



**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY  
SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION**  
*GRAND SQUARE* - OFFICIAL PUBLICATION - [www.nnjsda.org](http://www.nnjsda.org)  
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## **PRESIDENTS' E-LETTER – December 2009**

1. **Happy holidays** to all dancers! We hope many of you are signing up for the various New Year's Eve dance parties being planned in our region. No reason to stay home alone – ring in 2010 with square dance friends old and new.
2. **Presidents' Dinner** – Continuing our tradition of honoring club presidents during Presidents' Month, we are having a buffet dinner and informal meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at Budd Lake Chapel in Budd Lake. Club presidents or their representatives have been invited at no charge, and others are welcome to participate and pay only the cost of their own meal (\$12). The dinner will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30.
3. **NNJSDA dance format** – We received some excellent suggestions from many dancers about the format for our Association dances, and also consulted with callers for their input. The Executive Committee reviewed every suggestion at our meeting last month. Because we work on a calendar three years in advance, not every decision can be implemented immediately. However, we are pleased to tell you about some upcoming changes.
  - **Plus tips** at all NNJSDA dances will once again have both Plus patters and *Plus singers*.
  - **Regular NNJSDA dances**: 30 minutes of Mainstream, then alternating Mainstream and *full* Plus tips, with Rounds between the tips.
  - **Summer 2010 dances**: 30 minutes of Mainstream, then alternating Mainstream and *full* Plus tips, with a new caller doing a Mainstream tip or singer between the headline caller's tips.
  - **Special NNJSDA dances – Plus with Rounds**: At least one Association dance per season will be full Plus with star tips (either DBD Plus or Advanced), with Rounds for the first 30 minutes and between all tips. The first such special will be on *Saturday, May 15* with Ken Bower of California calling and Mary Pickett cueing.
  - **Note on round dancing**: All callers must take voice breaks, usually 7-8 minutes between tips. Whether those minutes are used for round dancing, new callers, or socializing, no time is lost from square dancing. So if you're not round dancing, be assured that you're not missing out on floor time!
4. **Grand Square Benefit Dance** – Don't we have a terrific Association magazine? Joe Landi and Mary Pickett have offered to donate their calling and cueing services for a dance on Sunday, April 25 from 3-6 PM from which all proceeds will benefit the *Grand Square*. This MS/PL/RD event will follow the Delegates Meeting at the VFW in Elmwood Park and take the place of the former Spring Fling. Thanks, Joe and Mary! The new *Grand Square* will be distributed at the Delegates Meeting on January 10 in Elmwood Park.

5. **New family rate** – Dancing children through age 18 (accompanied by a paying adult) will now pay only half price at all NNJSDA events.
6. **NJPAC** is partnering with NNJSDA for our sixth annual theater event. On Saturday, April 17, 2010 we will have an afternoon barbecue, square dance for an hour with Dan Koft, and then see a live national radio broadcast of “A Prairie Home Companion” with Garrison Keillor at 5:45 PM. Our 3rd VP, Jeanne Gannon, will distribute flyers and the required reservation forms at the Delegates Meeting on January 10. Square dancers will receive 10% off the price of any ticket.
7. **Mini-Festival** – Big yellow rocks to Rusty and Richard Ball, chairs of the 2009 Mini-Festival, for organizing a wonderful dance that attracted more than 275 people. They report that 10 squares were dancing Mainstream, 15-20 Plus, and up to 4 Advanced, and the round dance floor was full. The callers and cuer did a great job: Jerry Biggerstaff, Mark Franks, Betsy Gotta, and Roy Gotta. Thanks!
8. **Greg Fokszey**, Corresponding Secretary of the NNJSDA, has gladly taken on another responsibility – marriage! Congratulations to Greg and Judi, whose wedding took place on November 16 on board the “Explorer of the Seas” during a 10-day cruise to the Caribbean. Their new home is in Pompton Lakes. Judi is taking Mainstream lessons at Belles & Beaux and “just loves square dancing,” says Greg.
9. **New graduates** are joining our ranks from several clubs. Presidents, please send your new members’ email addresses to the Webmaster, aka Co-President (kenrbnsn@nnjsda.org), and he will invite them to join the NNJSDA information e-list.
10. **Patrons and Freeloaders** – Please check the list of recipients on NNJSDA.org. If you earned one or both awards and your name isn’t there, notify the Webmaster.
11. **Suggestions** – There are several ways to submit your ideas on the dance format or other matters:
  - Email the Co-Presidents (president@nnjsda.org).
  - Click on the website Suggestion Box (nnjsda.org).
  - Place a note in the Suggestion Box on the Treasurer’s table at a dance.
  - Send a note to one or both of us at our home addresses (see page 2 of the *Grand Square*).
  - Place an NNJSDA Suggestion Box at your club Treasurer’s table and forward the notes to us.
  - Discuss matters at your club meetings and have the President or Secretary inform us of the members’ consensus or ideas.

See you on the dance floor,

**Lise and Ken**