

Glenview Square Dance Club flies away to state convention



The Glenview Square Dance Club practices Thursday, July 21, at the Glenview Park Center. Stacey Rupolo /22nd Century Media

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The Glenview Square Dance Club will attend the 33rd Illinois Square and Round Dance Convention at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca July 29-31.

This year, the theme of the convention is “Fly Away With Us.”

“[They chose that theme] because the convention is by O’Hare and Jett Roberts, a national caller from California, will be there calling,” said Carol Lopez, co-president of the Glenview Square Dance Club.

A caller tells the dancers the next maneuver. The dancers heavily rely on the caller throughout each dance.

The convention will attract approximately 800 people from all over the U.S.

On Thursday, July 28, the convention will host a benefit square dance to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The benefit will include a "Trail-In" dance, which will feature eight well-known Midwest square dance callers and a round dance cuer.

According to Glenview resident and Glenview Square Dance Club member Terry Kopulsky, the "Trail-In" dance idea originated because in the past people would drive from their hometowns and "trail-in" to square dancing events on the weekend.

All the proceeds from admissions to the event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The convention has a variety of dance halls for dancers, who will stay active almost non-stop until the end of the event on Sunday.

According to Kopulsky, square dancing was most popular in the 1980s when there were more single clubs where men and women could get together and dance, which was how he met his wife.

"It is not unusual for people to meet and get married because of square dancing and you can't say that about many other activities," he said.

For many people, square dancing is a form of exercise and keeps the brain active.

"As they get older, people don't do many physical or mental exercises and you kind of retire," Kopulsky said. "Square dancing does not let you retire."

Square dancing is also a form of exercising for Bob and Carol Lopez.

"People in relationships need something they can do together, and square dancing gives you something to do," said Glenview Square Dance Club co-president Bob Lopez.

Although the club includes many middle-aged members, younger people are also encouraged to participate.

According to Bob Lopez, many people believe that square dancers listen to outdated music. However, the Glenview club listens to artists such as Selena Gomez and Meghan Trainor.

Dancers also have the chance to take a break from dancing and attend seminars throughout the weekend.

"The seminars are for people who want to learn more about square dancing, what they can do for their clubs and can learn to be a caller," Lopez said.

A variety of vendors will attend the convention to provide food, jewelry, clothing, badges and massages.

The Glenview Square Dance Club is one of the most involved and up-coming clubs in Northern Illinois and encourages people to join.

For more information on the club, visit glenviewsquare.org.