

Class of 2009 Graduates!



Front row (seated) left to right: Mary Jennings, Belinda Schuman, Jo Morgan, Shirley Adams, Teresa Olds, Linn Suderman, Elsie Middleton, Tammy Gabriel, and Loretta Wright.

Second row (standing) left to right: Gwen Whitebread, Marshal Aumiller, Gary Sanden, Betty Guder, Ronda Shepard, Nancy DeGarmo, Terry Copeland, and Jim Pych

Back Row (standing) left to right: Angela Posch, Don Adams, Max Dougherty, Dale Guder, Tim Shepard, Tom DeGarmo, Bob Suderman, Ron Copeland, Darrell Hogan, Phil Gabriel, John Westcott, and Mark Posch

Not pictured: Maria Sanden and Cheyenne Stephens

Twenty-three weeks of lessons culminated in an evening of food, fun and fellowship as thirty-one new dancers graduated and joined the Happy Time Squares family! Over fifty angels came to congratulate our new members and join in the festivities!

The decorating committee of Rosalee Rainbolt and Lois Zarembo transformed our lesson room into a celebration hall. Balloons, smiley faces and graduation decorations greeted dancers. Red tablecloths and Happy Time flowerpots adorned the tables.

Stan and Lois Zarembo provided a delicious dinner of sloppy Joes, beans and cole slaw. Larry and Alice DeMoss saw to it that we had plenty of coffee, water and iced tea. The round tables provided the forum for pleasant conversations while we ate.

Dave and Barbara Neff started the graduation ceremony by welcoming everyone and introducing officers and committee chairs. Lynn & Sherry Brun, Larry & Alice DeMoss, Mike & Vicki Hegeman, and Frank & Betty Alexander formed a square that represented the four vital corners of square dancing. As they lit candles, they iterated the purposes of friendship, duty, democracy and fun.

Keith and Carol Noe encouraged all new dancers to keep dancing, even though sometimes they may be discouraged. You will make it, they said, and will be glad you stayed with it. They also spoke of the many new friendships they have made within our club and surrounding clubs.

Toni and Vernon Nelson, Club Coordinators for the Northeast District of the Kansas Square Dance Association, congratulated the new dancers and told them about the Tenderfoot Dance and other information about square dancing in the area.

Vic Perry was then host for the actual graduation ceremony. When Phil Gabriel correctly answered a square dance question, Vic pronounced that the class had passed and was eligible to graduate! New dancers received diplomas, information about Happy Time Squares, name badges, and information from NEKSDA. Vic told the new dancers that they were now full-fledged members of the Happy Time Squares family. "Embrace square dancing," he advised, "and it will embrace you back."

After group pictures taken by Jerry Henley, we celebrated by sharing a two-tiered cake decorated with our HTS Happy Face. Tonya Ketchum always surprises us with her delicious creations. And, of course, we had to have ice cream to go with that cake!

The evening concluded with several tips of square dancing.

A good time was had by all!

Congratulations and welcome to our newest members:

Don and Shirley Adams
Marshal Aumiller
Ron and Terry Copeland
Tom and Nancy DeGarmo
Max Dougherty
Phil and Tammy Gabriel
Dale and Betty Guder
Darrell Hogan
Mary Jennings
Elsie Middleton
Jo Morgan
Teresa Olds
Angela Posch
Mark Posch
Jim Pych
Gary and Maria Sanden
Belinda Schuman
Tim and Ronda Shepard
Cheyenne Stephens
Bob and Linn Suderman
John Westcott
Gwen Whitebread
Loretta Wright

Pictures from the evening may be seen on our website: www.happytimequares.com.

Dave and Barbara