

NNJ
SDA



Grand Square

OFFICIAL **NEWSLETTER**

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 26, 1959

VOL. I

WE'RE OFF !

Here it is --- Vol. No. I !!! And rushed to press in time for Annual Delegate Meeting distribution for one reason --- to provoke some thinking for ideas and criticism. There's no organized newsletter staff yet (no volunteers!), but we should have a staff by the second issue which is planned for the fall. Let's hear your ideas --- we need lots of them. Some possible topics already suggested for future issues are:

Write-up on a particular caller or dancer
Various committee news
Calendar of activities
Club news
Feature articles by members

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The idea of a Square Dancers' Association in this area began in 1957 and by January, 1958, an organizing committee was formed. Work began on drafting a format and setting up a meeting of delegates representing all the clubs in the area. On March 23, 1958, the first delegates' meeting was held and the proposed format was presented. On April 27, 1958 the delegates met again and represented their clubs in a vote to become member clubs of the Association. Fourteen clubs are charter members of NNJSDA. In the ensuing delegates' meetings, a constitution was adopted and regular officers were elected.

Now the NNJSDA was reality and the time was here for it to prove its merit. Committees were formed for Administration, Finances, Publicity, Beginners Planning, and Scheduling. The Administration Committee, headed by Wally Moran, handled the Constitution and By-Laws. A treasury was started by a kick-off dance with Les Gotcher. Publicity, headed by Bob Keck and Jim Cameron, was begun by a picnic designed to interest new couples in square dancing. Since then, over 6,000 flyers publicizing square dancing have been printed and distributed and now many local papers and square dancing publication have recognized NNJSDA and are covering square dance events in our area. The Newsletter you are presently reading is the latest project of the Publicity Committee. The Beginners Planning Committee started with a Beginners Class, co-sponsored by the Plainfield Adult Evening School consisting of ten classes and boasted almost ten squares. Upon its completion, an Advanced Class was started, as well as two new Beginners Classes. The Advanced Class recently graduated thirty-five couples, now starting to dance in local clubs. The two new Beginners Classes are finishing with a total of nine squares, many of

whom are continuing in the second Advanced Class. The Scheduling Committee, headed by Frank Preston and Harlan Kennedy, has on several occasions, prevented the scheduling of two or more special events on the same or very close dates by acting as a clearing house for area dancing, to be used by the clubs whenever they so desire. It has and will continue to provide club dance schedules as well as summer schedules. Recently, a group outside our area requested scheduling information to prevent a conflict of dates.

Future plans for the Association include legal incorporation, plans to get recognition from larger newspapers and national magazines, and instruction classes in the Tenafly area to help build the membership of clubs in the northern section. Also, classes will be continued in Plainfield and Edison in the fall. Many other things are contemplated, but future editions of this Newsletter will keep you informed.

Through the hard work and wonderful cooperation of the square dancers, these things have been accomplished. The Association has become a valuable tool in the hands of the dancers to promote the recreation we all enjoy so much. However, we must remember that nothing in this world remains static very long. Everything is either progressing or regressing. Square Dancing is presently progressing, but it needs the help and ideas of all of you to keep it that way! ---

Al Aderente

E PLURIBUS UNUM !

If attendance of recent NNJSDA graduates at recent club dances and special programs is any gage, many of our clubs will have their membership rosters swelled by registration of these new dancers. This, of course, is the purpose of NNJSDA existence and the members of the many clubs who have been active in association programs should experience a warm feeling of satisfaction to see their efforts bear fruit.

Upon graduation of the second Advanced Class in June, a total of about 15 squares will have received diplomas. In case you don't realize it, this constitutes an increase of between 30% and 40% of active club dancers in our area. The benefits of a dancing population increase are obvious to clubs and to callers. How did your club do?

SUMMER DANCING ?

Not resolved at this writing; however, the response to date is quite favorable. It should be finally resolved at the Annual Meeting. If it actually develops, a summer schedule will be printed and distributed.

NNJSDA --- HOW DO YOU FIT IN ?

"All dancers in good standing of member clubs shall be considered members of the Association." ---(NNJSDA Constitution)

Our Constitution clearly states how individual membership is attained and points up the need for NNJSDA dance class graduates to become club members. As members, our purpose is to carry out objectives of the association which all have to do with promoting square dancing through instruction and publicity. Funds required to finance various programs are raised through special affairs. Sounds simple, but expanding efforts require a lot of detailed work. And here's where you fit in! What can you do? Here's just a few suggestions.

1. Be a good dancer, friend, and disciple. Have an open mind and stamp out petty politics.
2. Be willing to help other dancers progress. Don't always set up squares of preferred dancers.
3. Know your delegates. Talk to them and let them know how you feel about association activities and how they are handled.
4. Take part in association work. Be willing to work when asked. Let your delegate know that you are willing to serve.

ASSOCIATION DANCE -- OCTOBER 31ST

At the general delegates' meeting on March 3, 1959, a favorable vote was cast on a proposed association sponsored name caller dance on the 5th Saturday of October. Planning is in progress.

PATTER CALLS

Congratulations to the Plainfield Promenaders on their very successful anniversary dance. Better than 12 squares enjoyed a well planned affair. ---- The Metuchen Promenaders were visited by Roy Keleigh from Elberon and two squares from his new club. We hope the interchange of dancers from that area increases. ---- Westfield is having Earl Johnston on the 29th of April. Hope you registered; it's limited. ---- Everyone's turning out for the Rahway Festival on May 5th. It's their 13th Anniversary and bound to be lots of fun with John Carroll in high gear! ----The attendance at the April graduation was about 20 squares (including graduates). Visiting dancers came from Trenton to Tenafly. ---- Metuchen Square Dance Club is having Al Brundage on May 2nd for their members. Hall size limits the number of sets. ---- There was quite a dancer turnout at the smorgasbord which was run by the Lens' Church in Martinsville on April 25th. ---- We're glad to welcome the LaRues back from Florida. We heard that they square danced 58 evenings out of 63. This must be a record! ---- Beulah Samec leaves on April 27th for a

one week calling tour of New England. She's also been engaged for a week on the calling staff at Square Acres (E. Bridgewater, Mass.). Good Luck, Beulah! ----That's all the PATER for now. See you next issue! ----.

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