

GEORGIA STATE SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

The Georgia State Square Dancers Association (GSSDA) began in 1972 when a group of devoted square dancers organized to promote, sponsor and conduct square dancing throughout Georgia; to host square dance conferences and conventions; to provide a source of information and instruction for square dancers; to seek to improve square dancing as a source of pleasure, recreation, physical health, mental health and wellbeing for Georgia dancers.

Wade & Gloria Driver were first presidents of GSSDA. He is now a prominent national square dance caller and will call the NEGA Federation dance October 31, 1992. Mac & Virginia McDonald of Macon completed the Drivers' term and were active on the Board for many years. Jack & Fran Line, Atlanta, are the only charter members still on the Board of Directors. Local couples who have served are Mike & Mary Michel and Bill & Clairelis Baxter.

Two of the objectives of the organization are to sponsor an annual Georgia State Square Dancers Convention and to bid for and obtain the National Square Dancers Convention for the State of Georgia. The first Georgia State Square Dancers Convention was held in Macon in September, 1972 and the State Convention has been an annual event since then (usually the 3rd weekend in September). The 1991 State Convention was free to all GSSDA Members. A bid was made in Atlantic City in 1977 to host the National in Atlanta in 1981. Georgia lost to Washington, with Seattle hosting the 1981 National.

GSSDA also sponsors two State dances (free to members), one the second Saturday in January in the southern part of the State and the other the first Saturday in May in the northern part. Members of the Georgia Callers Association call and members of the Georgia Round Dance Teachers Association cue.

GSSDA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of dedicated representatives from each of the regions in the State. Each GSSDA member club also has a representative who serves as a contact with the organization. Club dues to GSSDA are \$3.00 a year. Any member of an active square dance, round dance or clogging club is eligible to be a member of GSSDA upon payment of dues, which are \$8.00 per couple and \$5.00 per single a year. New square dance graduates receive free membership in GSSDA for that calendar year and a "Graduate's Edition" of the Dixie Crier, a quarterly publication dedicated to square dance activities and published by GSSDA.