

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION – San Diego Square Dance Association

It is the responsibility of the Association to promote Square Dancing and to support its member. This promotion and support exists in many forms.

As with anything else, promotion begins at home. The Association supports the activities of its member clubs. Through the Association, its members are able to promote their special activities and to coordinate these events so as to avoid conflicts.

Membership in the Association entitles the club to many benefits; among these is assistance in the attracting of new dancers into the square dance movement and economical liability and dancer accident insurance. By holding annual activities such as Square Dance Day at the Fair and the Fiesta de la Cuadrilla the general public is made aware of our hobby and is encouraged to join the club sponsored beginner classes. This public exposure is also achieved through organizing such special events as promotional activities and through participating in Parades and public events such as the annual Multiple Sclerosis and Walk for Life benefits. The Association, through its relationship with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, is able to provide facilities for regular and special dances – all of this is provided to member clubs without the assessment of membership dues. In addition, the Association supports its member clubs through providing sound equipment (turntable, speakers and microphones), and beverage service equipment for their Clubs Special and Anniversary Dances.

The Association provides a forum in which a club's problem may be discussed. This forum furnishes a means through which clubs are afforded the opportunity to present their ideas, goals, and their questions. It can be a sounding board for the clubs to express questions. It can be a sounding board for the clubs to express their desires. By sharing all of these things, everyone may benefit.

It is this same style of sharing and cooperation that persists within the California Square Dance Council – a statewide organization made up of 19 Associations from throughout the State. It is the Council that sponsors the Annual California State Square Dance Conventions and was the Sponsoring organization for the 1976 and 2009 National Square Dance Conventions. Funds deriving from these State and National Conventions are distributed among the Council member Affiliates (Associations) for use in the promotion of square dancing within their respective areas. It is this knowledge that more can be achieved through unity and working together that generated the impetus for the creation of the United Square Dancers of America – the National Dancers Organization – that brings together the various State Square Dancer Organizations from throughout the US into one group working together. Likewise, this is also the basis for the creation of the Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square-Dance (ARTS-Dance), the combination of Callers, Cuers, and Dancers with the mission to expand the movement through the development of collaborative projects – such as the website U2CanDance.com.

This completes the cycle returning us to the Dancer. Dancers are necessary to make-up clubs; clubs are necessary to make up Associations; Associations to make up Councils (State Organizations). All of these organizations are dependent upon the Dancer for the implementation of its programs. As a result of your club's membership with an Association, and your Association's affiliations with the California Square Dance Council; and the Council's affiliation with the United Square Dancers of America, everyone benefits.

All that the Association seeks in return for all of these many benefits is for its member clubs to support the Association Third Saturday Round-up and the Fiesta de la Cuadrilla (annual festival), promote Association activities and encourage all dancers and clubs to help each other by attending local dances and Anniversaries, special dances, etc., thus promoting the social aspects of Dance among all dancers, clubs, area, regional, State and National Organizations helping to expand our activity.