

**THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS
CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this organization shall be: **THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS.**

ARTICLE II- PURPOSE

To organize square dancers in order to accomplish the following:

1. To stimulate the interest of square dancers, both old and new.
2. To cooperate with Parks and Recreation Departments and other organizations to promote square dancing.
3. To educate beginners in square dancing and inform the general public of our activities.
4. To affirm in the public's mind that drinking of intoxicants at square dances is not tolerated.
5. To engage in charitable endeavors through promotion of dancers and other activities.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

1. **CLUB MEMBERSHIP:** Clubs seeking membership in the federation shall be recognized square dance clubs whose purpose is similar to the Federation's. Their membership in the Federation must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Federation.
2. **INDIVIDUAL Membership:** Members in good standing of a square dance club approved by the Federation are members of the Federation.
3. Federation Clubs agree any member in good standing of any other Federation Club may visit their regular dances free of charge.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP MEETING

An annual membership business meeting of individual members shall be held at the last regular Federation dance prior to December of each year.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

1. The elective officers of the Federation shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. Any member in good standing is considered eligible to hold an elective office except associate members (a member under 18 years of age) and Callers.
3. The duties of the officers are:

- a. **PRESIDENT:** The president shall preside at all Federation meetings, dances and Executive Committee meetings; shall make arrangements for Federation dances with the help of the executive Committee; shall appoint committees deemed necessary.
 - b. **VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice- President shall exercise the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
 - c. **SECRETARY:** The secretary shall keep minutes of all business meetings and Executive Committee meetings; shall keep an accurate list of Federation members and shall be responsible for determining percentage participation at the dances by each club.
 - d. **TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds and shall keep records of all disbursements and all receipts; shall make a report and send a copy to each club president after each Federation dance; shall deposit all monies in a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (F.D.I.C.) Bank.
4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The nominating committee shall present a slate of officers for election at the annual membership business meeting of individual members. Nominations from the floor will be in order provided no person may be nominated without her/his prior consent. Only two officers may be members of the same club. Election shall be by majority vote of the members present. All officers shall serve for one calendar year beginning January.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of four elective officers, the immediate past president, and one member from each club not represented by the five executive officers, that member to be appointed by that club’s executive officers.
2. All Northeast Georgia Area Representatives to G.S.S.D.A. shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee shall select a Nominating Committee of three (3) Club Presidents at the second meeting of the year. The committee shall be chosen from the clubs not represented by the four (4) elected officers.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by:
 - a. Petition of 15% of the individual membership to the Executive Committee, or
 - b. A majority vote of club representatives attending an Executive Committee meeting.
 - c. This Constitution shall be amended only if:
2. Proposed amendments are presented in writing to each member club’s president a minimum of 60 days prior to the annual membership meeting.

3. Paper ballots are distributed to individual members as they sign in at the annual meeting and
4. A majority of those voting are in favor of any proposed amendment.

BY – LAWS

SECTION I – FEDERATION DANCES

- a) The Federation shall have at least three dances each year using callers from outside the Federation and a fourth dance using all available callers from the Federation clubs. These dances shall be held on fifth Saturday nights.
- b) The Executive Committee before each dance shall determine the admission fee to the Federation dances.
- c) Federation dances shall be rotated between all the towns in which the Federation has member clubs, providing the town has adequate facilities.

SECTION II – FEDERATION DANCES

- a) Each person belonging to a club in the Federation shall bring a small dish of food of their choice, except members of the Host Clubs.
- b) Each club in the Federation shall take its turn as Host Club at Federation dances. The Host Clubs shall provide the punch, ice, coffee, cream, sugar, punch bowls and coffee makers. The Federation will furnish all paper supplies. The Host Clubs shall also be responsible for duties connected with serving the refreshments and cleaning up. The rotation of host Clubs will be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION III – FEDERATION BANNERS

There will be two (2) Federation Attendance Award Banners:

1. The club that has the highest percentage of its certified current membership present at a Federation dance shall be awarded and will keep the Federation Banner (percentage) for display in its hall until the next regular Federation dance.
2. The club that has the largest number of its certified membership present at a Federation dance shall be awarded and will keep the Federation Banner (largest number) for display in its hall until the next regular Federation dance.
3. Either of the Federation attendance banners may be claimed at any regular club dance, from the club holding the banner, by 100% of the current membership of the club claiming the banner. A certified list of current paid membership must be presented to claim the banner.

4. Each Federation club shall send to the Federation Secretary an alphabetical list of its current paid club members at least two weeks prior to each Federation dance. This shall constitute the certified list for award of banners. In the event this current list is not submitted a previous list shall be used.

SECTION IV – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate members of the Federation are members who are under 18 years of age. Associate members shall not vote or hold office in the Federation.

SECTION V – VACANT OFFICES

The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancy created in an elective office.

SECTION VI – PREEMPTION OF THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

If the President of the Federation does not organize and hold a Federation dance within five months of taking office, the Vice-President, with the help of the Executive Committee, shall take over and perform the duties of the President.

SECTION VII – ASSESSMENT OF FEDERATION EXPENSES

When the monies of the Federation are not sufficient to cover the expenses of a Federation dance, the necessary funds shall be obtained by assessing clubs in the Federation.

SECTION VIII – AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

1. Any individual member of the Federation may propose amendments to these By-Laws.
2. These By-Laws shall be amended only if:
 - a. Proposed amendments are presented in writing to each member club's president a minimum of 30 days prior to an Executive Committee meeting.
 - b. Club representative voting at an Executive Committee meeting for the proposed amendment represent a majority of Federation club members.

SECTION IX

Robert's "Rules of Order Revised" will be followed at all business meetings, if requested by any member, except wherein they conflict with any provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION X

Due to the necessity of advance engagement of callers and buildings, it will be the responsibility of the incoming officers to carry out the advanced planning of the outgoing officers.

Current as amended October 2005