

Foundation News

November 2025

HAPPENING AROUND THE DANCE WORLD

Now that the world has overcome the pandemic, our activity has started to recover as well. We lost a lot of clubs due to the Covid virus. The Square Dancing Clubs are back to having classes and growing. The New England Square and Round Dance Conventions have shown the number of dancers increasing each year. This past year NESRDC had over 100 walk-in dancers, both experienced and new dancers, who showed up on the Saturday dance.

The Square Dance Foundation of New England, Inc. is in the process of making itself more visible to the dance community. One of the new policy changes that SDFNE has adopted is to help support the cost of the kick-off dance for the conventions. SDFNE. Another way to maintain the activity that we have all grown to enjoy over the years is to offer a scholarship program for callers/cuers. A special committee has been established to work out the specific details. More information as it becomes available.

Board members have also looked at membership costs. The new membership cost will be:

Yearly membership (Individual)	
\$20	
Yearly membership (Couple)	\$40
Lifetime (Individual)	\$100



Square Dance Foundation of New England, Inc.

More information to be released in the near future.

Other SDFNE Happenings:

Executive Board meeting dates:

02/22/2026

Annual meeting:

05/24/2026 This meeting will take place at the Reuben Hoar Library, 35 Shattuck St, Littleton, MA 01460. The annual meeting will be held both in person and via Zoom, starting at 1:00 PM.

During the 67th New England Square and Round Dance Convention.

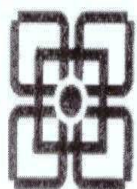
We had a strolling fashion show.

The models wore outfits from past conventions. Strolling in the halls between the square dancing and round dancing breaks. The dancers enjoyed viewing the models as they passed through the halls.

WORDS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello, All SDFNE Members,

We are entering a moment in time that encourages us to come together in ways we can enjoy the basics of friendship, collaboration, support, and social interaction. We've noticed the increases in numbers at dance gatherings since the Pandemic and the joy that comes from dancing and working together.



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The SDFNE has been planning for quite some time to reach out to New England dancers to “spread the word” on the activities of the Foundation. Since the closing of the Baldwin Museum at the Mill-A-Round in Manchester, it has been hard for many to feel a connection to dance history and save artifacts from our favorite hobby - Square & Round Dance. The entire collection was digitized when the museum closed and was placed on the Square Dance Foundation of New England website, available to all. Phil Alton, Bud & Judy Clifford, and perhaps others we are unaware of, have visited the University of New Hampshire at Durham to find desired information. Another large part of the collection was delivered to the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York. More research is possible here.

This Fall, Anna Dixon, past SDFNE President (for many years) called together a number of dancers, caller Charlie Trapp, and non-dance friends for her 3rd Historic Dance Fashion Show at her Senior Residence at Brooksby Village. Love of dance, love of history, and pride of the activity have drawn a number of people together for fun and education.

You’ll notice in this issue of the Newsletter, the Local Legend and Hall of Fame Awards the Foundation has

presented in the last couple of years. We are always looking for deserving individuals in our dance world who go above and beyond to keep our clubs active and our interactions vibrant. Look within your dance clubs, reach out to us, and make a thoughtful nomination; we travel throughout New England.

We’re so proud to represent the SDFNE as your Vice President.

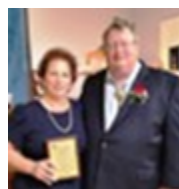
Judy & Bud Clifford



SDFNE Awards

Hall of Fame Award

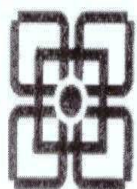
September 17, 2022



Bob & Carol Butler began square dancing in 1985 at

Kramer’s Hayloft with Lofty Squares in Weymouth, MA, to caller Bill Bean. Their class consisted of one square. Each year at graduation, one class member was chosen by the caller to do a singing call for the event. That happened to be Bob. Fortunate for us, that lighted a spark and “the rest is history”.

Bob has served as President and Vice President of Old Colony Callers Association and is a 30-year President



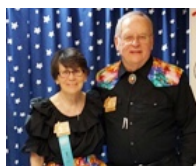
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of Narragansett Callers Association. Bob has been a member of NECCA (New England Council of Callers Association) for many years and has stepped up in the governing capacity for 12 years; 3 years as Secretary, 2 terms as Vice Chairman, and 2 terms as Chairman. He served as Vice Chairman of the New England Co-Operation Committee under Jim DeNigris and is now in his third year as Co-Op Chairman. Bob joined the Sound Committee for the 64th National Square Dance Convention® in Springfield, MA, in 2015, and Carol & Bob were Caller Programmer for the 58th & 59th New England Square & Round Dance Conventions in Warwick, RI, in 2016 & 2017.

HALL OF FAME Award

January 18, 2025

David and Laura Perrault are no strangers to New England Square and Round Dance. They began dancing with her family: parents, sister, uncle, and aunt at Square Acres in East Bridgewater, MA.

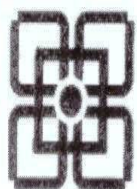


Their square dance life began when friends invited them to dinner and a “one-nighter” with caller Jack Bright at Square Acres in 1972. Dave started calling in 1974, coached by Jack Bright every Tuesday night at his home in Middleboro, MA; Dave’s first club was Cloud Busters in Peterborough, NH.

Through square dance, David joined the New England Council of Callers Association (NECCA), holding positions of Secretary, Vice Chair, Chairman, and now Treasurer. He is a member of the Old Colony Callers Association, where he served as President, is Past President, and now Treasurer. The Square Dance Foundation of New England is also now proud of his position on their Executive Board as Treasurer.

Dave & Laura stepped in to assist at the 57th New England Square & Round Dance Convention in Concord, NH, at the passing of Sound Chairman, Chris Pinkham. Dave was a member of the Sound Committee for the 64th National Square Dance Convention in 2015 in Springfield, MA. The Perrault’s continued as Sound Chairman for the 58th & 59th New England Conventions in Warwick, RI, and Co-Chaired for Sound at the Stowe, VT, 60th & 61st New England Conventions with Jim DeNigris. Dave & Laura were Vice Chairman through Covid times for the 64th New England Square and Round Dance Convention in Hyannis, MA in April 2022. They are at this time, the Camping Chairman for the upcoming 67th New England Convention in Westford, MA in 2025. AND please not to minimize its importance, Dave & Laura have participated on the “Black Light Team” since the first Vermont Convention in Stowe in 2018.

Dave’s career in square dance calling spans 54 years. He has even had the opportunity to call internationally in and around Stockholm, Sweden.



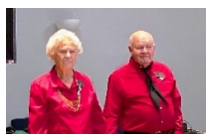
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With Laura by his side, he has called all over New England and into New York and New Jersey. He currently teaches three classes on Cape Cod to help bring square dancing back to the Cape.

Local Legend Award

Clyde & Janice Ricker
October 19, 2024

We are here today at Mix & Mingle to acknowledge what many dancers and friends already know: that Clyde & Janice Ricker are dedicated to the wonderful activity of Square & Round dancing.



Your dance friends have noticed and wish to thank you for all you do.

Clyde worked in the Boiler Makers Local 29 for 35 years, rigging and welding at power plants throughout New England. Janice was a stay-at-home Mom with 4 young children. Clyde began working in Maine, and the family was transferred to Connecticut. It was during their time in CT that they began square dancing at the Lads & Lassies with Charlie Underwood. They danced in 1974-1976 and went to the New England Square & Round Dance Convention in Portland, Maine.

Clyde and Janice are always the first to arrive to set up for dances and the last to leave after taking things down. Janice creates beautiful and clever door prizes for all dances and workshops. They collect bottles and cans in their

neighborhood on Wednesdays to donate to the Mix N Mingle treasury. Janice has been Co-Treasurer with their club's Treasurer, Roxanne Stafford for 11 or 12 years.

This power couple has worked as a team for 56 years.

Local Legend Award

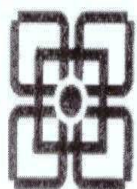
Don & Marlene Davis
March 11, 2023

Started Square Dancing with the Town Howlers in 1978 with caller Bob Linden and danced for 6 years.



After taking some time off to raise their family, they started back in 1990. In 1992 they began Round Dance classes at Dancing Round Dances with Lucille Harris in Bourne, MA. They also round danced with Anna MacDougall at Silver Circles in Taunton, MA.

During their dancing career, Don & Marlene served as Presidents of the Town Howlers from 2000 through 2003 and then resumed as Presidents in 2006. They represented Town Howlers with pride in 2014, as they traveled to Southeastern Massachusetts Coordinating Association clubs as representative King and Queen. In 2015, they organized and danced on Rose Island with the Rose Island Lighthouse and Narragansett Bay as a backdrop. Currently, they are the Presidents of SEMCA and Town Howlers Square Dance Club located in Portsmouth, RI (the oldest square dance club in New England of 71 yrs). They are Past Presidents of the Rhode Island



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Square & Round Dance Federation. They served as Vice Chairman for the New England Square & Round Dance Convention in Warwick, RI, in 2016 & 2017. They were instrumental in recruiting half the people who served on that committee and organized and planned the 2016 Trolley Tour in Newport, RI, and a tour of the Breakers Mansion.

They have been leaders for many club activities such as demos, Banner Raids, Health Fairs at the Navy Base, planning and organizing meetings and events, scheduling classes, and sending out informative emails to members and surrounding clubs. They prepare badges, banners & signs and get things printed, displayed, and advertised. **The Davises** organize hotel bookings for conventions and dance weekends, as well as cruises, contacting callers & cuers and setting up events with business and venue managers. They participate in all square dance activities and keep the website information updated.

Club members say, "They always do a fantastic job keeping the Town Howler family together." "They are the glue that keeps us together". "Their efforts make dancing a wonderful experience for us all and make it easy for us to follow." It has become obvious through this nomination that callers and cuers have great respect for this power couple.

Don tells others, "We dance for enjoyment, not to be perfect, but to always have FUN!" Undoubtedly, they are a CLASS ACT!

About the Square Dance Foundation of New England (SDFNE)

The Square Dance Foundation of New England (SDFNE) was founded in 1973 by caller and editor of *The New England Square Dance Caller Magazine*, Charlie Baldwin, and his wife, Bertha. It has a membership of individuals, clubs, and organizations who continue the legacy of traditional, ethnic, and social dance and who promote the preservation of dance history and memorabilia in a central archive, consisting of collections from personal clubs and organizations involved in social dance.

In 1992, the Foundation opened the Charlie and Bertha Baldwin Library and Museum in South Weymouth, Massachusetts. This collection of historical dance-related documents and artifacts of the last century comes not only from New England, but throughout the world, depicting the evolution of the social dance activity. The Museum moved to Manchester, New Hampshire in 1999, where it remained until closing in 2015. Upon closing, much of this collection was donated to the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Music and Dance in the Milne Special Collections.