

ASK ARTS # 17

By Del Reed

Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance

(May 20, 2017)

Dear ARTS,

We've been Members of The ARTS for quite some time. We talk to the folks we dance with, however, very few know about the good work done by the organization. Even if they know what ARTS is, hardly any of them know what we are talking about. I really think we need to tell them again and again just who makes up the ARTS-DANCE organization and what our common goal is.

Concerned in Columbus

Dear Concerned,

Thank you for your continued support. We agree that informing current dancers about the ARTS-DANCE mission is a major and very important task. We believe lots of folks have yet to get this important message. We also agree that spreading the word to non-dancers is critical as well.

ARTS-DANCE stands for Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance. This alliance is a gathering of the ten major dance organizations with the goal of increasing public awareness of the activity and increasing the number of dancers

ARTS member organizations are; All Join Hands, CALLERLAB, CONTRALAB, International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC), National Square Dance Campers Association (NSDCA), National Square Dance Convention Executive Committee (NEC), ROUNDALAB, Single Square Dancers USA (SSDUSA), United Square Dancers of America (USDA), and USAWest Square Dance Convention Policy Board (USAWest).

Specifically, ARTS-DANCE is a nonprofit IRS 501 (c)(3) organization with a full slate of dedicated officers. Jim Maczko, USAWest, was Chairman during the critical beginning phases of the organization. Betsy Gotta, CALLERLAB, was elected as Chairman during the June 2016 ARTS meeting. Other officers are; Arbell Thompson, SSDUSA, Vice Chairman; Edythe Weber, USDA, Treasurer; Cathy Smith, CONTRALAB, Secretary; and Jerry Reed, CALLERLAB, Executive Director. Contact Jerry at DirectorARTS@aol.com to find who your rep on the Board is.

We meet once a year with individuals paying their own airfare, hotel and meals. The meeting is always in June, immediately following the National Square Dance Convention (NSDC) in the city hosting the NSDC. Our hope is that more individuals will become informed about The ARTS and join the organization as individual members (\$25/per person).

The ARTS offers an Education Grant Program to any organization which hosts a gathering of its members for seminars or other education opportunities. A grant of up to \$250 is available. We are also involved with a major effort to Re-Image Square Dancing to help spread the word about our activity to dancers and non-dancers. We also maintain a mailing list of some 2,000 contacts to which we send marketing and promotion information.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our various projects, including fund raising.

More information is available on our web site: <http://www.arts-dance.org/>

Please direct any questions for "Ask ARTS" to Del Reed at 321-633-1306 or e-mail to askarts@arts-dance.org