



Tualatin Valley Council (TVC) COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2012

Theme: How To Recruit New Club Members

Called to order at: 7:00PM

Attendees:

Officers:

Debra Welch (Pres.); Ron Dobias (V. Pres.); Lalani Radford (Treas.); Mary T. Withers (Sec.); Judy Schnase (Past Pres.); Jim Rogers (State Delegate); Dorothy Sullivan (Sunshine Chairman); Gary Clark (Finance Chair); Verna France (PAC Delegate to TVC)

Delegates:

Carolyn Hindman (Coast Swingers); Bob Allen (Coast Swingers); Naomi Coorengel (Eager Beavers); Jim Rogers (Eager Beavers); Sylvia Davis (Hayshakers); Kathy Worthington (Hayshakers); Marian Kehoe (Hoedowners); Patty Bonney (Mix 'N Mingle); Linda Sycks (R Square D); Lonnie Sycks (R Square D); Joyce Clark (Sunset Promenaders); Ray Sullivan (Sunset Promenaders); Peggy Lance (Toe Draggers); Natalie Schumacher (Toe Draggers); Vida Eppich (Co-D for Tri Squares); Carol Roos (Co-D for Tri Squares); Karen Martiny (Valley Squares); Dorothy Reed (Valley Squares)

Visitors:

Laura Castien (Sunset Promenaders); Carolene Ginocchio (Valley Squares); Kay Rogers (Eager Beavers); Peter Schettek (Sunset Promenaders); Sharon Schettek (Sunset Promenaders); Bill Siebert (Valley Squares); Janice Sminia (Sunset Promenaders); Tom Sminia (Sunset Promenaders); Dale Worthington (Hayshakers)

Action Items

Who Is Responsible?	Announcements, Decisions, Motions, or Needed Action	Date
All	Minutes Corrections and New Reports. Email corrections of the April minutes to Mary T. Withers john.mary.withers@gmail.com .	Before May 21, 2012
All	Delegate and Officer Reports. Email your delegate and officer reports for the May meeting to Tom Sminia <tomjan2@frontier.com>.	Before May 21, 2012
Delegates	Club Officers. Email names, home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of new club officers and delegates to Tom Sminia <tomjan2@frontier.com>.	Before May 21, 2012
Club Officers	OFN's Club Info Form. Club officers should update information regarding their club on the Oregon Federation website, under section entitled <i>Club Info Form</i> . http://www.squaredance.gen.or.us/	Before May 21, 2012
Delegates Club Officers	Anniversary Dances. Send club name, date, times, location, caller/cuer information, door donation, food/theme for next year's anniversary dances to Tom Sminia http://www.squaredance.gen.or.us/	Before May 21, 2012
Delegates	Delegate Report Heading. Check Delegate Report Heading for accuracy of information. If needed, revise the content. Email copy of final Heading to Tom Sminia http://www.squaredance.gen.or.us/	Before May 21, 2012
Delegates	Email Rosters To Sunshine Chair. Send your current rosters to Dorothy Sullivan, Sunshine Chair, so that she has correct contact information <sewnthings@frontier.com>.	Before May 21, 2012
Club President Delegates	New TVC Delegates. Current delegates should sit down with their club's new TVC delegate and read over "Delegate's Introduction to TVC", which is located on TVC website.	Before May 21, 2012
Vice President Treasurer	Caller/Cuer Contracts For TVC Dances. Add information to the Caller/Cuer contracts that indicates whether the caller/cuer should invite callers/cuers from the floor or if they should serve as the headliner and not invite callers/cuers. The TVC Vice President should inform the contracted caller/cuer of this decision before the dance. Following a TVC recommendation, the only TVC dance that allows the contracted caller/cuer to serve as Emcee and to invite callers and cuers from the floor is the Hahn Barn Dance.	
Delegates	Randall Award. Bring Randall Award name suggestions to the May meeting for consideration of a TVC nomination.	Before May 21, 2012
Delegates	Signing In At TVC Dances. TVC club members may no longer sign in at a TVC dance, indicating that they are members at multiple clubs. They must sign in under one club –	

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	their home club, commonly referred to as the club that pays for their insurance.	
Delegates Callers/Cuers	Callers and Cuers at TVC Dances. Caller and Cuers from the floor should not be expected to be called upon to call/cue at TVC dances, with the exception of the Hahn Barn Dance, which does allow the contracted Caller/Cuer to serve in an Emcee format. TVC dances will contract a featured Caller/Cuer, who will serve solely as the featured Caller/Cuer.	
Next Meeting	New TVC Meeting Date. The next scheduled TVC meeting is May 21 st . The meeting was changed to the third Monday because Memorial Day falls on the 4 th week.	May 21, 2012

CORRECTION/ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The March 26, 2012 minutes were approved after editing the original document. The original document had many of the Delegate reports missing. The revised and approved minutes have been placed on the TVC website.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: Debra Welch

My TVC Friends,

We had a fantastic turnout at our TVC Dance. Thank you, delegates for getting the information to your club and getting your members there. At that dance I gave out Ambassador Badges to 6 dedicated dancers. Make sure your new club members know about earning an Ambassador Badge.

We ran into two problems that evening at the TVC dance. (1) The contract was missing information the caller and cuer needed, and (2) calculating the percentage of the number of club members at the dance was an issue. We will discuss both of those issues under New Business.

Last, I want to say "Thank You" again to the Hayshakers for their surprise of their very generous check last month they presented to TVC for our participation last year at the Seaside Sashay.

As you probably know, April is the last month for the 2011-2012 officers to serve on the Executive Board. Next month, I will complete my tenure by giving my end of the year report. Officers and chairs will give their reports and any Old Business will be completed. Then the new officers will be installed and Kay will begin with New Business and Announcements.

At this time of year, there are some very special responsibilities we should remember:

1. The Oregon Federation and TVC are beginning to prepare their new Directories. So be sure to have your club officer update club information on the Oregon Federation website, under section entitled *Club Info Form*. <http://www.squaredance.gen.or.us/>.
2. All clubs should be emailing the names of their new officers and delegates to the TVC secretary. The new secretary is Tom Sminia, so be sure to look for his email address in these minutes <tomjan2@frontier.com>.
3. Firm up the dates of your Anniversary dances and send information to Tom Sminia.

4. Email your club rosters to Dorothy Sullivan, so that she has the names and contact addresses of your members. This allows her to send out Sunshine messages more easily.
5. Have your new Delegates look at the Delegate's Introduction to TVC booklet, which can be found on the TVC website under "documents" so they feel comfortable with their responsibilities.
6. Nominations for the Randall Award need to be submitted to the state by July according to Nola Jones, President of Oregon State Federation of Square and Round Dance. Although each club could present their own nomination, it makes good sense to bring your recommendation to the May meeting, and TVC can select one candidate to put forward. Then the Randall Award nomination form can be filled in. You will find information on the State website and TVC website under documents.

Secretary's Report: Mary T. Withers

This is the beginning of the Executive Board's new term. Since Tom Sminia will be the new TVC Secretary, there are a few housekeeping jobs for each club.

1. Send new Delegate and Officer reports for the May meeting to Tom Sminia.
2. Check your Delegate Report heading for accuracy. Send completed copy of heading to Tom Sminia.

Treasurer's Report: Lalani Radford

TVC Account Balances as of 4/23/2012

BEGINNING BALANCE		2,121.01
TOTAL INCOME		1,170.00
	5 th Sat Dance	670.00
	Hayshakers	1,170.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		1,325.43
	Ken Pratt/Cuer	106.00
	Jim Hattrick	132.50
	Aloha Grange	80.00
	Ron Dobias	6.93
	To Savings	1,000.00
ENDING BALANCE		1,965.58
Summary		
	Cash Box	30.00
	Checking	1,965.58
	Savings	10,558.92
	Total	12,554.50

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine Chair: Dorothy Sullivan

The following people received Sunshine notes:

- A *Get Well* card was sent to Dorothy Reed because she has a broken collarbone (Eager Beavers and Valley Squares).
- A *Sympathy* card was sent to Bart Welsh because his brother passed away (Hoedowner).

REPORTS FROM COURTESY POSITIONS

PAC Delegate to the TVC: Verna France

We went to a funeral for Tony Haskins. Last Wednesday they also had a military ceremony at the national cemetery. Ann Hampton with the Tumbleweeds passed away.

NEW BUSINESS

TVC Contracts For Callers/Cuers: Debra Welch

At the last TVC dance, the contracted Caller and Cuers were unsure if they were to invite callers/cuers from the floor or whether they should serve as the headliner. Several dancers made complaints, because they were expecting Jim Hattrick and Ken Pratt to be featured rather than a series of callers/cuers from the floor. Kay Rogers indicated that it was typical that featured callers/cuers not ask callers/cuers from the floor. Mary T. Withers reminded the members that TVC had already recommended that the Hahn Barn Dance was the only dance that could have the featured caller/cuer serve as Emcee and invite callers/cuers from the floor – and that all others were to allow the contracted caller/cuer serve as the featured caller/cuer. Debra Welch suggested that the caller/cuer contracts need to specify the expectations and responsibilities regarding featured callers/cuers and that the Vice President needs to notify the contracted headliner before the dance.

Calculating the Percentage of Club Members at A TVC Dance: Debra Welch

Debra Welch indicated that the way TVC currently calculates the percentage of members at a TVC dance seems unfair to most club. Many TVC members sign in at the door, listing all clubs to which they belong. After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded:

“At TVC Dances, dancers must sign in at the door using the TVC club they consider their home club, also referred to as the club that pays for their insurance.”

The motion passed unanimously.

Recruiting, Attracting, Retaining New Club Members: Tom Sminia and Debra Welch

Following are comments by various TVC members regarding what works and what doesn't work in recruiting new members.

- **Sunset Promenaders:** Retaining new club members is difficult. The Promenaders might begin with a very high number new dancers at their classes, but they lose a lot of them. Their efforts have not been very successful.
- **Valley Squares:** Valley Square have had better success at recruiting recently. We start our dance lessons with well over 40 students but do drop down to 25 or so students. We think our time frame of starting the first Tuesday in February is a good time to start. We do a lot of demonstrations and that has helped. We got 8 members from a church. We also think the way we are offering dance lessons is helpful as we offer lessons in 8-week programs. The student completes the first 8-weeks and then may go ahead into a 2nd 8-week program or choose to stay in the first 8-week program, if they feel they need more review. The students who move ahead to the next 8-week program bring in students to the first 8-week program. This type of schedule is difficult on angels. Valley Square also does a lot of advertising.
- **Tri Squares.** It has been helpful to place a Lessons Banner on the outside of their grange.
- **Hay Shakers.** The Hay Shakers offer lessons on Saturday, which is difficult for their angels. Dale Worthington talked about country dances with a live band that get 200 people dancing a night. What they do is to offer a half-hour lesson and then just have the people dance.
- **R Square D.** We also have a banner on the outside of our dance center. Make sure your phone number that is on the banner that is accurate. We use word of mouth to recruit new dancers. It's interesting that some people are joining in because of Round Dance lessons.
- **Eager Beavers.** Our club is not actually teaching now but we talk up square dancing all the time. I think it's important to encourage widows to get out and dance and I encourage women to learn both parts.
- **Kay Rogers.** Warned that you have to be careful not to push new members too quickly or you will lose them.
- **Toe Draggers.** It has been nice that clubs are staggering the dates of their lessons. It's important to keep asking people year after year because they don't always sign up for lessons the first time you ask them.
- **Sunset Promenaders.** A marketing plan is important. You have to know who your target audience is – who we are trying to recruit. Most frequently it's the retired people we are able to recruit.

- **Hoedowners.** In order to determine what recruitment method works best, for the last 4+ years we asked our students how they learned about our lessons and have tracked this information (flyers placed at stores, grange banner, personal (oral) invitation, invitation (postcard) from Hoedowner friend, Craig's List, yard sign, Hoedowner business card, other clubs, demonstration etc.) The 2 methods that seem to stimulate the best recruitment and retention year after year is the (1) outside grange banner and (2) issuing a personal invitation (oral and postcard) by a fellow Hoedowner member. Methods that achieve the best results vary from year-to-year. One year we had our largest response from the Grange banner and the next year we had only 2 recruits from the banner. We have had no luck from any of our demos or flyers at stores. Every other year we may get one recruit because of a yard sign. We have a database of invitations that we send out a month before our lessons; we send out invitations to the same people for 5 years before we take them off the list.
- **Research.** In 2004 The CALLERLAB Foundation sponsored research to learn why and/or *if* the square dance population was decreasing. Reaching approximately 10,275 people using an on-line survey services, StarWorks Inc analyzed the data. Following are some of the points StarWorks made:

Retention. *"About half of new recruits to square dancing leave the activity after one year. Another 20% leaves after two years. The percent leaving after one year has been increasing over the fifty years examined, going from 42% in the 1950s to 51% in the 1990s. This early exit rate means that after two years only small percentages of new recruits remain to swell the ranks of Modern Western dancers. the percentage of early departures increases each decade. Departures after one year are higher in the Midwest and West than in the Northeast. They are also higher among younger dancers, supporting the observation that many of these younger dancers participated in school-based programs. Approximately 70% of all new recruits in a given decade stop dancing in the same decade. By the end of two decades, only the smallest percentage of dancers remains."*

Image is bad. *"Square dancing has an image problem in the general public. People see square dancing as out of date, country oriented, for hicks and hillbillies, using old-fashioned music and patronized by senior citizens in fluffy dresses with big hair, big belts and RV's. Most people say they are familiar with square dancing, but their familiarity is with traditional square dancing, not with modern western square dancing. As a result, their image of square dancing is strongly influenced by the traditional square dancing and does not reflect the realities of modern western dance".*

Randall Award (Debra Welch)

If each club should discuss who they want to nominate for the Randall Award. They can bring those suggestions back to TVC at the May meeting and we can decide who to put forward. Each club can nominate their own, but it dilutes the chances to win, if TVC nominates more than one TVC member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coast Swingers. The Coast Swingers will have a dance the second Saturday of each month, starting in June from 7:00 – 9:30 at the Garibaldi City Hall. We will dance Mainstream and have a Plus tip, using guest callers.

Eager Beavers. The Eager Beavers have increased their door donation to \$3.50. Don't forget our Anniversary Dance this Sunday (April 29) at the IOOF Hall, from 1:00 – 4:00. The \$5.00 donation includes a chicken dinner and the dance.

Sunset Promenaders. We are thrilled to announce that the Sunset Promenaders have our new caller, Mike Stout and his wife Julie. Julie is a cuer, so can substitute Julie when Ken has another engagement. Mike will start full time in September. However, in the summer, Mike will call only the first Saturday in June, July, and Aug.

Valley Squares. We have our New Dancer Jamaboree (Level 51) on April 29, 2:00 – 5:00. We will be dark on May 5th to visit the Sunset Promenaders.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Mary T. Withers

Next Meeting: **Please Note: There is a meeting date change because of Memorial Day.** The May meeting will be held on May 21, 2012 at the Pizza Caboose (3276 NW 185th) next to the 7-Eleven. Dinner and socialization begin at 6:00 PM. The meeting begins at 7:00.

Schedule of Future Events

- **7/29/12 (Sunday): Hahn Barn Dance.** Chuck Garner (Caller) and Connie Clark (Cuer) will serve as emcees and invite callers and cuers from the floor to participate.
- **Sept 29, 2012 (Saturday): 5th Saturday Tri Council Dance.** PAC is hosting. Featuring Dan Preedy as Caller and held at the Clark Co. Square Dance Center.
- **12/31/12 (Monday): TVC's New Year's Eve Dance.** Featuring The Wild Cards (Callers) and Randy Lewis (Cuer).

CLUB DELEGATE REPORTS

Coast Swingers: (Carolyn Hindman, Delegate)

Beginning in June 2012, we will dance Mainstream, with one PLUS tip, every second Saturday at the Garibaldi City Hall (107 6th Street, Garibaldi, OR 97118) from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. We will have guest callers.

We had our first "Introduction to Western Style Dancing" with Jim Hattrick doing a wonderful job of instructing the **26 new people** in attendance. We received a lot of positive feedback! Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to Jim's next session.

Joe Wrabek is continuing his caller classes with Daryl Clendenin. (That man has the patience of JOB"). There is so much work that goes into teaching a caller class. It gives me a new respect for callers and teachers. We have a square of dancers for Joe to "practice" on. It is great fun!

Thanks to Debra, Mary T, & Ferrous for helping us get a link to the TVC webpage. Rebuilding our Club is a great learning experience and we could not do it with out all the help and support you give to us. Also a Special Thanks to Kay Rogers for all her help.

The Coast Swingers have appointed Bob Allen as our second TVC Delegate replacing Michael McMullen. For information about our Club contact Bob Allen [503-322-3819](tel:503-322-3819) or Joe Wrabek [503-812-7597](tel:503-812-7597)

Eager Beavers: (Naomi Coorengel and Jim Rogers, Delegates)

Dance easy plus every Monday afternoon, 1:15 to 3:15 PM, at the Sunset Presbyterian Church (14986 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, OR), which features an air conditioner and excellent wood floor. On holidays we dance at the Aloha Grange (the corner of 185th and TV Hwy). George Clark is the caller/cuer; Jim Hattrick is the caller/cuer every third Monday. Dance starts with 15 minutes of easy pre-rounds. <http://www.eagerbeavers.info>

Come and dance with the Beavers in May. George Clark usually calls and cues. However, we may have Harold Kleve, Norm Yoder, Daryl Clendenin, Jim Hattrick on the third Monday putting the dancers through their paces. The additional cuers could be Joyce Hooper and Yvonne Clendenin. The Beavers also have other callers and cuers surprising them on a Monday from 1:15 to 3:15 pm. We now charge \$3.50 a dancer. What a bargain!!!!

Hayshakers: (Sylvia Davis and Kathy Worthington, Delegates)

Until January 2012, dance Plus on the 2nd Friday of each month. In 2012, dance Plus on the 2nd and 4th Friday. Location is at Astoria Senior Center (1111 Exchange St., Astoria, OR 97103). Start 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Dress in whatever you are comfortable. Caller and Cuer is Harvey Hunsucker. Hayshakers also put on the annual Seaside Sashay, a 2-day Mainstream dance on the 4th Friday and Saturday in October. www.hayshakers.org

Hoedowners: (Marian Kehoe and Debbie Olson, Delegates)

Dance the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Aloha Grange on the corner of 185th and TV Hwy. Our Caller is Daryl Clendenin. The cuer is Yvonne Clendenin. Pre-Plus and Intermediate Rounds will be called from 7:00-8:00 and Mainstream from 8-10. Our format is informal and friendly. <http://www.hoedowners.info>

Far out! Hippies returned to dance, spread the love and share the peace at our Club dance Saturday April 14th. The following weekend Club members, family and friends traveled to the edge of the continent to play, dance and eat well. Hope to dance with you at our next dance, Saturday April 28th.

Upcoming dances:

- April 28th – Wild Wild West – Boots, chaps and cowboy hats . . .
- May 12th – Regular dance
- May 26th – Red, White & Blue Dance, Jim Hattrick calling and cueing
- June 9th – Strawberries & Cream, Strawberry shortcake!

Mix 'N Mingle: (Patty Bonney, Delegate)

Dance Plus at the Winona Grange (8340 Seneca Street, Tualatin, OR) on 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Pre-Rounds begin at 7:30 PM (Levels 4 & 5), 8:00 PM (Levels 2 & 3) and Plus from 8:30 - 11:00 PM. Randy Dibble is our club caller and Jeanine Norden our club cuer. \$4 per person at the dance for members, \$5 for non-members. <http://www.mixandminglesquares.org>

R Square D: (Linda Sycks and Lonnie Sycks, Delegates)

We dance at the Kelso Senior Center (106 NW 8th Ave, Kelso, WA). In the summer our schedule changes. In June we will dance the 2nd Friday and the 4th Saturday; in July the 2nd and 4th Wednesday; in August the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Saturday. Plus goes from 7:30 to 8:00, mainstream from 8:00 to 10:00 and refreshments after the dance. Craig Abercrombie is the caller and Lonnie Sycks is our cuer. Call 360-431-7553 or 360-636-3358 for more information. www.r-square-d.info

Our 59th Anniversary Dance turned out a great success with 6 squares. We really appreciate all the visitors! This Saturday, the 28th, Mark Wheeler will be calling because our caller will be in Yakima. May 5 we will attend Sunset Promenaders dance with Dan Preedy calling. Our own Cinco de Mayo dance will be on May 11 and this year we will not have a taco feed, just finger food with a Mexican flare. Then May 12 we will visit Prairie Steppers for their 45th Anniversary Dance. Lessons are almost over with the last one being April 25. Our next set of lessons will start in September. We have new officers and they will take over starting the first dance in May. They are President Toni Carroll & Vic Roberts, Vice President Ron & Lynn Waliezer, Treasurer Pat & Glenn Faires, and Secretary Chris Seward. During summer our schedule changes a little. June will be the same with the 2nd Friday and 4th Saturday. July we are dancing the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. In August it is the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Saturday. See you in a square!

Sunset Promenaders: (Joyce Clark and Ray Sullivan, Delegates)

Dance 1st & 3rd Saturdays. First Saturday every month at 7:30 until 8:00 is a Square Dance Workshop. The 3rd Saturday every month is Pre-rounds from 7:30 until 8:00. Mainstream continues from 8:00 – 10:00 with a break at the end. Our Cuer is Ken Pratt. Our Caller is Mike Stout and will call full time in September. However, in the summer, Mike will call only the first Saturday in June, July, and Aug. We dance in Hillsboro at the Odd Fellows Hall Upstairs on the corner of 3rd & Main Streets above LaHaies and Of Earth and Air shops. www.sunsetpromenaders.com

Toe Draggers: (Peggy Lance and Natalie Schumacher, Delegates)

Dance at the Kinton Grange on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. Their Caller is K.C. Curtis; Cuer is Bev Flint. First Friday dances will have pre-rounds at 7:30. Third Friday dances start at 7:30 with a Plus learning experience. Last Tip Plus. www.toedraggers.org

Round Dance lessons are finished, Square Dance lessons have two more weeks and then graduation on May 6th. Members from the Sunset Promenaders are invited to join in the graduation since so many Promenaders are taking lessons with us.

- May 4, Cinco De Mayo Dance, Kinton Grange
- May 6, Graduation with finger food potluck, Kinton Grange
- "Thank You" Dance May 18th, Kinton Grange
- NSDC Trail Thru Dance June 15th, Kinton Grange-We will be serving dinner before hand and dessert afterward
- Joint Anniversary Dance September 21st with the Tri-Squares will be held at West Hills Christian School

Tri Squares: (Vida Eppich and Carol Roos, Co-Delegates)

We dance on the first Saturday and third Friday of each month at the historic Tigard Grange in Tigard. Terry Halley is our club caller with Jackie Gale cueing on Friday and Doug Hatch on Saturday. We dance year around, except for the July 4th and Labor Day weekends or when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees. Hearing enhancement devices are available. We round dance from 7:30 – 7:45, dance Plus from 7:45 to 8:00 and Mainstream from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.; the 4th tip will be PLUS. Refreshments are served at 10:00. www.trisquares.com

The annual spring meeting for all club members was held at Huckabee's Barbecue Rest. in Newberg April 15, 2012. \$120 has been sent to the Ronald McDonald House as our charitable gift this year.

We have installed an extra speaker in the back of our hall to improve the sound system during dances and new icicle lights to enhance the atmosphere. We have made permanent our dance evening schedule (7:15 rounds, 7:24 plus, 8-10 mainstream).

A mystery trip is being planned for May 12, and details will be announced then.

A new slate of Board Officers were elected and they are:

President- Carol Petranek (carole.petranek@hotmail.com), Vice President - Adolf Eppich (eppic.hycomp@juno.com), Secretary – Gail Morrison (gailmorrison1@comcast.net), Treasurer - Carol Roos (Midacres01@gmail.com), Dance Coordinator - Lynnea Loveberg(lynneaberg@gmail.com), TVC Delegate #1 - Vida Eppich (veppich@juno.com), TVC Delegate #2 Frank Collett (collett@norwesters.net).

A potluck/joint board meeting at the Roos' home will be held on Monday, April 30. Current officers will relinquish their positions to the new board.

Our last two dances in April were well attended with over six squares and lots of visitors at the April 7th "Spring Fling" and our "Toga Dance" with a Roman theme was a hoot. Our next dance will be May 5th, featuring "Cinco de Mayo" and a plant sale. Roger Putzler will call Doug Hatch will cue. The food will be Mexican. Our May 18th "Mom and Apple Pie" with Terry Halley calling and Jackie Gale cueing, with serve apple pie and Ice Cream. Please plan to come.

Valley Squares: (Karen Martiny and Dorothy Reed, Delegates) (effective January 7, 2012)

Dance 1st and 3rd Saturdays at the Aloha Grange on the corner of 185th and TV Hwy. Plus with Intermediate and Phase Two rounds from 7-8 p.m. Mainstream and Phase Two rounds from 8-10 p.m. with Plus tip following. Refreshments at 10 p.m. Chuck Garner caller, Connie Clark cuer. www.valleysquares.com.

April was a very busy month for us but we're not done yet! Everyone is invited to our New Dancer Jamboree on April 29 from 2-5 p.m. at the Aloha Grange. It's a great opportunity for new dancers to get some needed floor time with all the calls they have learned so far. Please bring your new dancers and caller, too, for a fun day. We plan to meet at Pizza Caboose for socializing after the dance.

Our all-gospel dance was a great lead-in to Easter, and a few of us decided at the last minute to visit Silver Stars for their anniversary dance.

Our anniversary dance over two nights was a big hit. Tami Helms brought out many dancers for phase II to IV rounds on Friday night and our own Connie Clark packed the floor with phase II rounds on Saturday night. For those of you who missed our dance and have not danced to Doug Davis, you really missed a treat. He really put us through our paces both nights. He's a superb caller and entertainer with a varied repertoire of music. He even yodels! It was a really wonderful dance.

Remember that we are going dark on May 5 to celebrate Sunset Promenaders' Cinco de Mayo dance, so plan to join us at the IOOF Hall in Hillsboro.

May 19 is Armed Forces Day. Are there any veterans out there? Wear your military uniform to our dance and we'll salute your service and you can dance for free!