place to settle after she graduated.

"I'm still juggling working at night with trying to dance, but after I retire in a few years, I'm looking forward to being able to dance more often," Ann says. "I went to my first square dance convention last summer in Cincinnati – combining it with a trip there for my dad's 95th birthday – and it was a lot of fun. I hope to be able to attend more."

Ann is a member of Circle Eights and Western Wheelers/Hix & Chix. When she isn't square dancing or making sure the show goes on, Ann lives in a small house with several feline companions. She enjoys Scottish country dancing, botany, volunteering with a nature preserve in the Pine Barrens, technology, and working on *Grand Square*. Ann has been the magazine's ad editor since 2014.

Robin Friedman (Kittatinny Rangers)

[Editor's note: Working with Ann is one of my perks as GS editor!]