

To all of the members of the IAGSDC:

Since this is the first effort by our group to produce a newsletter I first want to thank Harlan for laying the foundation for the rest of us to build on. After that I want to thank all of the clubs and individuals who contributed to the ultimate content of this letter. In many instances I know that I have not conveyed the exact meaning of your thoughts into this letter. I have tried to reach a consensus of thought from all of the letters to arrive at what I beleive to be our group's thoughts.

Many times during this project friends have told me not to worry, since by-laws are never thought of except during conventions. One person, however came through with a thought that helped me greatly. Art Smith of Seattle said by-laws are like an overcoat--there is not much need for it until you really need it....(thanks Art)

I have tried to include in this letter all of the items proposed in Harlans letter, but if I put everything in this first letter I may not have anything left over for the next issue. That is why I'm leaving out the "Introductions to Each Club". The ones that I recieved were very brief and I think we could do better with a complete history of only one club in each newsletter. This does not have to be completed during this administration, but could be an on-going thing. The next newsletter will contain a history of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs and at that time I will designate a club to provide their complete history for the following newsletter.

I am thoroughly convinced that the "Square Dance" movement in gay life is here to stay and will grow beyond our imagination very soon. I spoke to a group in Minneapolis a few nights ago who are contra dancing with some square dancing. They are very interested in what our Association is doing. It makes me very proud to be a part of this movement because through square dancing I have become friends with the greatest people on earth. I'm talking about you.....

Thanks again

Love Dean

# COMMENTS FROM THE CLUBS ON THE DENVER CONVENTION

Desert Valley Squares;

No comments

South Florida Mustangs;

The Square dance clubs of Denver, The C.G.R.A. and the Denver Tavern Guild are to be complimented on their fine square dance convention and rodeo.

Seattle clubs;

In questioning our members about the convention, it is the general consensus that the convention was GREAT. Denver is to be commended for their effort. We particularly enjoyed the opportunity to get together with the many friends that we made at the convention last year. We also enjoyed not having to do the work.

Some of our more advanced members felt that there was not enough open dancing during the mornings and afternoons. Since the Dance rooms were available with sound systems on a 24 hour basis, this really should not have been a problem. We would recommend that for future conventions open dances be scheduled (by program) during the day for those who do not wish to participate in any of the workshops. Also we would like to see intensive DBD, mainstream and plus workshops directed toward mainstream and plus dancers wishing to increase their proficiency level. Our members who attended A1, A2 and C1 workshops wanted more and longer sessions. We also would like to see a 2-step workshop. Charlies was a new experience for many of our dancers and a 2-step workshop would have helped them enjoy it even more than they did. Some of us needed no workshop for what we were at Charlies for.

Albuquerque;

No comments

Mile High Squares;

See Wayne Jakino and Michael Van Meter's letter later in the newsletter.

Western Star Dancers;

We can assure you that the WSD had a wonderful time and think that the Denver committee should be applauded for the great time provided to all. We enjoyed the candlelight AIDS vigil and the high spirits of all the attendees.

Scheduling of the callers/instructors could have been more organized. The names of particular dance sessions also needed to be more clearly defined. In my mind there is a difference between an Introduction to Plus and a Plus Level Workshop. Both of these terms were used in Denver and were seemingly used interchangeably...but I don't want to seem overly critical as it was the best square dance convention I have EVER attended in my 17 years of square dancing.

THE DENVER CONVENTION (continued)

Portland;

No comments

Times Squares NY

1. What we liked about the convention:

The exhilaration of the dancers  
Meeting so many terrific people  
The opportunity to dance to live callers  
Square dance workshops  
Other workshops, 2-step, clogging and flying squares

2. What could be improved:

There should be more hash calling  
Singing calls were repeated many times  
Some mainstream calls were seldom worked into the dance program  
The convention badge needs to be designed so that it stays on  
Plywood floors should not be used.. modular wood dance flooring should be available to rent  
There needs to be a resolution on the styling chaos, especially weave the ring.  
Suggest that during convention we used callerlab definitions for calls

Foggy City Dancers; All of the Foggy City Dancers who went to the convention had a wonderful time. The inclusion of vendors, especially the badge makers was a real plus. The floors were a serious drawback. The pool party was a wonderful addition. The lack of A-2 dancing was noticed. There needed to be more advance notice of the various schedules. The presence of a photographer was appreciated. Needed better posting of what is going on and in which rooms, perhaps at the registration desk. The major callers were wonderful. Workshops for the new callers were missed.

Southern California;

No reply

Vancouver

No reply

Washington D.C.

No reply

Sacramento

No reply

Tacoma

No reply

Tucson

No reply

Anchorage

No reply



WESTERN STAR DANCERS

July 9, 1985

Dr. Ted Oakes  
Desert Valley Squares  
13209 N. 37th Dr  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Dear Ted:

It is always such a pleasure to have you dance with the Club when you are in town. We, too, enjoyed meeting and dancing with other Desert Valley Squares members in Denver.

Thank you for your letter of May 13 in response to WSD's communication with the International Association. Since Denver has already happened, I believe you will agree that a very amicable resolution of our concerns was achieved.

Scott indicated that you wanted a copy of the letter we sent to all the Bay Area callers from a rather outdated list which we had obtained. Enclosed is a copy of the final draft; please excuse its being in unfinished form, but it is the quickest way I can respond to your request. It did receive a small response (from a mailing of about 60 letters), but it was a seed that probably has helped us get to where we are today with having callers at our disposal.

We look forward to your joining us again.

Cordially,

  
Freeman Stamper  
Secretary

Enclosure



# COLORADO GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

July 11, 1985

The dust has settled and the Second International Gay Square Dance Convention, PROMENADE ALONG THE ROCKIES is history. On behalf of everyone in Denver we would like to thank each of you for being our guests at this event. We sincerely hope that it was as enjoyable for you as it was for us.

Final attendance figures are tabulated and you will be pleased to know that over 425 individuals participated in the weekend. Attached for your review you will find a copy of the final expense report for the actual convention and for the association. All accounts in Denver concerning the convention and the association have now been closed. The remaining balance in the association account, \$87.04 has been forwarded to the new IAGSDC Treasurer, Joe Osborn. The remaining balance in the convention account, \$31.42 has been forwarded to next years host city, San Francisco.

A tradition started this year that we hope will continue in years to come was use of the "International Gay Square Dance Convention" Badges. It was our intention that the badges serve as both a souvenir and a fundraiser for the following years convention. The balance of the badges and danglers (wholesale value \$723.00) have also been forwarded to San Francisco as a gift from The Mile High Squares.

Again a heartfelt thank you to everyone for helping make this year's convention a success. It would not have been possible without your enthusiasm, support and hard work. We will look forward to seeing each of you next year as we, "Star Through The Golden Gate".

Sincerely,

Wayne V. Jakino  
Convention Co-Chairman

Michael R. Van Meter  
Convention Co-Chairman

MVM/s  
Enclosure

FINAL INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT

July 11, 1985

ASSOCIATION INCOME

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1985 IAGSDC Dues..... | \$ 208.73 |
| TOTAL INCOME.....     | \$ 208.73 |

ASSOCIATION EXPENSES

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Telephone.....      | \$ 89.48  |
| Postage.....        | 27 21     |
| Printing.....       | 5.00      |
| TOTAL EXPENSES..... | \$ 121.69 |

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| NET ASSOCIATION INCOME..... | \$ 87.04 |
|-----------------------------|----------|

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CONVENTION INCOME

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Convention Registration.....   | \$19,035.00 |
| Fundraisers <sup>1</sup> ..... | 5,001.46    |
| Donation From Coors Beer.....  | 500.00      |
| Interest Earned.....           | 58.97       |
| TOTAL INCOME.....              | \$24,595.43 |

CONVENTION EXPENSES

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Caller Fees and Airfare.....   | \$ 4,507.00 |
| Badges.....                    | 2,408.23    |
| T-Shirts.....                  | 1,598.20    |
| Advertising <sup>2</sup> ..... | 87.50       |
| Postage <sup>3</sup> .....     | 69.50       |
| Insurance Binder.....          | 575.00      |
| License/Permits.....           | 111.25      |
| Sound System.....              | 836.00      |
| Decorations.....               | 296.63      |
| Security.....                  | 300.00      |
| Printing.....                  | 75.28       |
| Meals.....                     | 6,706.76    |
| Telephone <sup>4</sup> .....   | .00         |
| Toilet Facilities.....         | 200.00      |
| Misc. Refunds.....             | 74.00       |
| Beer/Pop.....                  | 770.90      |
| Floors.....                    | 5,947.76    |
| TOTAL EXPENSES.....            | \$24,564.01 |

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| NET CONVENTION INCOME..... | \$ 31.42 |
|----------------------------|----------|

NOTES:

- 1 - Fundraisers: Includes Dance Festival, AIDS Candlelight Vigil, Badges and T-Shirts.
- 2 - Advertising: Poster printing and mailing donated by CGRA.
- 3 - Postage: Balance of postage expense donated by Charlie's.
- 4 - Telephone: All convention calls placed from Charlies were donated.

## ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Hope you all read the letter from Hank Stack of the Rosetown Ramblers in Portland, Or. Convention committee take note.

Most of the clubs wished to discuss the need for money to run the Association separate from the convention committees.

Adoption of standing rules or policy statements that will make our bylaws work--Example, new membership applications.

BANNERS Whose can be hung at a convention and the need for fireproofing. Incorporation of our Association.

All clubs have indicated a desire for uniform styling. One or two calls per newsletter, perhaps a regular column.

Profits from future conventions.

Losses from future conventions.

Association historian.

Anyone have any ideas for putting computers to work for the Assn.

Many clubs wish to have a record information exchange. This could include label, number, level, caller and song versus hash.

Exchange of information as to how various clubs handle dues and membership requirements.

Various arrangements clubs have for getting callers.

Where do we dance, rented halls, bars, etc. and the merits of each.

How do we handle our fundraisers.

Resources available to members wishing to learn to call.

How aggressive we are as a club in participating in straight square dance functions.

What to do if we learn that one of our clubs discriminates against any minorities, women or straights.

Assemble information to produce a guideline for producing a convention. This could be a project by the cities with experience to help those cities who have that planning still ahead.

List of available music resources.

Establishing program committees. These would be of great help to a city planning a convention.

Club organization guidelines to help new clubs.

Sound systems.

Since much of our time is taken with the bylaws our next newsletter will only cover two of the above items. Need for money to run the Assn and Styling. For the next letter we will only discuss one call, and that will be "Weave the Ring". This is your chance to let your views be known so don't be shy. We really need everyone's input.

Any number of the above questions could be handled by a volunteer or a club and probably produce great results. If anyone wishes to take care of any items just let us know so that we don't duplicate your efforts.

Some members of the Portland, Oregon Rose Town Ramblers have developed what is an answer to the problem of how to include deaf dancers .

Three of the members, faced with deaf man wanting to participate in the beginners' class last fall, decided to devise a sign code which would enable him to participate. The signs had to be made with one hand, be based on American Sign Language and easy to execute and remember.

The result is a collection of signs which someone in the square or standing outside the square can use to inform the deaf dancer as to the calls announced. Of course, others in the square can and do pick up the more common signs and use them to make the calls even more visible.

The signs are linked to "key " words or phrases which can also be mouthed for those who have speechreading skills.

The booklet of signs which was shown to interested participants at the Denver convention is in the process of being revised - and if there is enough interest in the idea of involving deaf people in this activity, a workshop at a future convention is a possibility.

Contributed by Hank Stack  
Rosetown Ramblers  
Portland, Oregon

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NEW YORK CITY

At the friendly insistence of the other east coast clubs (So. Fla. Mustangs and D.C. Lambda Squares) we're planning a fly in over the Labor Day Weekend. All the clubs should have received information by now. Anyone who needs information contact; Ken Pollack 115 E. 9th St. No. 9-D New York city, N.Y. 10003 212-505-7167

## SAN FRANCISCO

The Western Star is hosting a retreat weekend on Sept. 13-15. \$50 registration includes all dancing at all levels to live callers and records as well as meals and rustic sleeping conditions. This takes place at Casadero, which is about 20 minutes northwest of the Russian River resort area. For more information, write WSD 584 Castro St. #480 San Francisco, Ca. 94114

## ALBUQUERQUE

On the weekend of October 11-13 the Wilde Bunch will hold their third annual Squaredance Fiesta in conjunction with the International Balloon Fiesta. The theme for this years event is "Allemande the Rio Grande". For more information write the Wilde Bunch, P.O. Box 40393 Albuquerque, N.M. 87196.

## PHOENIX

1988 Convention update; It is currently planned for the weekend of May 22 at the Las Posada resort in Paradise Valley. It is a 32 acre resort with Arizona's largest swimming pool. There are 2 waterfalls and an underwater bar. Also six tennis courts and riding stables. Expecting a price of about \$50 per night per room.



## SAN FRANCISCO

Square dancers are invited to Star Thru the Golden Gate in August 1986 at the third annual IAGSDC convention. The convention will be held at the sumptuous Shearaton-Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco, Aug. 22-25, 1986. At this time no specific callers have been booked but we hope to have arrangements finalized by the end of August. We will be providing a convention for dancers at all the Callerlab levels. The Sheraton-Palace has many large rooms so we will have the capabilities of running all of

the levels simultaneously. The three main halls are all equipped with built-in wood floors.

We would also like to encourage dancers to come to San Francisco with plans to make this an extended vacation. The Gay Games close the weekend just prior to the convention. Another great Northern California destination is the Russian River Resort area. More information to follow but if you have any questions please contact us at; 584 Castro St. #610, San Francisco, Ca. 94114.