

5/72

EXCITING NEWS, FELLOW FOLKDANCERS!

As you undoubtedly already know, Florida has not been a hot-bed of folkdance activity. All too often a new-comer inquiring about his favorite form of recreation was met with blank stares. Folkdancing! What kind of odd-ball weirdity is that?

Well, the situation has been improving during the past several years. More groups are meeting; more people are dancing. We optimists expect this growth to continue, but we want to make sure by giving all the help we can. The time has come to develop an organization to further folkdancing in Florida on a level that we as individuals cannot.

Therefore, on Sunday, April 23, Mrs. Gretel Dunsing kindly offered the use of her home for an organizational meeting that was also attended by (in alphabetical order) Judith and Ernesto Baizan (Tampa), Dave Digby (Orlando), Donna Pezdek (Clearwater), Nelle Westergard (Tampa), and Jeanie and Cubby Whitehead (Sarasota). After an afternoon of brainstorming which drew heavily from Mrs. Dunsing's years of experience, we bravely set such an organization in motion. Now we are looking to the rest of you to add your support to this endeavor so we can all share in the many benefits to be gained from it.

Enclosed is a copy of our proposed constitution (prepared for this publication in record time by Cubby). Please read it over and send us your comments and/or proposed revisions, along with your membership fee. One of the main functions of our organization is to be an information clearinghouse for the State. A monthly Newsletter will be published for this purpose. Included in this, our first issue, as it will be in all subsequent ones, is a directory of all groups meeting in Florida. We want to keep this list up-to-date. Please send in any corrections you wish to make of your listing. Also, if you know of any groups we haven't listed, please tell us!

Another important function of our group is to plan State-wide dance activities. Our first such activity is a workshop-festival set for Labor Day weekend, to begin at noon Saturday and end at noon Monday. Dave Digby is in charge of this, and is now investigating possible facilities, which must accommodate 50 persons for dancing, eating, and sleeping. Suitable quarters must be settled upon promptly, so anyone with knowledge of a possible place PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Here is what to do now: Please send the following to Nelle E. Westergard
10113 N. Ashley
Tampa, Fla. 33612

- 1) Your check (payable to Nelle) for \$3.00 for a year's membership.
- 2) Your comments on the proposed constitution.
- 3) Corrections or additions to the directory, including summer schedule.
- 4) Suggestions for the Labor Day Workshop-Festival.
- 5) Indication (to help our planning) of how many persons from your area probably will come. This is neither reservation nor commitment.

The next newsletter, with more specific information on the Labor Day Weekend, will be sent out the first of June. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR INFORMATION ETC. SOON.

Please share this Newsletter with everyone in your group.