

Square Dances Need You There!

Square dances are the icing on the cake of life. Your daily life may be hectic or relaxed, but evenings and sometimes whole weekends offer the ultimate escape from reality: a square dance. For about three hours, you have the chance to visit with new and old friends, to get great mental and physical exercise, to lower your blood pressure, and to enjoy an inexpensive evening out that even includes a treat table. In one word, square dancing is FUN!

To keep this enjoyable pastime thriving, you need to support the clubs by attending as many dances as possible throughout the year. When special dances are offered, you need to attend. As you plan your upcoming vacations, hopefully the opportunity to square dance is an important factor.

Club dances, special weekends and conventions provide lots of extraordinary dancing experiences, but without your support in today's economy, they will disappear very quickly. Costs rise daily; the number of dancers in attendance needs to rise accordingly.

Next June, the state convention is in Rochester: June 10, 11, 12, 2011. Flyers are available at most dances. Get your reservations in now for both the dance and your lodging. The CW Region will host the 2012 state convention in Brainerd June 8, 9, 10.

National conventions also need your support; they provide lots of dance floors for every level of dancing. The 60th National Convention is June 22-25, 2011, in Detroit, Michigan. The 61st National Convention is June 27-30, 2012, in Spokane, Washington.

Some have already registered for the 62nd National Convention June 26-29, 2013, in Oklahoma City. The 63rd is June 25-28, 2014, in Little Rock, Arkansas. And now New England is excited because they seem to be the only ones preparing a bid for 2015, possibly proposing Hartford, CT, as the host city.

What's most awesome about square dance conventions is that they are created and worked by volunteers! No one is paid to plan or execute a convention! Incredible! The square dancers who bid for a national convention are pledging four years of their lives to be primarily devoted to making that convention happen if they win the bid! Every dancer needs to be there so these efforts are appreciated and enjoyed. The folks who volunteer to host a convention, be it state or national, have lots of out-of-pocket expenses--there is no huge budget anywhere in square dancing that pays their expenses.

Being located in the upper midwest, Minnesotans also have lots of neighboring conventions to attend. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, hosts the 49th convention April 8-9, 2011. The 59th North Dakota convention is in Fargo, April 29-30, 2011. The 28th Illinois State Convention is in Springfield, IL, July 22-24, 2011. Wisconsin's will be in DeForest, August 5-7, 2011. You can still catch the Missouri State Convention, October 15-17, 2010, in Lebanon, Missouri.

Other special weekends also require lots of work and planning by "volunteer" square dancers so try to attend as many of those as your schedule allows. If regular square dances, special weekends, and conventions are to be around in the future, they need dancers there now to keep their sponsors (clubs, regions, states, NEC) solvent.

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