

# ***Folk, Round, and Square Dance Federation of North Carolina***



January 22, 2018

Hello Everyone,

I am reaching out to all dancers, callers, cuers, and generally anyone that has an interest in the Folk, Round, and Square Dance Federation of North Carolina. As you may already know, we will not have the winter federation dance due to no host club. This causes reason for concern that we have all been facing over the last several years. We have seen a decline in support of these events.

Most all our clubs are struggling to attract new dancers. We have seen attrition in all areas of the state and also have felt the impact of many clubs folding. No one person has the answers that we need to address this. It will be a community effort. There are areas of the country that are seeing dancing on the rebound. Unfortunately, we are not experiencing that in North Carolina (yet). The Federation Executive Board and the Council have taken many steps in the past several years to preserve our activity but we do need support of all members.

I have been so impressed with the bond among the participants of our chosen activity. It has become a lifestyle for so many of us and makes it hard to understand how everyone would not want to experience what so many of us have felt. We really need to come together as a dance community in our state and support not only one another but support the organizations, clubs, dances, or anything in general that promote our activity. If we do not come together we will continue to see the attrition until there is little left. It is up to each one of us to transition our form of dancing to the next generations. We need to promote the excitement and friendship that we have come to know. Plus, what better way to exercise both body and mind! If each person introduced just one friend to our activity, our numbers would double. We need a revival in our state!

It is too late to schedule a winter federation dance and properly promote it. We do have the meeting/dance for May already scheduled in Greensboro. Please make plans now to attend. It will feature an out-of-state guest caller, Jack Pladdys, who will be conducting a caller workshop at the Lewis Recreation Center and then calling at the Lindley Recreation Center for the federation meeting/dance. Also, don't forget the State Convention in August. Please get your reservations in early since the number of room nights at the North Raleigh Hilton is critical to curbing the expenses of this event.

Our camaraderie is so unique! We become instant friends when we meet fellow dancers. We have formed life long bonds and so many memories. We need the support of everyone associated within our dance community as we go forward. Please don't hesitate to contribute your talents in revitalizing our chosen activity.

I ask that you share this with your respective clubs and with each other. Also, please do not hesitate to share your ideas about increasing our numbers across the state. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Randy Bowers  
President  
Folk, Round, and Square Dance Federation of North Carolina