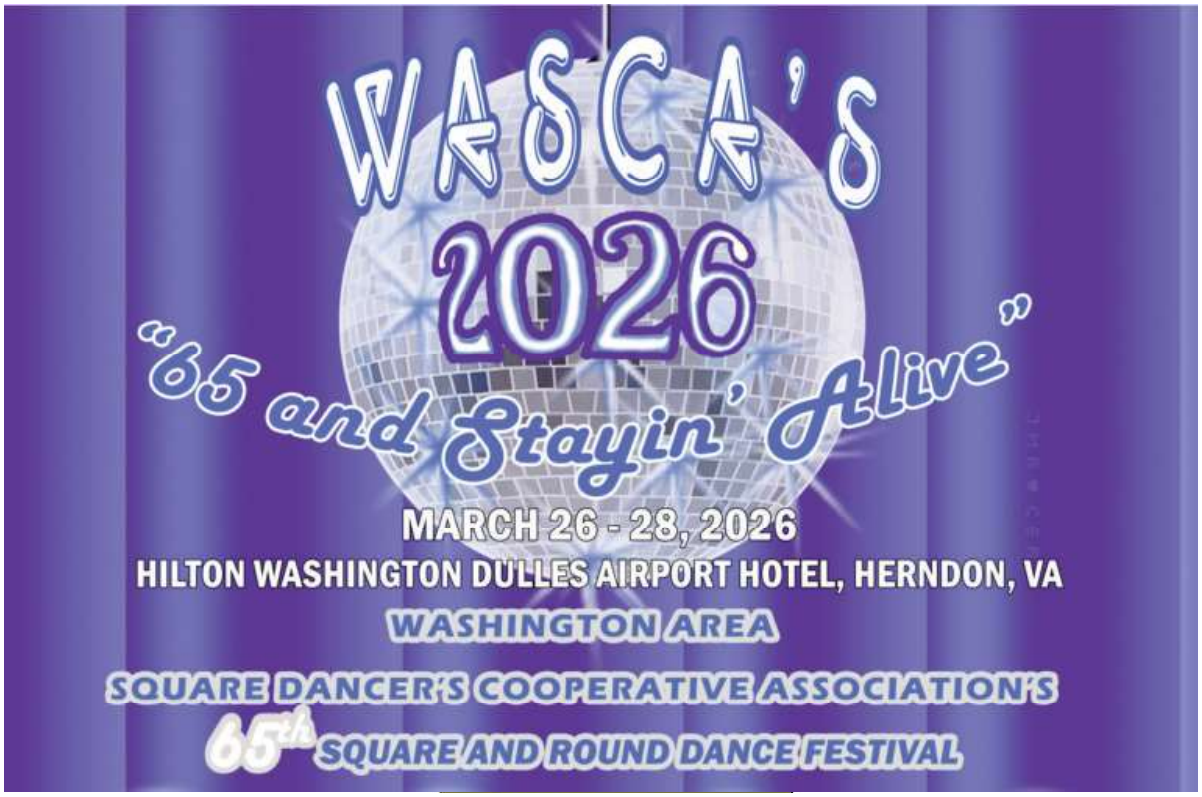


WASCA needs YOU ..... Yes YOU

I know it seems like the Festival just runs itself, but we need volunteers to make it a success. We are asking for volunteers to donate at least 1 hour to assist us throughout the Festival.

To give you an idea of what it takes, here is just a very short list of the people that coordinate WASCA Festival activities:

1. Robert Abinoor – student Square Dance Invitational
2. Janet Adams and Daryl Davis - cuer contracts
3. Nick Capozio – caller contracts
4. Darella & Tom Deubel - 50/50 raffle tickets
5. Mike Farris – square dance schedule
6. Ken Jester - round dance schedule
7. NCASDLA – sound in all rooms
8. Dick Otis – online program
9. John Richardson - beautiful flyers and ribbons
10. Tom & Nancy Stafford - registration desk
11. Linda & Steve Toth - accounting & registration
12. And MANY more!

We need volunteers for:

- Decorations – setup and take down.
- Selling tickets for the baskets.
- 2nd Hand Rose – setup, take down, and sales.
- 50/50 Tickets Sales – the Deubels staff the ticket sales at the registration desk. We need a few people who can go from hall to hall to sell tickets.
- Other – as we get closer to the Festival, we may have other volunteer opportunities.

FUTURE FESTIVAL TRAINEES

Why do we need future festival trainees – because we want the festival to live a long time. In order for that to happen, we need people who can step in to do the work for future festivals. The current leadership, including myself, are interested in training new people to take over leadership positions.

1. Schedule creation – someone who is interested in learning how to make the schedule and work with Mike Farris to learn the process.
2. Hotel Liaison - someone who is interested in working with Steve Cunnion on how to negotiate with the current and future hotels.

If you are interested, please fill out the volunteer form here or send an email to: 2026FestivalDirectors@wascaclubs.com and we will get you set up.

See you at WASCA's "65 and Stayin' Alive"!

Lisa Alfred
2026 WASCA Festival Director
2026FestivalDirectors@wascaclubs.com

WASCA SAVE THE DATE

WASCA 2026 - March 26-28, 2026, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport
WASCA 2027 - March 18-20, 2027, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport
WASCA 2028 - March 16-18, 2028, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport
WASCA 2029 - March 15-17, 2029, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport *(tentative)*

Date	Days/times	Club Name	Location
11/1/2025	Saturday 6-9:30pm	Panhandlers	Charles Town, WV
11/1/2025	Saturday 7-10pm	Fluvanna Flutterwheels	Palmyra, Va.
11/2/2025	Sunday 2:30-5pm	Dixie Cups	Ashland, VA
11/4/2025	Tuesday 7:30-9:30pm	Ferris Wheelers	Silver Spring, Md.
11/7-9/2025	All day	DC Lambda Harvest Hoedown Festival (HFH)	Harrisburg, PA
11/15/2025	Saturday 7:30-9:30pm	Village Swingers	Silver Spring, Md.
11/18/2025	Tuesday 7:30-9:30pm	Dixie Stars	Fairfax/Vienna, Va.
11/22/2025	Satuday 7:30-9:30pm	Grand Squares of Prince William County	Woodbridge, Va
11/23/2025	Sunday 1-2pm	Sunday Dancers	Wheaton, Md.
11/29/2025	Saturday 6-9:30pm	Gadabouts	Hagerstown, Md.
12/7/2025	Sunday 2-4pm	Promenaders	Fredericksburg, Md.
12/19/2025	Friday 8-10pm	Zig Zaggers	Vienna, Va.
1/17/2026	Saturday 6-8:45pm	Pine Steppers	Berlin, Md.
1/17/2026	Saturday 6:30-10pm	Panhandlers	Charles Town, WV.
1/21/2026	Wednesday 7:30-9:30pm	Gerrymanders	Kensington, Md.
1/22/2026	Thursday 7:30-9:30pm	Swinging Aces	Catonsville
1/30/2026	Friday 7:30-9:30pm	Merry Notes	Herdon, Va.
2/6/2026	Friday8-10pm	Rounds With The Girls	Vienna, Va.

Be A Booster

Hello fellow square dancers. This is Paula & Pete Ropshaw from Aqua Squares in Lusby, Maryland (beautiful southern Maryland). We are thrilled that we can once again chair the Booster Club. I know – it's November and I am already talking about the WASCA festival. I love the festive and the theme this year. I know the festival will be a BLAST!

So to get down to it…the festival being one of the premier dance festivals – doesn't run on air and best wishes. There a lot of bills to be paid to make it the wonderful event that it is. To help with those bills, we have the Booster Club. The Booster Club gives every dance club the opportunity to contribute to this wonderful event. How we do it is we tell our club we have a booster dance coming, everyone brings a dollar and all proceeds go to the festival committee. Then you send that money and a list of your dancers to me. I will collect all monies and send it to the festival committee. And I send your contributing members list to the festival program creator – usually Dick Otis – and your club and list of members is printed in the festival program. We do have a deadline, so don't wait tooooo long. And I have fun thinking up ways to encourage you to do a Booster Dance.

Right now I am trying to find or create a 'logo' I can use with each article I write. One year I used a big needle, one year I used a train car. I need help finding a logo for this years' Booster club. If you have an idea, send it to me. Don't hesitate to email or call me with any ideas. Below is all my info.

See you at the festival

Pete & Paula Ropshaw
301-872-4547
riley4106@yahoo.com

Paula Ropshaw
P.O. Box 495
Ridge, MD 20680

WASCA 2026 FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER FORM

I know it seems that the Festival just runs itself, but we need volunteers to make it a success. Stand up and be counted. We just need an hour of your time. Please complete the form below if you would like to volunteer. Thank you for helping to make the WASCA Festival a success!

First & Last Name *

Short answer text

Your Email Address *

Long answer text

Volunteers duties include: *

- ○ Decorations – setup and take down.
- ○ Baskets - selling tickets for baskets.
- ○ 2nd Hand Rose – setup, take down, and sales.
- ○ 50/50 Tickets Sales – go from hall to hall and sell tickets.
- ○ Extra Extra - other duties that come up closer to the Festival.

Comments. If you have an questions or comments, please note those below. Thank you

Long answer text

Convention and Festival News

Backtrack to a Throwback: Dance Away the Holiday Blues at the 2026 Virginia State Square Dance Convention!

Shake off those post-holiday doldrums and step back in time with us at the 2026 Virginia State Square Dance Convention! We're thrilled to invite you to the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach/Norfolk from February 19-21, 2026, for a weekend of toe-tapping fun, nostalgic vibes, and plenty of dancing.

Our theme for this year is "Backtrack to a Throwback," and we're ready to transport you to decades past with our fantastic retro decor and vibrant atmosphere. Get ready to reminisce, re-connect, and create new memories in a setting that celebrates the best of yesteryear.

What can you expect? A packed schedule designed to get everyone on their feet!

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or looking to try something new, we have something for everyone. Our convention will feature: Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Contra Dancing, Line Dancing, and Clogging! For those looking for a more challenging experience we will have DBD (Dance by Definition) and A2 (Advanced 2) Dancing! Perfect for beginners and those wanting to refine their skills there will be Round Dance Teaches, Intros, and Workshops!

We're proud to host an incredible lineup of callers and dance prompters from across Virginia, bringing their unique styles and infectious enthusiasm. You'll also have the chance to dance to the calls of some special guests visiting from surrounding states, making for an even more diverse and exciting experience.

But the fun doesn't stop on the dance floor! When you need a break from spinning and swinging, explore our other engaging activities:

Second Hand Rose Sale: Discover unique treasures and hidden gems.
Basket Raffle: Try your luck and win some fabulous themed baskets.
Craft Panel: Showcase your creativity or find inspiration from talented artisans.

So mark your calendars and get ready to Backtrack to a Throwback! Join us for a weekend of dancing, laughter, and a healthy dose of nostalgia. Be sure to pre-register to save on your cost of admission to this fantastic event. We can't wait to see you there! Find additional details on our website, https://www.vasquaredance.org/

See you soon!

Jamie Butler and Brenda & Keith Krabbenhoft
Co-Directors, 2026 Virginia State Convention

We need your assistance!

How do you get friends to help you move or paint your house without paying them? You feed them! Well, our wonderful dance leaders at the Virginia State Convention volunteer their time and talent to our convention. Our dance leaders are **unpaid**! So similar to those friends helping you out, we feed them!

Staff Hospitality provides breakfast and lunch to our dance leaders and their partners so that they are energized and ready to lead our convention! Why am I telling you all this? Well, we need your assistance! We are looking for individuals, clubs, etc. to support our caller hospitality. There are a few ways you can support! Perhaps you reckon yourself a chef and want to prepare some food to be provided, maybe you want to take up collections to donate so the convention can purchase meals, or maybe you want to order pizza for the staff. The convention would greatly appreciate any of these!

If you, your club or your area are interested in supporting the staff hospitality at the Virginia State Convention, please contact Jamie Butler to coordinate your support. **Again, this is the only "compensation" our fabulous staff receive and without our staff we have no convention!!** We appreciate your consideration and appreciation for our staff!

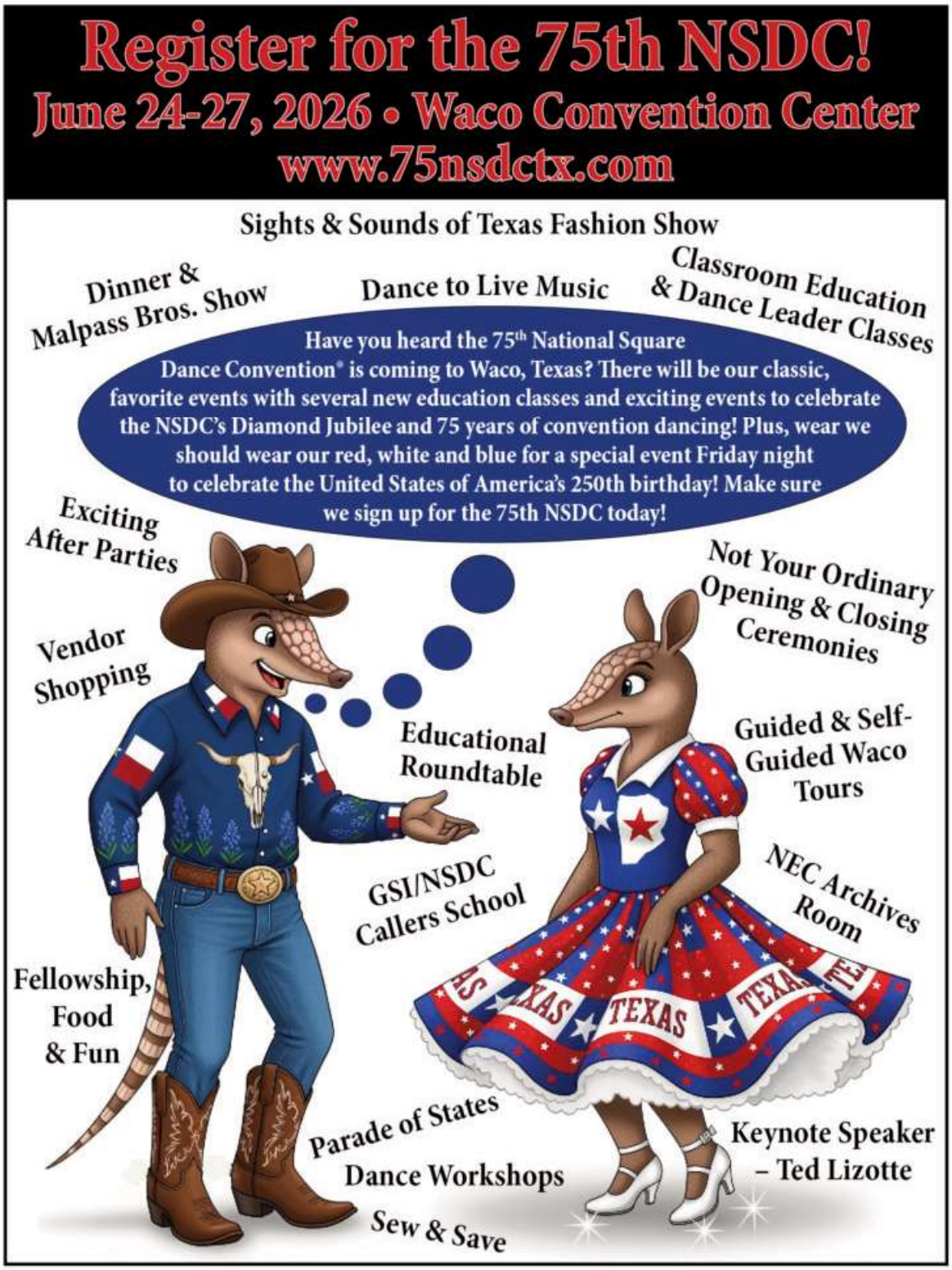
Jamie Butler

Jamie Butler, jamieb1693@gmail.com

Co-Director, VA State Convention

75th NSDC - Waco TX 2026

The 75th National Square Dance Convention® will be held on June 24 - 27, 2026 at The Waco Convention Center
100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701
As of 30 November 2221 dabcers have reqistered
For more information see 75nsdctx.com



Finalize Campground Reservations for 75th NSDC

It's time to finalize your camping reservations! We have negotiated discounted rates with two Waco-area campgrounds. You will need to make a reservation directly with the campground of choice, request the *"Square Dance Convention"* discount and pay directly to the campground.

These are the campgrounds offering the Square Dance Discount:

1) Waco Creekside Resort: 15% Square Dance discount. The campground is about 11 miles from the Waco Convention Center. Campsites, cabins and tree houses are available.
   1972 Leroy Parkway
   Elm Mott, TX 76640
   (254) 651-3999
   https://wacocreeksideresort.com

2) Magnolia RV Resort offers you 10% off your stay. There's a pool in addition to a complimentary breakfast Saturdays and Sundays. The campground is about 8 miles from the Waco Convention Center.
   3096 New Dallas Hwy.
   Waco, TX 76705
   (254) 799-3105
   https://magnoliarvresort.com

Please note that camping fees will not be collected through the Hotel Booking Portal.

For 75th National Square Dance Convention® camping details in Waco, Texas, go to https://75nsdctx.com/campground-information/ or contact Janet and Jeb Jonas at NSDC75Campers@yahoo.com.

WANTED
GHOST RIDERS BAND

Help Us Swing the Ghost Riders into Waco, Texas for a Convention to Remember!

Dancers from all over the world will commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the National Square Dance Convention® June 24-27, 2026. And what's a celebration without the electrifying energy of the Ghost Riders Band?

This fantastic live band brings excitement to our Conventions. Their music accompanied by enthusiastic callers keep dancers swinging and swaying all night long. But we need your help to make it happen.

Donate today to help cover the band's travel and lodging expenses. Every contribution—big or small—helps bring the magic of live music to the dance floor.

TO DONATE GO TO:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/ghostriders-band

NOTE: there is a slide bar at the bottom where you can give gofundme a "tip" for their services.

It is defaulted to a percentage but can be set to zero.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
ALL DONORS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Trash Dancing at the 75th National Square Dance Convention®

Trash Dancing is one of our new classes at the 75th NSDC.

Billy Grimsley and Charlie Whisner, Trash Dancers extraordinaire, will be your instructors for this class.

Trash Dancing consists of short, stylish additions inserted between the square dance calls – never replacing them. It is about FUN, SYNCOPATION, and MUSICALITY while staying on time and respecting the caller and the square.

Trash Dancing helps clubs grow! Smiles drive retention, creativity welcomes new dancers, and video-friendly moments help clubs showcase and recruit online.

Come check it out and find out about the Trash Dance Society, too!

Register for the convention at www.75nsdctx.com

Your First National Convention?

Welcome to the wonderful world of the 75th National Square Dance Convention® in Waco, Texas June 24-27, 2026. This guide is designed to help you, a new square dancer, navigate your first convention and make it an unforgettable experience. Get ready for a whirlwind of do-si-dos, promenades, and making new friends!

Before You Go:

Registration: Make sure you're officially registered for the convention, as early as possible at https://75nsdctx.com/long-form-registration/

After Registration: About a week after you register you will receive an email from the Housing Vice Chairman with a link to the Hotel Reservation System. Book as early as possible, as accommodations often fill up quickly. If you're a camper, call the campgrounds listed on the website and make your reservation directly.

What to Pack: Comfortable shoes are a must! Pack your square dance attire – women's square dance outfits and their petticoats (evenings), men's square dance attire (evenings), men's and women's casual clothing (daytime), and so on, plus any medications you may need.

Review the Schedule: Familiarize yourself

with the convention schedule. Identify your level of dancing, time and hall schedule. Try a new dance level introduction session and attend education classes, keynote address and roundtable sessions that pique your interest. Don't forget the opening and closing ceremonies! A special free convention app will have all these details. It will be available in May of 2026.

Reach Out: Connect with your local square dance club or association. They may have some experienced convention-goers, who can offer advice and support.

More next month!

MDSDF Presents the 61st Star Spangled Banner Festival

"Getting Our KICKS in 2026"

Hello Dancers!

The holidays are over, and it's back to the same old everyday grind. I know my thoughts are turning to Spring and upcoming vacations as the weather warms. Why not plan to attend the Baltimore Star Spangled Banner Festival this summer in July, and have a great time hanging out and dancing with your square and round dance friends? The dates are July 16-18, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Pikesville, Maryland. Simply click on the registration links to register. MDSDF 2026 SSBF. Register & Pay Here. Need help? Email our Registrar, Melanie Jester, at RegistrarSSBF@gmail.com.

We have a fantastic lineup of callers and cuers this year:

Callers: Ken Burke--Bill Harrison--Eric Henerlau--Dayle Hodge--Tony Oxendine
Cuers: Rey & Sherry Garza--Amy & Ken Shotting--Curt & Tammy Worlock

- We will have seven dancing rooms active the entire festival! These will comprise of SSD/Mainstream, Plus, DBD, Advance, Challenge, Hex Squares, line dancing, and of course, two rooms of ROUNDS!
- No need for dance socks, we will have wood flooring or tile in all dance rooms.
- Additionally, 50/50 and the Second Hand Rose shop will be open daily.
- Tennessee Shoe Company will be selling its dance shoes
- Computer squares for DBD-C1

BREAKING NEWS! The 61 Star Spangled Banner Festival-Fundraiser Dance is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2026, from 2-4:30 pm at the Westowne Elementary School, 401 Harlem Lane, Catonsville, MD 21228. Our callers and cuers are: Dayle Hodge, Doren McBroom, David Hartman, Peg & John Kincaid, and Amy & Ken Shotting- with a possible guest appearance by Bill Harrison! Cost is $15 per dancer, and ALL proceeds go towards supporting the 61 SSBF. We really hope you can join us!

Don't miss out on this year's festival T-shirt. Featuring all of our callers faces! A unique keepsake! They are now available to order from Bonfire. This is a private company you order directly from, so please check them out. They offer three color choices, two t-shirt quality options, and your size to choose from.

We are getting really excited about seeing and dancing with all of our friends again.

Yellow Rocks!
Jackie Boggs and Becky Cate
61st SSBF Co-Directors
www.marylandsquaredancing.com

76th NSDC - Loveland CO 2027

The 76th National Square Dance Convention®
Embassy Suites Loveland Conference Center,
705 Clydesdale Pkwy, Loveland, CO 80538
As of 5 August 686 dancers are registered including 15 from MD and 6 from VA
For more information see 76nsdc.com/

SWEETHEART DEAL!!!

We're gearing up for our 76th NSDC Pre-Convention on January 9-10, 2026, along with a Benefit Dance on Friday night, January 9th and Pre-Convention Dance on Saturday night, January 10th. (see flyer on next page) If you are planning to attend the Pre-Convention sessions and/or any of the catered meals, please go to Pre Convention – 76th National Square Dance Convention® to register as soon as possible.

Get your Valentine's postmarked from the Sweetheart City, Loveland, Colorado. Valentines will be available at the 76th NSDC Ways and Means table at our Pre-Convention, Jan. 9-10. The charge for each Valentine is $5.00 and includes the postage stamp.

Also, note that the registration fee for the 76th National Square Dance Convention® goes up to $90 after the Pre-Convention. If you haven't registered yet be sure to register at the Pre-Convention, online (Register – 76th National Square Dance Convention®) or use the form below by January 10th to get the $80 price.

COME DANCE IN THE HEART OF THE ROCKIES

76th National Square Dance Convention®
Loveland, Colorado
June 23-26, 2027

Join the 76th National Square Dance Convention® for a...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DANCE WEEKEND JANUARY 9-10, 2026

Benefit Dance - Friday, January 9th

Pre-rounds at 7 p.m. with John Herr (1 round between tips)
Squares 7:30–10 p.m. with Justin Russel from Tennessee
Location: Pinyon Pine Ballroom at the
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, Loveland, Colorado

Pre-Convention Dance - Saturday, January 10th

Pre-rounds at 7 p.m. with Mitchel Thompson (1 round between tip)
Squares 7:30-10 p.m. with Mountain Magic
Location: Pinyon Pine Ballroom at the
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, Loveland, Colorado

Optional Buffet Dinner

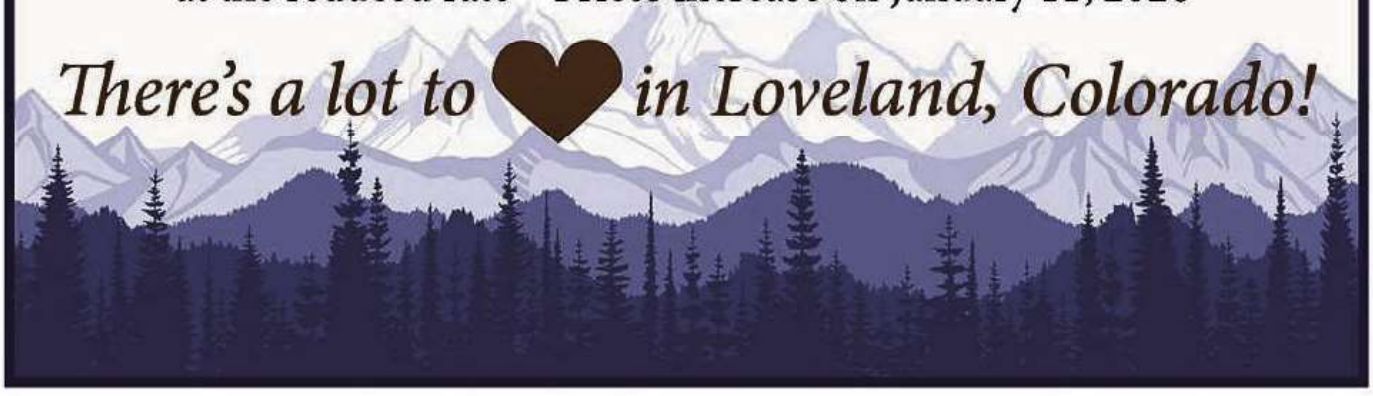
Saturday at the Embassy Suites in Loveland from 5-6:30 p.m.

$25 per person, Menu: pork loin roast, tossed salad, vegetables, rolls, beverage & dessert
Reservations required. Contact Bob Peterson at rpeterson.summit@gmail.com

Visit our website at https://76nsdc.com to register for the 76th NSDC to be held in Loveland, CO on June 23rd-26th

You can also register during the Benefit & Pre-Convention Dances at the reduced rate - Prices increase on January 11, 2026

There's a lot to ♥ in Loveland, Colorado!



Welcome from the General Chairman

We want to invite everyone to join us June 23-26, 2027, in Loveland Colorado. Our team has been working hard to put together a fun and exciting convention with something for everyone. Our next big event is the pre-convention on January 9th and 10th 2026. In addition to the typical meetings, we will have the opportunity to tell everyone about our plans and introduce you to all the exciting things to do in Loveland. We are also planning to include NCOS training for each committee. To get the most out of the training bring your laptop, user ID and password.

We are thrilled to be able to share our love for the mountains, outdoor activities and beautiful mountains with all of you. You can register for the convention online at 76nsdc.com or by completing the registration form in this issue.

Art and Lilly Hardin
General Chairman, 76th National Square Dance Convention®

Art and Lilly Hardin

NSDC 2027 dangle