



# Foundation News

Square Dance Foundation of New England, Inc.

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Non-profit since 1973

## TIME LINE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS SQUARE DANCE FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

By Dick Severance, Past President and Current Archives Director



### FIRST 10 YEARS 1973-1983

**It's time to look back on the journey we traveled...**

New England's square dance pioneer, Charlie Baldwin, had a dream to establish an organization to collect and retain the history of square dancing.

**1973** The Square Dance Foundation of New England was founded on 09-25-1973 by a handful of dedicated dancers. Charlie Baldwin, our 1<sup>st</sup> President started us on our journey.

**1980** Organized as a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Educational organization by those who cared about our dance heritage. Established a mission statement to preserve, promote, and perpetuate our dance activity.

**1982** Major fundraising activities took place by volunteers to purchase property to operate as a living heritage dance center. Organization skills of Ernie Chase provided guidance and direction.



**1983** Purchased a farm property in So. Weymouth, MA, known

as Kramer's Hayloft, that had a barn featuring 2 dance halls. Rented halls to local dance clubs continuing the square dance tradition. . Started a membership Newsletter. . Obtained Square Dance Proclamations from every New England State. . Established area representative from New England States. . Prepared a

Club Self Promo publication that was sent to every club. . Composed Club publication to "Build a Better Club Image. Established a Memorial Gifting Program. Addressed property maintenance and repairs. . Operated New England 800# Learn to Dance telephone line. . Prepared "Step in Time" monthly article for New England Caller Magazine.

### NEXT 7 YEARS 1984-1990

**1984** Negotiations with a bank to pay off Sam Kramer note balance accomplished with no personal guarantee.

Dedicated volunteers traveled many miles on weekends to work on repairs, renovations, and made operational with the entire property bringing it up to code with the management of same. .

Established a Board of Trustees overseeing the property management. Hired a property manager for day to day activities.



**Foundation logo designed by Ralph Cohen. .**

Started our 1<sup>st</sup> raffle to "Burn the Mortgage" balance with drawing at the New England Convention, which continues as an annual fundraiser today. Established a Memorial Tribute and Remembrance Gifting program.

**1985** Began a voluntary position of Dance Historian, and Library Curator, President, and Membership Chairman. . Traveled the New England States attending club dances to establish a strong membership base and create a greater visibility. . Numerous grant applications for funding turned down. . Raised our membership base to 800 people. . Continue to hold numerous fundraising events. . Club Anniversary

recognition program with Certificates of Appreciation.

**1986** To pay off Sam Kramer's high interest note, we arranged for a low interest bank loan which unencumbered a portion of the land. Had no personal guarantee and no penalty pay out clause. Vacant land was sold. . A network of area representatives was started. . Improved access to upper barn dance floor. . Converted hay barn into educational center. .



**Milk parlor converted to a Library and Museum. .**

Begin to receive donation of collectible items.

**1987** After Dick Severance's term as President, he and his wife, Judy, became Archive Directors and put into place the first showing of the SDFNE collection to date. . Established an Outreach Program to build a biographical collection on Callers and Cuers. . Set up a Charlie Baldwin Memorial Committee. . Developed, designed, and made available a self-help promotional kit for Club's beginner classes. . Sold another portion of the SDFNE's South Weymouth land.

**1988** Educational resources were made available to the Square Dance Community. . (Continued on Page 2)

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