

Grand Square International

What we are, Who we are, and What we do.

What we are:

Grand Square International, (GSI) is a United States federally approved 501 (c) 3 non - Profit foundation. That's a very technical way of saying we are a non-profit company.

This certification is very difficult to achieve and as recipients of this status we are required by law to uphold our mission.

Our "headquarters" is located in Charlotte, North Carolina and we have teams of volunteers in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany and Japan.

The GSI mission is as follows:

- to enhance the general public perception of square dancing
- to keep the square dance and general public informed of all news worthy square dance issues and events
- to promote the health benefits of square dancing to both the general public and to the square dance population
- to be a communication vehicle for all square dancers
- to increase the popularity of square dancing worldwide

Who we are:

GSI was started by the Curlee family in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dedicated square dancers, Everett and Virginia Curlee and their daughter Kim became very concerned about what was happening within the Square Dance activity and decided to try a new approach to increasing the popularity of Square Dancing.

Each of our teams of volunteers has a leader or leaders who are responsible for all the GSI activities in one country. Walt Burr is our overall European Representative.

Sweden's leaders are Hanna Tenenbaum & Lars Olafsson, in the United Kingdom,

Simon & Trudy Fielding and in Japan Masaharu Hiraga and Mac Ojima. We are

currently working to establish teams in the Netherlands, Czech Republic, and Russia.

We are always looking for volunteers to either lead or be part of a GSI team.

What we do

These are a few of the things we've done and continue to do.

- 1999 - Grand Square, Inc. (GSI) applied for and was granted 501(c) 3 non profit US tax exempt status
- established through CALLERLAB a \$10,000 scholarship fund to be dispersed through the CALLERLAB Foundation for use by callers and dancers worldwide for education
- was a recipient of the CALLERLAB Foundation's Directors Award
- sponsored the "Passing of the Torch" after party at the 2003 National Square Dance Convention in Oklahoma City, USA. Attended by more than 3000 dancers
- sponsors and funds a free callers school in Europe each year - bringing in Accredited Caller Coaches from Germany, the US, and Great Britain
- held the first annual World Square Dance in Dachau, Germany in 2003 with a free callers school
- returned to Dachau, Germany again in 2004 and 2006 for two more free caller schools and dances
- in 2005, GSI sponsored our first caller's school in Sweden
- similar schools took place in the US in 2006, and England in 2007 & 2009
- our first school in Japan took place in 2010
- purchased and provides a portable dance floor (capable of dancing 100 squares) that square dancers may use
- sponsored a "New Concept Dance" in Las Vegas, NV that integrated current dancers and non-dancers in a "fun" atmosphere giving the non-dancers a very positive view of square dancing
- has donated money to help purchase radio advertisement in several states to be used to promote square dancing
- working to get square dancing back on the curriculum in US pubic schools

- in 2004, GSI helped conduct a seven week "Introduction to Square Dancing" at one of Charlotte, NC's middle schools
- plans are in place to host dancer leadership conferences worldwide
- works in conjunction with various square dance clubs and associations to help promote dance related events
- sponsored lessons for a new "Hip to Be Square" square dance club in Charlotte (This club is to be the prototype for a new entry level square dance club.)
- hosted a city-wide barbeque for the city of Charlotte – bringing in local business leaders and exposing them to the square dance activity
- works in conjunction with the Charlotte YMCA presenting square dancing to youth and their parents
- We are in the process of establishing a similar non-profit foundation in Europe to be used for dancer and caller education.
- sponsors dance weekends throughout the year in various locations through the USA and overseas

**All profits from these events are used to continue promoting
the square dance activity**

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