

***North Dakota Square and Round Dance
Director and General Membership Annual Meeting
Unapproved Minutes***

President Bernadette McNeil called the meeting to order at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 26. The meeting was held at Holy Spirit social hall in Fargo, which was also the location for the 2026 ND Square and Round Dance festival.

Roll Call:

State officers present were Bernadette McNeil, President, and Alana Gerszewski, Secretary.

Other members in attendance were: Donna Alby, Duane Haberlock, Gayle Haberlock, JoEllen Harris, Mark Helfter, Don Hoeger, Margaret Hoeger, Charley Huhtala, Wanda Huhtala, Bea Katcher, Larry Katcher, Greg Morford, Mary Ann Morford, Eugene Paulsen, Nikki Paulsen, Aileen Stallman, and Ed Stallman. Please note that some in attendance arrived late to the meeting.

The minutes of the 2025 annual meeting were dispersed electronically prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Donna Alby, seconded by Nikki Paulsen to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

President McNeil asked for a 2026 festival update. Donna Alby reported at this time there were 80 registered with another 20 walk-ins. This data will be updated at the conclusion of the festival. President McNeil asked for information for the 2027 ND Square and Round Dance Festival. Ed and Aileen Stallman informed the group of the April location, St. Michael's Catholic School gym in Grand Forks, with Brian Bush from Iowa as the featured caller and Bernadette McNeil as the featured cuer. It will be held April 23 and 24, 2027. It was also mentioned that due to new school construction, it is anticipated that only street parking will be available at that time.

Announcement of the 2027 Festival and State Officers by Ed Stallman:

President – Charley Huhtala
Vice-President – Ed Stallman
Treasurer – Greg and Mary Ann Morford
Secretary – Alana Gerszewski
Registration Coordinator – Ed Stallman
Festival Treasurer – Aileen Stallman

President McNeil asked for a treasurer's report, again noting that the report had been electronically presented earlier. Mary Ann Morford stated that the current balance, after income of XXXX and expenses of XXXX, is XXXX. There currently are not any outstanding bills. A motion was made by Nikki Paulsen, seconded by Wanda Huhtala to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Belles & Beaux – Tim and Doretta Bornemann

Report not yet available, but will be emailed and included in attachments.

Mary Ann Morford noted that the club graduated 38 of 41 new dancers and are scheduled to dance every other Thursday beginning April 23rd throughout the summer. Mary Ann Morford will email a schedule to one person from each club to be distributed to their members, as a printed schedule was not available at this time. They were pleased with the 2025 festival that they hosted in Fargo.

Minot Magic Stars – Gene and Nikki Paulsen

Report not yet available, but will be emailed and included in attachments.

Nikki Paulsen presented information about the club having a free dance on May 2nd, at the "Minot Moose Lodge," as the club will be dissolving prior to the fiscal year end of May 31st, 2026.

Nikki Paulsen has agreed that the club will submit the \$50 dues to the state organization.

Valley Stars – report read by Alana Gerszewski, attached

FM Square Dancers Association – report read by Donna Alby, attached

Webmaster – Rosie Vanek not present, report read by Bernadette McNeil, attached

License Coordinator – report by Greg and Mary Ann Morford, attached

Insurance Coordinator – report by Nikki Paulsen, attached

President Bernadette McNeil appointed Greg and Mary Ann Morford as the USDA voting delegate for 2026 at the National Convention in Waco, Texas.

The President asked for interest in hosting the 2028 festival. The Belles & Beaux Club will take this discussion back to see if there is potential from their club.

President Bernadette McNeil is working on securing information as to the type of nonprofit that the state organization is. It is difficult to get the accurate information from the sources available, but she has assured the group that she will continue to search out the answer. (***Addition to minutes from President McNeil on 4/26/2026: I contacted the IRS to confirm what type of 501(c) the ND Square and Round Dance Clubs is per IRS classification. The state organization is classified as a 501(c)4 Civic or Social Welfare organizations.***) The President also informed the members that there are also a couple of minor changes that need to be addressed in the by-laws. The changes involve the term "directors" and the requirements for a quorum.

A motion made to adjourn by Ed Stallman, seconded by Greg Morford. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Alana Gerszewski, Secretary

CLUB REPORTS:

Bells & Beaux – Doretta Bornemann

No report received

FMSDA – Donna Alby

The F-M Square Dancers Association has 40 members, with some members also belonging to clubs in Grand Forks, ND, and elsewhere. The club dances on the second and fourth Tuesdays and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Tuesday dances are generally held at the CAP Building in Moorhead and the Saturday dances at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Fargo. The Saturday dances were not held during the summer. Average attendance was 23 dancers. Due to inclement weather, several of the early December dances had to be cancelled.

The annual Breast Cancer Awareness dance on October 11th was held at St. Anthony of Padua church. Proceeds from the gate and the fund-raising activity brought a total donation of \$1407.00 some of

which were checks written directly to the Breast Friends. This was the largest amount raised by our club to date.

Lessons were offered in both spring and fall. While the number of new dancers was small, they were enthusiastic and we hope they will continue dancing with us.

Minot Magic Squares – Nikki Paulsen

The Minot Magic Squares paid their \$50 state dues for 2025 but did not hold any dances. Our last actual dance was held in 2024 with one square in attendance.

Valley Stars – Alana Gerszewski

Valley Stars regular Main Stream dances meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at St. Michael's school gym in Grand Forks. The club also schedules Plus dances on the first Tuesday of every month in Hillsboro at the LEP office complex. If we are lucky to have a month with a fifth Thursday, a main stream dance is held, also in Hillsboro, providing another opportunity to dance. The club's main caller is Charley Huhtala, with several guest callers throughout the year. Valley Stars had 12 members, and held 32 dances in 2025, with an average attendance of 15 dancers.

The officers include: Charley Huhtala, President; Ed Stallman, Vice-President; Aileen Stallman, Treasurer; Alana Gerszewski, Secretary.

The Valley Stars Club celebrated 10 years with a free anniversary dance on September 4th, 2025. Tom Allen traveled to Grand Forks to be our guest caller for the evening, and the club had dancers from ND, MN, and Winnipeg to help us honor our 10 years in existence.

We also celebrated with a couple Christmas dances, one in January 2025 (postponed due to weather in 2024) and one in December 2025. Our picnic in the park is becoming an annual event with a pot luck supper and dance, held this year on July 31st. The dancers and guests appreciate the chance to socialize and get some dance floor time in the process.

A free "Intro to Square Dancing" class was held on November 1 and November 8 at St. Michael's school gym, taught by Charley Huhtala.

The club is looking forward to another successful year in 2026.

Webmaster – Rosella Vanek

The website squaredancenorthdakota.com was created in August 2017. It is a website powered by Go Daddy and appears to be working well. During the last 365 days there were 2591 visitors to the website. This is up from 1933 the previous year. There were 318 visitors the last 30 days which is up from 134 visitors last year.

The domain name has full protection (as requested by previous year's vote) and is set to auto renew July 29, 2026 for \$35.18. The go daddy website is set to renew August 29, 2026 for \$203.88. If the board is satisfied with the current website, these renewals will take place.

All changes and additions to the website have been made when requested, usually within a day or so of the request. Requests can be made using my email: nodakrose2008@gmail.com Updates have been frequently posted, ie status of dances and any other information provided to me. I encourage clubs to provide me with pictures, change of officers or other newsworthy material.

I also created a facebook page entitled "Square Dance North Dakota". Anyone wanting to post information on that can do so. This is just another avenue for people to find out about square dancing.

I have been posting an update to the facebook page whenever I make a change to the website and included a link to the website for ease of use.
This report has been prepared April 15, 2026.

License Coordinator – Mary Ann Morford

April 1, 2026

The annual dues of \$25 to the USDA were paid on Sept 8, 2025 for one vote at the USDA annual meeting at the National Convention in Waco, Texas. Reported 3 clubs (Belles & Beaux, Valley Stars, Fargo Moorhead Square Dance Association) for a total of 70 club members. Minot Magic Squares basically have 2 couples who are members of the Belles & Beaux and has very little money left so chose to not be reported as a club with ND Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc. per a conversation between myself and Nikki Paulsen, club President.

The annual filing as a nonprofit with the IRS was completed on Dec 2, 2025 by Bernadette McNeil because Mary Ann Morford forgot to do it in October.

The \$10 dues was paid and filed for status as a nonprofit corporation for the ND Secretary of State on Dec 2, 2025.

Insurance Coordinator – Gene and Nikki Paulsen

In 2026, the Grand Forks and Fargo clubs chose to insure their clubs through the Minnesota State Representative and the Minot club did not have a full square of dancers, so the only club insured through the North Dakota State program was the Bismarck Belles'N'Beaux.

We have 24 insured plus 2 that are USDA officers, so there are 26 insured dancers on the roster for the Belles N' Beaux.

Lesson insurance was provided by the USDA at no cost to the club or the dancers. The lessons started with 35 dancers and added 6 more before they closed registration for the lessons! Not sure how many new dancers completed the entire course, but I submitted 41 names!