

GEM CITY SQUARES

In 1984, Jean Swearingen (now Ails) and Charlie Prass approached Ken Roberts, who was just starting to call, about starting a singles square dance club in the city of Dayton. Ken said that he thought the best way to start a club would be to start a class and see if that new group of dancers would start a club. Charlie knew of a place we could dance. With a lot of help from friends, "Sunshine Squares" class began on September 9, 1985 at Salem Lutheran Church, 2000 Catalpa Dr., Dayton, Ohio. Sunshine Squares class graduated 16 new dancers on May 12, 1986. Then there was talk of starting a new club.

Some of the highlights of the first meeting on April 7, 1986:

Name: Gem City Squares was chosen as the name of the club.

Dance and membership fees were set at \$1.75, and \$2.00, dues \$3.00 per year.

Dance days: 1st and 3rd Sunday, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Plus Level.

Date set for election of officers: May 5, 1986

Ken Roberts named as club caller.

First club dance scheduled for June 15, 1986

J Decided to join MVDC as soon as we can.

Charlie Prass presented badge design that was accepted that night.

First Constitution and By-laws accepted July 6, 1986.

Original 34 members:

Larry & Martha Boyd

Judy Brackman

Bob & Sharon Brooks

Hazel Buckley

Ozal Caldwell

Nell Campbell

*Bob & Jean DeRegnaucourt

Kim Dorn

Lila Dorn

Mike Green

Sally Hagins

Bob & Sharon Howard

Rick Kroll

Martin Matkoski

*Charlie & Denise Neu

Louise Palmer

*Charlie Prass

*Ken & Sher Roberts

Brenda Romine

*Fay Samborsky

*Cathy Schaurer

Bill & Mary Shelby

Jean Swearingen

*Jack Welch

*Joyce Wilfong

*Louise Willemse

Grace Willoughby

*Current Charter Members

First Club Officers were:

Mike Green

President & Council Rep.

GEM CITY SQUARES

-2-

Rick Kroll

Vice-President

Jean Swearingen

Secretary

Sher Roberts

Treasurer

Bobby Brooks

Board Member (this office is now our past Pres.)

On May 18, 1987, Gem City Squares graduated their first class of seven new dancers:

Joe Bussiner

Deborah Derksen

Mary Lous Erhart

Tom & Nancy Harker

David Warsofski

Leonard Watts

Submitted by Deborah Roberts