

RAINIER COUNCIL

Square & Folk Dance Federation
of Washington

Happier Hints For Square Dancing





Rainier Council

squaredance-rainier.org

Welcome, New Dancer!

It is the hope of the Rainier Council, a member of the Square and Folk Dance Federation of Washington that you, newly acquainted to this dancing activity, will gain a bit of knowledge and wisdom from this brochure.

Thanks to many people, some of whom are named within these pages, for the many hours of work, for without them, our favorite pastime, Square Dancing, would not be what it is.

Of course there is room for improvement in our activity, but in anything worth doing, isn't there always? If everything were perfect – no errors – what a dull world it would be. A great deal of the fun we get out of our activity is in making the mistakes. While we laugh about the mistakes, we remember the fun we had.

See you in a square soon,

Your Rainier Council Executive Board

Rainier Council Presidents: Past to Present

1953-54	Gay and Dottie Wright	1990-91	Virginia and Tom Nelson
1954-55.....	Joe and Irene Toynbee	1991-92.....	Hilary and Bud McMahon
1955-56.....	Douglas and Shirley Murray	1992-93.....	Homer and Amy Edgington
1956-57.....	Bob and Eileen Sessions	1993-95.....	Kathy and Frank Chase
1957-58.....	Kenn and Ginny Trimble	1995-97.....	Betty Archer
1958-59.....	Laurence and Pearl Cornforth	1997-98.....	Virginia and Tom Nelson
1959-60.....	Bill and Norma Schleiffers	1998-00.....	Joyce Sebree
1960-61.....	Wayne and Grace Hart	2000-02.....	Al and Kathy Tokin
1961-62.....	Al and Pat Goelzer	2002-03.....	Tom and Faye Tomlinson
1962-63.....	Dave and Mabel Sommerville	2003-05.....	Mark and Jennie Sebree
1963-64.....	Wally and Mavis Reid	2005-07.....	Lillian Davis
1964-65.....	Bob and LaRae Merriman	2007-09.....	Tom and Faye Tomlinson
1965-66.....	Don and Lyda Greenlee	2009-11.....	Steve and JoAnn MacKay
1966-67.....	Whimpy and Faye Webster	2011-12.....	Joyce Sebree
1967-68.....	Ken and Betty Hinton	2012-14.....	Mike Bowen
1968-69.....	Don and Lois Kanzler	2014-16.....	Lynn Red
1969-70.....	Harrold and Sherri Forch	2016-19.....	Lane and Gail Johnston
1970-71.....	Merl and Bev Crosbie		
1971-72.....	Betty and Ken Hinton		
1972-73.....	Lute and Mary Lindsey		
1973-74.....	Ed and Betty Croft		
1974-75.....	Herb and Barbara Dennis		
1975-76.....	Maurice and Lois Killenbeck		
1976-77.....	Terry and Gail Larson		
1977-78.....	Bud and Hilary MacMahon		
1978-79.....	Tom and Virginia Nelson		
1979-80.....	Carol and Harry Thompson		
1980-81.....	Theo and Delilah Kissick		
1981-82.....	Jack and Dorothy Loveless		
1982-83.....	John and Marge Harbison		
1983-84.....	Homer and Lois Edgington		
1984-85.....	Ralph and Darlene Elliott		
1985-86	Bud and Hilary McMahon		
1986-87.....	Tom and Virginia Nelson		
1987-88.....	Marcie and Archie Skougstad		
1988-89.....	Lillian Davis		
1989-90.....	Kenn and Ginny Trimble		

“Some of the finest gifts we can give our friends are happiness, friendship and fun, and all these can be had in Square Dancing.”

Prayer for Beginners

May you dance as long as you want to.
 May you want to as long as you can.
May your toes just never stop tapping,
 to the beat of the Square Dance band.
We wish you a smile on your Corner,
 and a partner that really can swing.
Each pull-by a handclasp of friendship,
 as you Right and Left Grand the Ring.
May you always remember the struggle,
 when your lessons are finally through.
And always reach back with a helping hand,
 that someone extended to you.
May you never become a Square Dancer,
 who knows all there is to learn.
In the midst of the muddle, coming out of the huddle,
 could be that you'll make a wrong turn.
As long as you're dancing, enjoy it,
 and the friendships you make 'fore you're done.
With a smile and a song, Promenading along,
 'cause you to Square Dance, my friends, for fun!

“I pledge to do my best to keep Square dancing enjoyable, friendly and wholesome, to help it grow naturally and unexploited, so that all persons may enjoy this fun and inspiration.”

The Dancer's Code of Ethics

Courtesy: I will respect the caller and other dancers and treat everyone with courtesy.

Friendliness: I will go beyond the matter of form because those who participate in this activity with me are all my friends.

Loyalty: I will support my club in all activities because continuance of this activity depends upon personal loyalty.

Cleanliness: I will pay particular attention to my personal habits, breath and cleanliness, as I do not wish to offend anyone.

Abstinence: I will refrain from alcohol before and during dancers. I recognize the validity and the need to separate Square dancing from drinking.

Our Motto: "Square Dancing is Fun Exercise"

Hints for the Happier Square Dancer

There are many times we become too exuberant or are neglectful of our fellow dancers. Here are some "Yay's" and "Nay's" that should be considered as you progress in the Square Dance activity:

Traditional attire – petticoats and Western style – are still good.

You look wonderful and feel great – knew you would!

Relaxed attire is fine for most events;

Long-sleeves please, for the gents.

Soap and water you can't always trust;

A bit of deodorant is a positive must.

If you don't "clique" you'll have more fun.

So try to dance with everyone.

Say, "Hello!" when you get in a square,

Let your corner know you'll be there.

Gentlemen gracefully bow with style;

Ladies curtsy, nod and smile.

In the Grand Right and Left, don't yank, pull or jerk;

A gentler hand saves a lot of work.

Men unfurl your partner after she's been swung,

And always aim her in the proper direction.

A twirl can be stylish, but keep the square moving;

Don't hold up the others just cause you're grooving.

Someone blundered! Well, so what?

Remember when you weren't so hot?

When the tip is through, say, "Thank you."

"Whenever things sound easy, there's probably a part you didn't hear."

Service to Others

You can be of service by participating in such things as: **Demonstrations** – where mixer dances can be worked in for those in the audience who would like to participate; **Programmed Dancing** – to entertain groups such as convalescent and handicapped citizens; **Exhibitions** at churches, granges, county fairs, and other groups – to expose them to Modern Square Dancing and its recreational advantages; **Parades** – where you can dance and promote square dancing before enthusiastic crowds. In addition to providing a good opportunity for publicity, these types of service give club members a sense of worth and belonging.

Be Kind to the Beginners

(from Says Shay Newsletter, Oklahoma)

Be kind to the beginners,
Even though they often flub.
With courtesy let's greet them,
They're the new blood of the club.
When we see them struggling,
Let's lend a willing hand.
To guide them over rough spots
And will help them understand.

Be kind to beginners,
When they join you in a square.
Introduce your partner
To this gent and lady fair.
Though you may be strangers
When you walk into the set,
Remember that a stranger's
Just a friend you haven't met.

Ten Commandments of Square Dancers

(from Burleson Encyclopedia)

- I. Thou Shalt ~ Greet thy caller and learn the power of concentration by repeating his calls, as thy success dependeth upon his words.
- II. Thou Shalt ~ Wear thy badge, be friendly and exchange greetings, lest thee be labeled "snob" and unworthy of the title, "Square Dancer".
- III. Thou Shalt ~ Remain silent while thy caller giveth advice and instruction.
- IV. Thou Shalt Not ~ Anticipate, nor dance ahead of the calling, for thy caller possesseth the ability to foul thee up and make thee look foolish.
- V. Thou Shalt Not ~ Ridicule those dancers with two left feet or hands, but do everything in thy power to help them distinguish one from the other.
- VI. Thou Shalt ~ Strive to dance in different sets so as to share thy experience and thy charming personality with all.
- VII. Thou Shalt Not ~ Grumble and blame thy caller when thou hast goofed, or belittle another when the square breaketh down. Square thy set and try again.
- VIII. Thou Shalt Not ~ Offend with thy body odors; partaketh freely of thy soap and water, deodorant and mouthwash.
- IX. Thou Shalt Never ~ Partake of strong drink before or during a dance, lest thee undermineth thy concentration and incur the wrath of thy fellow dancers.
- X. Thou Shalt ~ Be active in thy class, club or workshops; always ask for help when thou art confused, or thou wilt returneth with thy same confusion.

Rainier Council History

Square dance clubs have come and gone, but after many years, this Council and the State Federation is still in existence.

On April 8, 1953, dancers in the Pierce County area took definite steps towards the formation of a new council, whose area was to include the southern part of Central Puget Sound Council. W.E. Murray, president of the Rainier Square Dance Association, invited representatives from 17 clubs to a meeting in Tacoma. This local association desired to include all clubs in the area and then to apply for affiliation with the State Federation. Temporary officers were elected and committees appointed to take the necessary steps to form a new council.

At the September 17, 1953 meeting of the Council, Dr. Douglas Murray reported that the Rainier Council Constitution and Bylaws were presented and accepted at the last State Federation meeting. Applications from the following clubs were received and approved by the Board: Boots and Bonnets, Conestoga Wheelers, Gaydots, Hoot 'n' Hollers, Lakeland Circle 8, Melody Steppers, N-Bar-N, Pr 4 Squares, Tacoma Roundaleers, and Talarney Squares. At the November 1953 Council meeting, these clubs were accepted into the Council.

Representatives from Kitsap County Square Dance clubs visited the Rainier Council meeting in October 1959 and requested information about transferring from Southern Puget Sound Council to Rainier Council. Steps were taken to make the change and in March 1960, Rainier Council clubs voted to accept them into the Rainier Council. In June 1960 another boundary change was made to include Mason County. In 1979 the Bremerton clubs broke away to form the Peninsula Council, which changed our boundaries again, to end at Purdy.

Council Banner: The first Council banner was presented on April 5, 1954. It was designed by George Barrager and painted by Dennis Devoe. This banner was replaced in March 1961 with the one made by Emily Thompson and Claire Bates. The third banner was made by Emmett Rath and presented in June 1972. The fourth and current banner was made by Dave Gardner and presented in March 1980.

Council Scrapbooks: Our Council scrapbooks are bound in hand-tooled leather depicting Western themes. Volume I was made by George Kenoyer. Emmett Rath made volumes II through VI. Volume VII was provided by Kathy Holt.

What is a Council?

Those who are involved in Council and State activities enjoy first-hand the value of exchanging ideas; resolving mutual problems; making and renewing friendships; planning visitations; and announcing special events to increase attendance of club dances. These are just some of the advantages of belonging to the Council and State Federation.

Three vital groups make up the total square dance organization in the State of Washington.

- 1) **Clubs:** Many clubs and lots of dancers add continuity to the square dancing activity.
- 2) **Councils:** 11 councils divide the state geographically. A council represents all clubs in its area. The councils making up the State of Washington Federation are: Blue Mountain, Central Area, Central Puget Sound, Evergreen, Mt. Baker, North Central, North Olympic, Peninsula, Rainier, Sou' wester, and Spokane.
- 3) **State Federation:** The Square and Folk Dance Federation of Washington is a gathering place for of all Councils and serves as a relay station for ideas and requests between all clubs throughout the state.

Council Clubs: Rainier Council currently has 11 clubs: 2 caller/cuer organizations, 2 round dance clubs and 7 square dance clubs. Rainier Council welcomes new clubs upon application.

Council Meetings: Rainier Council meets on the first Monday of the month. Council does not meet during July and August. The first meeting of the year is in September which is preempted by Labor Day, making that meeting on the second Monday. Executive Board meets at 7:30 p.m., Council at 8:00 p.m.

Delegates: Two delegates volunteer from each club to attend general meetings. A handbook is provided with description of duties, a copy of Council Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, Services Provided by Your Council, and non-profit status information for clubs. All square dancers are welcome to attend the meetings.

Services provided by your Council:

- Council provides time for each delegate to communicate their club's feelings, ideas, problems, suggestions and opinions to the body. Provides time to announce special dances and space distribute fliers.
- Provides a group insurance plan, through the State Federation, that makes secondary insurance affordable for every club.
- Provides a Footnotes reporter to whom you may submit news and information. Council purchases an ad in Footnotes listing all club dances.
- Provides a chairperson for organizing promotional events.
- Promotes and conducts festivals, local and state, with the help of Council clubs.
- Assists in the formation and development of square and folk dance groups when necessary.
- Maintains a written history of club and Council origins. One copy is at the State Heritage Center.
- Supplies diplomas, the "Happier Hints for Square Dancing" booklet, and two promotional business cards to all new dancers.
- Provides a council directory listing officers, committee chairpersons, club information and calendar of events.
- Provides minutes of the meeting to all delegates, council officers, committee chairpersons, and other councils within the state.
- Provides information on how to acquire publications, books, magazines, and educational material related to square and round dancing.
- Provides a website, squaredance-rainier.org with resources and links to enhance your square dance experience.

Council sponsored Festivals: Originally held at Camp Murray Armory in Tacoma, festivals are now held at sites selected by the festival chairperson. The spring festival falls on the fifth Saturday that occurs in March or April. Shirley, the widow of Dr. Douglas Murray, presented the Council with a cup in her husband's memory. Each year the club selling the most spring festival tickets has its name engraved on the cup.

State Meetings: Councils bid to host State meetings. The winning Council holds a dance Friday night, a meeting Saturday morning, and another dance Saturday night. Lunch is furnished by the hosting council. The first meeting of the year is held in September; past officers conduct the first portion of the meeting, then the incoming officers are sworn in and take over with new business. The second meeting is in January. At this meeting bids are taken for the State Festival to be held five years down the road. Also, a slate of candidates for the coming year is announced and ballots are sent to all State Federation clubs. The third meeting is held in May, when delegate and committee reports are given

Past State Federation Presidents from Rainier Council:

Kenn and Ginny Trimble 1966-67
Don and Lois Kanzler 1971-72
Terry and Gail Larson 1979-80
Harold and Shirley Seeley 1985-86
Tom and Virginia Nelson 1990-91
Joyce Sebree 2005-06
Tom and Faye Tomlinson 2010-12

Leadership Seminars: The State Federation sponsors a leadership seminar every July. It includes two nights of dancing, a morning of educational presentations, an afternoon of workshops, and a main speaker on Sunday morning, with a question and comment period prior to adjournment – plus fun and fellowship throughout.

State Festivals hosted by Rainier Council:

1. 12th festival 1960, chair Bob Sessions; theme: Paul Bunyan Daze.
2. 18th festival 1967, chair Laurence Cornforth; theme: Rainier Riptide Swing.
3. 23rd festival 1973, chairs Merl and Bev Crosby; theme: Big Tin '73.
4. 28th festival 1978, chairs Herb and Barbara Dennis, and Terry and Gail Larson; theme: Make It Great In '78.
5. 44th festival 1995, chairs Orrin and Kathy Holt; theme Swing 'em High in '95.
6. 54th festival 2005, chairs Tom and Faye Tomlinson, and Joyce Sebree; theme: Take A Ride In 2005.

Festival Awards: Three awards are given at the State Festival each year. The *Parker Cup* is given to a teacher-caller couple. The first Parker Cup was awarded in 1949 in memory of Almon Parker, who was instrumental in forming the State Federation – the third in the nation. Rainier Council recipients of the Parker Cup include Willis and Lorraine Dodge 1969, Ralph and Eleanor Rowland 1985, Orrin and Kathy Holt 1994, and Gregg and Sue Weber 2001, Steve and Sherry Haslett 2007, and Tom and Faye Tomlinson 2009.

The *MacGregor Memorial Award* is given to a dance couple who have done an outstanding job promoting square dancing and have worked in many phases of the activity. The first MacGregor Memorial was awarded in 1970 in memory of Harry MacGregor, a past president of the State Federation, who was responsible for Washington winning the 18th National Square Dance Convention held in Seattle. Rainier Council recipients of this award include Al and Pat Geolzer 1970, Kenn and Ginny Trimble 1972, Don and Helen Hulin 1976, Terry and Gail Larson 1982, and Tom and Virginia Nelson 1993.

The *McNutt Award* is earned by a cuer-teacher team that has done an outstanding job of teaching and promoting Round Dancing. Bob McNutt was an active member of the State Federation. Bob championed the idea of leadership training, and in 1968 Leadership Seminars became a dream come true for Bob and many others. Rainier Council recipients of this award are Lorraine and John Rouse 2001, and Sue and Gregg Weber 2017.

Purposes and Goals of a Club:

- ✓ Schedule dances
- ✓ Teach square and round dancing
- ✓ Encourage fun and friendship
- ✓ Develop pride in the group
- ✓ Establish continuity of organization
- ✓ Provide finances

Club Leadership: In a square dance club, as in many organizations, we find that "club organization" varies greatly. In many cases club officers are little more than the labor force for a given year, or the caller or cuer is the full leader.

Club Leadership must be decided by each club itself. Each club must decide if it wants to become an energetic body with everyone working toward a goal of great enjoyment, with each person making his own contribution toward the success of the club and its activities.

To be a good leader, one must also be a good follower and the person that can lead people while giving the appearance of following has indeed mastered the true art of leadership.

The leaders and officers are the present day image of the club. Their common sense, dedication and personality set the pace for a successful club. As leaders and officers they must put forth their best effort to develop and use these qualities. If you accept a leadership role, no one should expect less than your best. To be a good leader, one must first learn to listen to what the majority of members are saying in regard to what is happening within your club. You may hear some things you dislike or disbelieve. Do not engage in a debate with people when they think they are talking about good things or bad things within your club. As leader you should make a mental note and consider the good of your organization and attempt to move your organization in the proper direction to do it the most good and to satisfy the most people.

Whenever you have a program or an idea to present to your club, be well prepared in your presentation, be enthusiastic and believe in the idea you are attempting to put across.

People like to do things and be complimented for the things they do. A good leader will gather many people around him, helping to make his organization successful. He will allow these people to get full credit for their effort. A leader may even suggest to a committee chairman an idea, guide the chairman in the proper direction, and then give him full credit for all that is accomplished. This often brings an individual into a position of gaining confidence and gives him a mental hint of how to expand his own leadership abilities.

Always get as many people in your club involved as possible during the year. As a leader, you must make sure people are asked or given the opportunity to become involved.

Leadership is like climbing a mountain – everyone starts from the bottom. The way to the top is by trial and error but if we have the tolerance, patience and courage to continue the trip, we will reach the top. We must, however, be willing to follow a part of the way, because a good leader is always learning a better and easier way, sometimes by following those around him.

The club caller has potential of being one of the best leaders in any given club. After all he probably taught them to dance, and they should trust his ability to lead them in the right direction. The caller must be prepared to be a following leader, allowing the club officers and members to become the guiding lights in club activities. He must listen and be prepared to consider suggestions from the club about his program. He must have patience and control of himself at all times and be prepared to discuss and sell his best program to fit the needs of all the members.

The club caller and club president should work very closely together to assure that the club is progressing in a positive direction and having fun.

"Happier Hints for Square Dancing" is compiled by the Rainier Council, as a handout to new dancer graduates of its clubs. This publication was updated April 2004. The material herein is un-copyrighted. Some of it has been borrowed from other sources, and where known, the source been credited. Feel free to use any of the material you find of interest.

See You in A Square!



Footnotes is a useful, informative, and entertaining online periodical published by and for the Washington State Square and Round Dance Federation. It is nationally recognized and is well appreciated in the square dance community.

It is full of information and articles – you can read about your own club every month. There are advertisements for places to dance, where to purchase square dance attire, and other square and round dance related items.

Up-coming festivals such as the State and National conventions are covered in detail.

Do you sew? Then we have news for you also.

Do you ever wonder what that latest call is all about? Check out the Callers Square Dance Info. You may find the answer there.

The current round dance of the month is always listed and if you can follow the terminology, you may get a jump on your cuer by checking over the steps and flow.

Would you like to put a little spark into your club dance or jump-start a membership drive? Read what others across the state have done. No one will holler if you borrow an idea.

Do you like to write? Find out who your club or council writer is and offer to contribute an article, or contact the editor of *Footnotes*. If you are still in school, talk to your teacher about contributing an article, this might get you extra credit!

Footnotes also publishes a State Directory. This lets the dancer know when and where each Federation club is dancing, as well as who is calling, names of persons to contact in each club, and the level of dance.

Go to squaredance-footnotes.com. You'll be glad you did!

The Managing Co-Editors are Frank and Kathy Chase, great supporters of square and folk dancing. Kathy's dad, Kenn Trimble was the founder of the magazine. In his honor, Rainier Council holds the Kenn Trimble fundraiser dance with proceeds going to help support the Young Bunch youth dancers at competition.

Washington State Square Dancer License Plates Available

Square dancers may purchase a personalized square dance license plate for their automobile, truck or motor home (not available for motorcycles).

Go to <http://www.squaredance-wa.org/sdplates.htm>, the website for Washington State Square Dancers to get details on how to purchase this special license plate. The cost is still \$40 plus taxes and then the standard renewal fee thereafter. You may have to replace your plate (same number) for a small fee when it's several years old, as the paint becomes less reflective. Also, if you skip a year, you cannot get your old number back.

The plate is registered to an individual (not a vehicle). When you change vehicles you must reassign the plate to another vehicle before that vehicle gets re-licensed or you lose it. If you give up or lose the number assigned for lack of renewal or require a replacement, that number cannot be reissued, so it is essentially a lost number.

The original idea came from Roger and Beth Barnes at the National Convention in 1991. Washington was the fourth state to have their own plate. There are now nine states with Square Dancer plates. Washington State license plate 00000 S/D was turned over to the State Federation and is on display at the Heritage Center in Richland.

Plates are being issued out of Olympia which means you will not be able to get a specifically numbered plate. However, it is still a great deal of fun to have the square dance license plate, as it generates a bit of interest from dancers and non-dancers alike, and is a great way to promote our activity. When you go to the website, you'll also find out about ordering a list of the plates to make it even more fun for dancers.

