

2015 Miami Valley Dance Council Honor Couple RICHARD & LINDA BISHOP

Richard and Linda have been dancing for 7 over years. In 2007, Linda went to Tennessee on vacation, while Richard went out to Wyoming hunting. While in Tennessee she had 2 square dancing lessons with Johnny Chambers, in Spring City. Upon returning they looked on the internet for lessons, and were directed to Cardinal Squares in Springfield, Ohio. They started lessons the last week of January 2008 and 16 weeks later graduated. During the 16 weeks they went to lessons on Tuesday and workshop with Ray Beavers on Thursday. Then on Sunday they went to Caller Ed Heuker's home for more lessons. In September of that same year they started taking Round Dance lessons from Bud and Elaine Wintrow at Ralph's Place. The beginning of the next year they started going to Hayner in Troy, Ohio to learn other rhythms.

Wanting to give back to the clubs that had helped them improve their dancing skills they contacted a business in their community that had a large building. In August 2009, with the help of Callers, Cuers and Line Dance Leaders, Fall Round-Up at Indian Lake was born. They had vendors, sold danglers, had the clubs bring lesson information and also held a raffle for the 2011 Ohio State Dance Convention. With an average of 200 attendees each day vendors at the Flea Market where Fall Round-Up was held saw increased business for their community. They wanted to show the public all the fun, they were having each week and that squares, rounds and line dancing was a fun, and a healthy activity for mind, body and spirit.

In 2010, they went on a Square Dance Cruise with Homer & Sue Magnet/Bud & Elaine Wintrow to the Western Caribbean. While on the cruise they square danced, round danced and even invited dancers to have Champaign and Wedding Cake with them, when they renewed their Wedding Vows. Later that year at Fall Round-Up, Bud and Elaine Wintrow loaned Linda equipment for cueing. This gave Linda a chance to try cueing and see if it was for her. By October, our son's family had all taken square dance lessons and Linda cued at our son's square dance wedding. So many friends were there from our dance family.

In July of 2011, Linda cued her first full dance at Concord Cloverleaf Squares in Urbana. They have assisted new round dancers in classes they have taken. In October of 2011, Linda was asked by John and Gay Chevalier, to become club Cuer for Grand Squares of Vandalia. In July 2012, Richard fell at work and broke his femur and was not able to dance, but passed out flyers at the mall dances from a wheelchair. In November of 2012 Richard was voted in as Trustee for the Miami Valley Dance Council, for the term covering 2013 - 2014. During his time as Trustee Richard encouraged St. Mary's to join the Miami Valley Dance Council and assisted them with paperwork. Richard worked with St. Mary's in organizing the Welcome St. Mary's Dance, Tom Dillander Dance and the Benefit Dance for the Michael Solomon Support Committee. Richard also attended as a Trustee, student dances, honor couple dances and Miami Valley Callers Association dances. Richard also participated in the Public Broadcasting Television Auction in Dayton. In July of 2014 Richard had foot surgery and was still in a boot for the council sponsored dance at the Dayton Mall in August. Richard still attended the dance and passed out flyers for several clubs to recruit new dancers. Richard has also been nominated for Trustee for the 2015 - 2016 terms.

In 2013, St. Mary's Tri-Squares asked Linda if she would like to be their club Cuer and she gladly accepted. Linda has now cued in Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, Indiana and all over Ohio. In February of 2013 they started teaching Two-Step and Waltz. They find it wonderful to see the face of a dancer when they understand the skills required for Round Dancing. They better understand how to schedule Cuers and are looking forward to being a part of the 2017 National Square Dance Convention. They teach Phase II rounds and are members of Cardinal Squares, Grand Squares, Buckeye Round Dance Council, Midwestern Ohio Callers Association, Miami Valley Callers Association and Roundalab.

Dick and Linda would like to thank their dancing family for all the support in this journey and many more. Yellow Rocks!

