

ARTS MEETING MINUTES
Newark, NJ
October 11, 2009
(Approved November 20, 2009)

CALL TO ORDER -

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM on Sunday, October 11, 2009, by ARTS Chairman Cathy Smith.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS -

The following organizations have agreed to support The ARTS:

CALLERLAB, CONTRALAB, International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC), National Square Dance Campers Association (NSDCA), National Executive Committee (NEC), ROUNDALAB, Single Square Dancers USA (SSDUSA), USA West, and United Square Dancers of America (USDA)

ROLL CALL -

Governing Board Representatives - The following Voting Members representing Governing Board Members were present

CALLERLAB - Betsy Gotta
CONTRALAB - Cathy Smith
IAGSDC - Scott Philips
NEC - Harry Nelson
SSDUSA - Ron Holland
USAWest - Jim Maczko
USDA - Len Houle

Members not present

NSDCA - Doc Tirrell
ROUNDALAB - John Herr

Guests -

Gordon R. Macaw, President/Executive Director, All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.

ARTS Officers; the following ARTS Officers were present:

Cathy Smith, Chairman, Jim Weber, Vice Chairman; Edythe Weber, Treasurer; and Jerry Reed, Secretary/Executive Director

WELCOME REMARKS -

Chairman Cathy Smith offered brief opening remarks

AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL

Prior to approval of the agenda chairman Smith asked if there were any additions, deletions, or changes. There were no changes to Draft 2 of the agenda.

*MOTION: Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as (written / amended). **(MSC)***

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS -

Donations:

The following donations were received during the meeting:

Ron Holland - \$100.00 toward the "\$100,000 Club"
Harry & Pat Nelson - \$100.00 toward the "\$100,000 Club"

Treasurer Reports -

Edythe Weber, Treasurer, provided the financial reports

Finance Report - (Attachment 1)

Current Finance Report reported by the Treasurer. The Balance on hand as of September 30, 2009 was \$13,265.52.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Finance Report be accepted for filing. (MSC)

Certificates of Deposit (CD)

The ARTS Treasurer provided brief report on the following CD's

- 1) CD due January 2010 - \$5,258.33
 - 2) CD due January 2010 - \$5,258.33
 - 3) CD due April 2010 - \$5,124.76
 - 4) CD due February 2010 - \$5,117.96
 - 5) CD due September 2009 - \$5,033.86
- TOTAL Invested in CDs = \$25,793.24

ARTS Budget

This item was tabled during the July 2007 meeting and remains on the table.

ARTS Pins

This item concerns the sale status of the ARTS pins. The Executive Director sent 10 pins to Jim & Edythe Weber after the 2009 June ARTS meeting. He also reported he still has about 20 pins, which are available for sale. There are no plans to purchase more pins at this time.

Reports from past meetings -

Copies of the minutes of the past meetings are available on the ARTS web site:

October 2002 (Cocoa Beach, FL); January 2003 (Washington, D.C.); Summer (June) 2003 ARTS Alliance Meeting (Oklahoma City, OK); Fall (October) 2003 ARTS Planning Meeting (Orlando, FL); Spring (March) 2004 ARTS Meeting (Portland, OR); Summer (June) 2004 ARTS Meeting (Denver, CO); Fall (October) 2004 ARTS Meeting (Orlando, FL); Spring (February) 2005 ARTS Meeting (San Antonio, TX); Summer (June) 2005 ARTS Meeting (Portland, OR); Fall (October) 2005 ARTS Meeting (Orlando, FL); April 2006 (Charlotte, NC); June 2006 (San Antonio, TX), October 2006 (Orlando, FL); March 2007 (Alexandria, VA); July 2007 (Charlotte, NC), October 2007 (Orlando, FL), February 2008, Long Beach, CA; June 2008 (Wichita, KS); October 2008, (Orlando, FL); February 2009, (Louisville, KY); June 2009 (Long Beach, CA).

Confirm Actions by the ARTS Board & Officers Since the Last Meeting - (Attachment 2)

This item concerns a discussion and vote to confirm the actions taken by the ARTS Governing Board and the ARTS Officers since the June 2009 ARTS meeting. It is policy that at each Board meeting the Board will review and vote on the actions taken by Email by the Board and the Officers since the last meeting.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the actions taken by the ARTS Governing Board and Officers since the June 2009 ARTS meeting be confirmed. (MSC)

Web Site & Video Project -

This item concerns the project for the creation of a web site and videos (DVDs) dedicated to attracting new dancers. The main points of this project are: 1) Establish a dedicated web site, 2) Create professional, upbeat videos of approximately two minutes for each segment of the activity, and 3) The videos would be accessed through the web site and copies would be made available.. The Board Members have been encouraged to donate \$2,000.00 to help with this project. The Executive Director has asked the Treasurer for a report of which Board Member organizations have donated. The Executive Director will follow-up.

Roy Gotta is the ARTS contact person and manager of this project. Roy reported the scripts for the Square Dance and the Round Dance videos are nearly completed. There were some suggestions from the group and Roy will incorporate suggestions into the scripts. The Traditional (Contra) script has not yet e been started. There was agreement that Roy will incorporate suggestions for changes, but the Board would not get involved with "word smithing" the scripts. Roy reported filming for the square and round videos will begin on Monday, October 12. The filming will be done in a studio. The caller and cuer have both agreed to help and dancers have volunteered to help. The bottom line is the project is slightly behind in the area of scripts, however, we are well ahead of schedule for the filming for the videos. Roy also reported the template for the web site has been completed and the next step will be to add data to the web site. Completion of this project is estimated by the end of 2009.

Roy will send the draft scripts (Square and Round) to the office and Jerry will send to the group.

We received an invoice from CVP in the amount of \$11,770.00. This amount includes the New Jersey sales tax. Since we have been approved to be exempt from the sales tax, Roy has contacted CVP for a revised invoice, without the sales tax.

Based on the status report from Roy the following MOTION was submitted:

MOTION: Whereas - Roy Gotta has reported that the scripts for the Square and Round Dance videos are nearly completed and that filming for these videos will begin on Monday, October 12, 2009. Be it resolved that: payment of the second payment, as revised to not include New Jersey sales tax, (approximately \$11,000.00) be approved. (MSC)

(NOTE - The Executive Director has asked Roy to provide periodic status reports to help keep the Board informed of the progress of this project.)

NSDC Information - (FYI)

59th NSDC (2010) - Louisville, KY -

We have contacted the 59th NSDC Education Committee and provided the titles, descriptions, and staff for two ARTS seminars. We also plan to have a display in the Showcase Of Ideas.

During the 2009 June ARTS meeting we approved a MOTION to place ads in each of the daily schedule books. Jim Maczko reported he has contacted the NSDC to inform a them we will be purchasing the inside covers for the three daily schedule books. The Executive Director will contact the Education Committee to obtain the dates and times for the ARTS Seminars. This information will be included in the ARTS ads in the daily schedule books..

Harry Nelson, NEC Rep, agreed to contact the 59th NSDC General Chairman to ask if the convention committee will stuff the Tri-Fold into each convention package. We also need the cutoff date for the convention to receive the material and the address to send to. There was also agreement that information about the web/video project should be included.

60th NSDC (2011) - Detroit, MI - (FYI)

We have had limited contact with the 60th NSDC staff. We have identified the Education Chairman and will establish contact to discuss our plan. We plan to attend the 60th Pre-Convention (27 March, 2009) in Detroit. During which we will submit our request to present two ARTS information seminars. We also plan to have a display in the Showcase Of Ideas.

61st NSDC (2012) - Spokane, WA - (FYI)

We have had no contact with the 61st NSDC staff. We need to identify the Education Chairman to establish contact with the ARTS Executive Director.. We plan to present information/discussion seminars. We also plan to have a display in the Showcase Of Ideas. Harry Nelson will provide contact information to the Executive Director.

62nd NSDC (2013) - Oklahoma City, OK - (FYI)

We have had no contact with the 62nd NSDC staff. We need to identify the Education Chairman to establish contact with the ARTS Executive Director. We have not had any contact from the NSDC. We plan to present information/discussion seminars. We also plan to have a display in the Showcase Of Ideas.

OLD BUSINESS -

Toll Free Telephone Number -

This item concerns the Toll Free Phone Number. Cathy Smith reported they hav had problems with their phone company, however, even when there were no problems there have been no calls.

Newsletter - (FYI)

This item concerns the ARTS Newsletter which was to be published following each ARTS meeting. The Summer 2009 Newsletter has been published, distributed, and posted on the ARTS web site. The Executive Director will write future newsletters.

Publications - (FYI)

This item concerns a list of publications and contact information. Jim Weber, ARTS webmaster, again asked each organization to check the links for the publications posted on the ARTS web site. He also asked the reps to review the list of publications to verify the validity of the information.

ARTS Tri-Fold Information Brochures - (FYI)

This item concerns the ARTS Tri-Fold Brochure. The brochure was updated in 2008 and 20,000 copies were printed. Copies were distributed at the 58th NSDC in Long Beach in June 2009. There was agreement that the brochure will not be updated until after the web site/video project has been completed. We plan to distribute the brochures at the 59th NSDC. Harry Nelson will contact the 59th NSDC General Chairman to request that the convention staff put a brochure in each convention package. There was brief discussion about updating the brochures. There was agreement that the update include information about the new web site/video project.

(NOTE - Subsequent to the meeting the Executive Director sent an ARTS LOG to request input for the update of the Tri-Fold.)

Nationwide Benefit Dances - (FYI)

This item concerns nationwide fundraising dances to benefit The ARTS. Previous discussion of this item has resulted in general agreement that ARTS will support future dances. There was agreement that the following factors will help make the dances and fund raising efforts better. These changes include: 1) Better publicity, 2) More flexibility in scheduling dances, and 3) Make this an annual event.

Previous attempts to obtain a person to head the effort to publicize these dances has been unsuccessful. Ron Holland will again contact a dancer who may be willing to serve as Chairman of a committee to publicize and track results from benefit dances. Discussion of this item resulted in information that some of the clubs which donated money to the ARTS have not received thank you letters. The Executive Director will contact each of these groups to apologize for this oversight.

Dancing Backgrounder - (FYI)

This item concerns the Square Dancing Backgrounder. The Backgrounder has been completed, approved, and printed. Copies were distributed at the 58th NSDC. The Backgrounder will be distributed at the 59th NSDC in June 2010. A PDF file of the Backgrounder with an editable space for adding local information has been posted on the ARTS web site.

YTB Travel - (FYI)

This item concerns the online travel site. The ARTS Travel web site has been paid until 2018. Jim Weber will provide a brief report. Discussions resulted in general agreement that we need to do a better job of publicizing the service and encourage people to use the site. The Executive Director will continue to publicize through the ARTS Email Tree.

Executive Director - (FYI)

This item concerns the ARTS Executive Director. The Board has approved a salary of \$100.00 per month to begin in June 2009. Jerry may ask for reimbursement of some office expenses. Work on guidelines and job description for this position will be done.

ARTS Grant Program - (FYI)

This item concerns the ARTS Grant Program which provides financial assistance to clubs, associations, or other groups which host meetings to bring dancers, callers, cuers, and others together to discuss various aspects and concerns facing the dance activity. The guidelines for the Grant program have been approved, published, distributed, and is posted on the ARTS web site..

The Executive Director will provide a brief report - we have received two Grant Requests: 1) Missouri and 2) Superior California. The ARTS Officers have reviewed, discussed, and approved on the requests.

Len Houle provided information about a possible grant request from the Western Massachusetts Square and Round Dance Association. Len reported the association had indicated they had submitted a grant request which was not answered. The Executive Director reported he had not received any such request. He asked Len to contact the group and ask them to submit/resubmit the request. The request will be submitted to the ARTS Officers for consideration and action.

ARTS Electronic Mailing Tree - (FYI)

This item concerns an electronic system to not only help publicize The ARTS, but more importantly, establish a communication system to distribute information relating to the activity to the dancing community. The eventual goal is to have a system which will link the ARTS to every square dance club in the USA, and possibly outside the USA.

The initial work of requesting potential contacts around the country to agree to serve as ARTS Email Tree contacts has been completed. Over 60 people were contacted and asked if they would agree to serve as the ARTS Email Tree contact for their area/region. Five of those contacted have declined and 28 have agreed to serve. These 28 contacts represent 23 different states or regions. The Executive Director is continuing efforts to complete the tree.

There are contacts for the following areas: California, Colorado, DelMarVA, Delaware Valley, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, WASCA, North Carolina, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Massachuset, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas.

The Executive Director contacted additional potential Email Tree reps in August 2009 and in September 2009, however, we have not received any responses. We will continue to contact potential Email tree members.

Ask ARTS - (FYI)

We have published eleven Ask ARTS articles. Del Reed asked for ideas for future articles. Some suggestions included: 1) Publicity for ARTS (what we have done and what we are doing), 2) Information about the web site/video project, 3) Information about ARTS Grants, 4) Adopt A Library idea, and 5) ARTS-Travel site publicity..

ARTS Business/Action Plan -

This item concerns a long range Business Plan for the organization to cover up to a ten-year time span. A Business Plan has been approved and posted on the ARTS web site. The only action under consideration is the ARTS "Email Tree".

Jim Maczko reported that Jim & Pam Kidwell have not yet completed a review of the published plan.

Adopt a Library (Publicity) - (FYI)

This item concerns a publicity idea to print book marks and other publicity items and distribute these materials to help promote dance classes. The bookmarks are provided at no cost to a library with a request that they be made available to library patrons. Mike Jacobs reported this idea has also been implemented in New York, with some success. Discussion of this item resulted in agreement that this is a project for local area groups not for the ARTS to implement.

\$100,000 Club-

This item concerns a suggestion from Jim Wass regarding a \$100,000 club in which up of 1,000 individuals would each donate \$100.

Discussion of this item during the 2009 June ARTS meeting resulted in agreement that this is a good idea and that Jim should be approached to provide additional input and leadership to put this idea into action. The Executive Director has contacted Jim to ask for his input and to determine if he would be willing to chair a committee to further develop and implement his proposal. Discussion of this item again resulted in agreement that this is a good idea and should be publicized.

New Board Member -

This item concerns a request from All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd., to join The ARTS Governing Board. This organization is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to supporting the funding of projects which will preserve and promote Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) square dancing and other associated dance forms. Other support to the activity includes financial support for callers to attend callers school, funding dances at the Gay & Lesbian convention, and other monetary support. There was general agreement that the organization is doing good work to support and promote the activity.

Discussion of this item during the 2009 June ARTS meeting resulted in a review and discussion of the information provided by Gordon R. Macaw, President/Executive Director. Discussion of this item resulted in general agreement that having All Join Hands join The ARTS Governing Board would be a good idea.

In accordance with the bylaws a MOTION was submitted to amend the Bylaws to add All Join Hands to the Governing Board. The following MOTION was submitted for consideration during this meeting:

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Bylaws be amended to include the All Join Hands Foundation as a Governing Board Member. (MSC)

NEW BUSINESS

Activity Status Reports - (Attachment 3)

This item concerns a request that each Board Member provide a brief report of the status of the activity from the perspective of their organization. The status reports from IAGSDC, NEC, USAWest, and USDA are attached. Reports from other organizations have not been received.

AAHPERD/NDA - (FYI)

This item concerns the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) and the National Dance Association (NDA). CALLERLAB has sent Calvin Campbell (CALLERLAB's Rep) to several AAHPERD/NDA conventions and he has provided presentations and demonstrations of dancing. The purpose of this involvement is help publicized the activity and to help get AAHPERD/NDA Members involved with introduction of dancing schools and other recreation area. During the 2008 June meeting the ARTS Board approved sharing the costs of this involvement.

Considerable discussion of this item resulted in the following MOTION:

MOTION: Be it resolved that further financial support to help fund participation at AAHPERD/NDA activities be ended. (MSC)

Showcase Of Ideas Funding

This item concerns a discussion of funding for the displays and other materials we provide at the Showcase Of Ideas at the national conventions. Discussion of this item resulted in the following MOTION:

MOTION: Be it resolved that up to \$200.00 be approved for expenditure on the information and materials for the Showcase of Ideas at the national conventions. (MSC)

TechSoup Software

TechSoup is an organization which provides computer software to non-profit organizations at a very substantial reduction in cost. There are certain limitations and requirements which must be met by the receiving organization. Last year several ARTS Board Members and reps ordered software. Jim will provide additional information. Discussion of this item resulted in agreement that Board Members will submit requests to Jim Weber and Jim will coordinate orders through Tech Soup and will provide the CDs for the orders. There will be a charge of \$5.00 to cover the cost of production and shipping.

2009 Election of Officers -

This item concerns the slate of nominees for the 2009 ARTS Officers election. The bylaws require the slate for the election be presented during the Spring meeting and that the election be conducted during the Fall meeting. The following slate was submitted. Prior to voting the floor was opened for nominations. There were no nominations. The following MOTION was submitted:

MOTION: Be It Resolved that the following slate of ARTS officers be elected by acclamation: Chairman - Jim Weber, Vice Chairman - Ron Holland, Treasurer - Edythe Weber, and Secretary - Jerry Reed. (MSC)

Next Meeting -

The next meeting will be held Sunday, March 28 , 2010 in Detroit, MI immediately after the 59th NSDC Pre-Convention. The NSDC General Chairman will be asked to help arrange a meeting room. The Executive Director will provide additional information prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT -

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM, Sunday, October 11, 2009

Submitted by

Jerry L. Reed

ARTS Executive Director

Transcribed from audio

Approved November 20, 2009 by ARTS LOG 09-1015-001 (2009 Oct Mtg Minutes)

10/09/09 Alliance of Round Traditional and Square Dance Inc
Financial Statement

Beginning Balance June 1, 2009 \$34,479.94

Income

Donations

Governing Board 1,250.00

Donations - Other 5,170.22

Total Donations 6,420.22

Dues

Individual Dues 150.00

Total Dues 150.00

Interest 142.82

Total Income 6,713.04

Expense

Computer/Technology 564.04

Executive Director 100.00

Advertising 217.50

Grant Funds 900.00

Legal Fees 321.23

Meeting Expense 17.72

Office Supplies 13.73

Total Expense 2,134.22

Ending Balance September 30, 2009 \$39,058.76

Checking Account - \$13,265.52

CD - \$5,258.33 - (due January 2010)

CD - \$5,258.33 - (due January 2010)

CD - \$5,124.76 - (due April 2010)

CD - \$5,117.96 - (due February 2010)

CD - \$5,033.86 - (due September 2009)

ARTS Governing Board and Officers Actions
June 30, 2009 Thru September 30, 2009

ARTS LOG 09-0607-001 (2009 Fall ARTS Mtg Info)

Action completed as of 08-02-2009 -The purpose of this ARTS LOG is for the ARTS Board to review information about the location and date for the 2009 Fall ARTS meeting and respond. Discussion of this item during the meeting in Long Beach resulted in agreement that the 2009 Fall meeting would held on Sunday, October 11, 2009.

ARTS LOG 09-0711-001 (June 2009 ARTS Meeting Minutes)

Action completed as of 09-02-2009 -The result of this ARTS LOG was approval of the following MOTION:
MOTION: be It Resolved That: The minutes of the 2009 June ARTS Meeting be approved.

ARTS LOG 09-0722-001 (Web/Video Project - Initial Review)

Action completed as of 07-22-2009 -The purpose of this ARTS LOG is for the ARTS Reps to review the initial input from Roy Gotta, Project Coordinator, for the ARTS Web/Video Project. The result of this ARTS LOG was review of the information provided by Roy.

ARTS LOG 09-0803-001 (Summer Newsletter)

Action completed as of 08-18 -2009 - The purpose of this ARTS LOG is for the ARTS Officers and Jim Maczko to review and provide comments on the Summer 2009 ARTS Newsletter. The result of this ARTS LOG was approval of the following MOTION by the ARTS Officers.

MOTION: Be It Resolved That; the Summer 2009 ARTS Newsletter be approved.

ARTS LOG 09-0814-001 (Grant Request Associated Square Dancers - Superior CA)

Action completed as of 08-26-2009 - The purpose of this ARTS LOG is for the ARTS Officers to review, discuss, and vote on a grant application from the Associated Square Dancers of Superior California. The result of this ARTS LOG was approval of the following MOTION by the ARTS Officers.

MOTION: Be It Resolved That: The application for an Educational Grant from the Associated Square Dancers of Superior California be approved.

ARTS LOG 09-0811-001 (Grant Request Missouri Federation of Square Dance Clubs)

Action completed as of 08-26-2009 - The purpose of this ARTS LOG is for the ARTS Officers to review, discuss, and vote on a grant application from the Missouri Federation of Square 'n Round Dance Clubs. The result of this ARTS LOG was approval of the following MOTION by the ARTS Officers.

MOTION: Be It Resolved That: The application for an Educational Grant from the Missouri Federation of Square 'n Round Dance Clubs be approved.

ARTS LOG 09-0902-001 (October meeting Agenda)

Action completed as of 09-18-2009 - The purpose of this ARTS LOG was for the ARTS Reps to submit items for the agenda for the 2009 October ARTS Meeting. There were no item submitted in response to this ARTS LOG. The Executive Director will create the agenda for the meeting based on the information available.

ARTS LOG 09-0906-001 (Status Reports)

Action completed as of 09-06-2009 - the purpose of this ARTS LOG was a request to the ARTS Board to prepare and provide, during the 2009 Fall ARTS meeting, a brief report on the Status of the Activity (Rounds, Contra/Traditional, and Squares) from their perspective. This will provide the view from the Dancers, Callers, Cuers, Conventions, etc. The result of this ARTS LOG was the request to each Board member.

NOT COMPLETED

ARTS LOG 09-0918-001 (ARTS Project - \$100,000 Club)

Action completed as of xx-xx-2009 - The purpose of this ARTS LOG is to request Jim Wass review information regarding his suggestion that the ARTS look into a method by which the ARTS could raise \$100,000 in donations.

IAGSDC Perspective
ARTS October 11, 2009
October 11, 2009
Newark, NJ

1. While not as large a drop in numbers that the NSDC has experienced, our IAGSDC conventions have also seen a slide in dancers. After several years of around 1,100 we now hover around the 1,000 mark. Our last convention in Washington, DC, was down to 900 -- possibly the result of the economy and being Easter weekend rather than the usual July 4 time frame.

In our community, the internet has been a factor in our recruiting efforts. Many seem to get their social interaction online instead of organized groups such as square dance clubs. We need to find more events where we can present square dancing to the non-dancing public.

2. Our number of clubs remains fairly stagnant -- adding one or two each year while losing a like number. From 2000 – 2005 we averaged 55 clubs. From 2006 – 2009 we averaged 50 clubs.

3. We feel that the dress code is a large factor in not attracting greater numbers of new dancers, particularly younger dancers that we all need to maintain our activity. One possible compromise solution which some festivals and clubs are already doing is relaxing the code for morning/afternoon dancing. I personally would have supported this at both the Charlotte and Wichita conventions, where the weather was quite warm (and humid).

We also are hopeful that the new web site being developed by Roy Gotta and supported by the ARTS will be a help in reaching out to the non-dancer community.

USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®
October 11, 2009
Newark, NJ

As the overseer of Conventions providing a "A Quality International Square Dance Experience in the Western United States," the USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® Policy Board is experiencing the same challenges that face the other ARTS member organizations.

The recent USA West Conventions – Pocatello 2007 and Pendleton, Oregon 2008 have been very successful, enjoyable, and educational experiences for the six hundred plus dancers who have attended these special Conventions. Based on the success of these recent Conventions there is a lot of enthusiasm for our future Conventions in Greeley, Colorado 2010, Kelso, Washington 2011, and Boise, Idaho 2013.

The USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® Policy Board continues its policy of not holding a Convention in those years when the National Square Dance Convention is held in the Western United States – accordingly no Convention was held in 2009, nor will a USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® be held in 2012 when the NSDC is to be hosted in Spokane, Washington.

Based on the attendance at these recent Conventions, there does not seem to be any significant growth, but there isn't any real decline either. Each Convention attracts a loyal group of dancers and leaders to these enjoyable events along with new square and round dancers. Like ARTS, the USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®, benefits from the fact that it is a 501 © 3 non-profit, charitable organization and is able to reinvest in the Square Dance activity to help grow this wholesome movement.

As a group, the USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® Policy Board works to not only grow their Conventions, but to promote further development of the activity as a whole and is proud to be a charter member of the Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square-Dance's Governing Board. The Policy Board has chosen to take a stake in their Conventions, not just through actively promoting the Conventions, but actively participating in the production of the Conventions as well. In addition, the Policy Board has actually made successful financial investments in these Conventions which have produced significant returns.

During these recent Conventions, special Education sessions have been held to further the Mission of ARTS and to expose dancers to the accomplishments that ARTS has achieved.

We look forward to continuing this working relationship between ARTS and the USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® Policy Board.

Jim Maczko / Patty Wilcox
USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® Policy Board

**National Executive Committee Report
ART's Meeting
October 11, 2009
Newark, NJ**

1. NEC Fall Meeting will be October 22-24, 2009 in Denver, CO.
2. Several purposed changes to both Pre-Convention and Conventions will be discussed in order to help future conventions.
3. Upcoming conventions are,
 - A. Louisville, Kentucky 2010
 - B. Detroit, Michigan 2011
 - C. Spokane, Washing 2012
 - D. Oklahoma City, OK 2013
4. Little Rock, Arkansas has expressed interest in bidding for 2014.
5. North Carolina and Texas are considering 2015 and 2016.
6. Dates of Up-Coming Pre-conventions:
 - A. Detroit March 25 – 27, 2010
 - B. Spokane March 24 – 26, 2011

**UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA
ARTS REPORT FOR OCTOBER
October 11, 2009
Newark, NJ**

USDA is a proud member of the ARTS and we take it seriously. All members do promote all of the dancing venues, Square, Round, Contra and Traditional. Every opportunity we get we promote the ARTS philosophy.

Forums and seminars are held on the National and State level. We are also sharing the e-mail tree with our EDSARDA members, in New England. Articles are written in the USDA News.

Len & Connie Houle along with Dick & Shirley White, Vice President of the Eastern Region, have just been speakers at the Leadership forum in Western Ma. At the Holyoke Community College, for the Western Ma. Square & Round Association. The ARTS, E-mail Tree, Website and USDA were all part of our presentation.

All of our Vice President's, officers and committee members promote the ARTS wherever possible.

We are proud of all the work ARTS does and it is great being part of this committee.