

Date : May 2019

To: All WI Square/Round/Traditional Dancers

From: Secretary of the Square Dance Association of WI (SDAW)

Subject: Summary of Proposal - Wisconsin to host the 2024 Nat'l Square Dance Convention

Since at least August of 2018, and at subsequent SDAW meetings, Scott & Brenda Deal have put forth and elaborated on a proposal for Wisconsin to bid on hosting the **2024 National Square Dance Convention**. This would be a tremendous promotional opportunity for square dance in Wisconsin, as national conventions have been in other states. Scott emphasized that, though Wisconsin would host, this would be an upper Midwest effort. He already has commitments from persons in other states to fill key positions should this proposal go forward. In November 2018, the SDAW approved an Intent to Bid at the 2019 convention in Atlanta. This 'intent' carries no obligation or monetary commitment but gives notice to the National Executive Committee (NEC) that Wisconsin is prepared to go forward with a bid and allows for the preparation of a bid packet to ascertain feasibility. This bid packet would then be presented in 2020 in Spokane.

Wisconsin can expect a great deal of assistance from the National Executive Committee and from volunteers in surrounding states. Louis Friedlander and Jim Winslow, from the NEC, encouraged the application and offered personal support, as they will likely be advisors. It was also noted that the first two site visits from the NEC would be paid for by NEC and done at no cost to Wisconsin. Should the bid be approved, funds will be needed for startup, such as licensing, logoed products, publications, etc. Some of this startup money is available from the SDAW tax exempt investment CD being held for this purpose and from grants from the NEC and from prior national conventions. Historically, national conventions have been financially successful, with only one losing money.

At the January 2019 SDAW meeting, a motion was approved to proceed with preparation of the bid packet, since the intent to bid had already been approved, and much work goes into preparing the bid itself. Requests for proposals to potential host cities in Wisconsin are also being prepared, as the bid packet must contain supporting documents from the selected host city. Cities being considered are Madison, Green Bay, and Milwaukee. Upon discussion, Green Bay initially seems to have the most to offer in terms of area attractions that can draw attendance. There would be no WI state convention in 2024.

Also needed for the bid packet are letters of support from SDAW areas and Wisconsin clubs. All Wisconsin dancers are asked to support this project and to consider contributing at least some time and effort into making it a success. "WISCONSIN '24"

/Lucy & Wayne Mattson