

**JAY AND POLLY ARNOLD
KINGSTON, TENNESSEE**

Jay and Polly Arnold began dancing in 1954 and are still at it. They have always been active club members. Although they have not become seriously involved in round dancing yet, they enjoy it.

In the 34 years they have been involved, they have held nearly every office there is, either elected, volunteered, or appointed. For 20 plus years Jay was liason person between Area VI clubs and the American Legion and for 10 years with Moose Executive Committees because the local clubs used their facilities.

Jay and Polly were very active with the Tennessee State Association of Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc. They began their work with the association as Area Vice President in 1974. They served in that capacity until they were elected association Vice President. Following time as Vice President, they assumed the role of Membership chairman in 1982 and 1983. They also helped with the 1975 state convention serving as Vendor chairman. In 1983, health issues caused Jay and Polly to resign from the board.

They encouraged the Area VI callers to form a Callers Association and at the same time they were encouraging dancers to re-form their area dancers' association. In 1978, Mountain Empire Square and Round Dance Association (MESRDA) was re-formed. MESRDA was a dancer's association, but they worked with callers and solicited callers' advice to work toward better caller/dancer relationships. Jay and Polly were always involved in this endeavor. They also attended the quarterly MESDRA meetings as representatives. Jay & Polly tried to visit each club (21 clubs at that time) once each quarter to keep everyone informed of the activity at the state level and keep them aware that we all must participate to be able to make a bid for the 29th National Square Dance Convention to be held in Memphis, Tennessee.

Their work really started when Tennessee got the bid for the 29th National Convention. Jay and Polly helped with every aspect of reaching the goals Tennessee wanted to achieve. They helped raise funds for expenses during the 18 months before the convention committee was allowed by the National rules to solicit money on its own by selling car tickets, bumper stickers, belt buckles and early bird certificates. They also sponsored two dances from which the proceeds were loaned to the 29th National. Jay and Polly worked in many facets of the 29th National Convention--specifically Ways & Means, Publicity, Education and General Interest (Vice Chairmen), Clogging, and Youth. All told, they spent nearly six years working one aspect or another of the 29th National Convention.

Jay & Polly were among the dancers who danced the 4th of July at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee and went to Washington, D.C. in 1982 to lobby for Square Dancing to be recognized as the National Folk Dance. Jay and Polly played a big part in having the Weir version of "The Tennessee Waltz" (Windsor label) become one of Tennessee's State songs by soliciting signatures from Area VI dancers. They also served as Legacy Trustees from 1981 to 1987.

The only reward this wonderful couple has had has been the enthusiastic response they have gotten from the dancers, callers and cuers for the hard work and the interest they have taken in square and round dancing. They really deserve a gold medal.

