

Official statement by Grand Square Inc., USA

To All of our European Dance Friends,

It is with great sorrow and regret that we must cancel the GSI Festival 2010 and the 2010 GSI Callers School. Events like the GSI Festival and Callers School are very expensive to operate, and we depend greatly on dancer attendance to help offset the costs. However, the decline in the worldwide economy has hampered the pre-registration numbers to the point that the potential financial loss for this event is too large for us to bear.

GSI is supported by donations from dancers worldwide. All of the workers for GSI are volunteers, so all of the monies donated to GSI go into the promotion of square dancing. Unfortunately, the downward turn in the economy has also severely hampered donations to GSI limiting the scope of what we can do.

Much hard work has gone into the planning of this event and the Beaux and Belles SDC has worked tirelessly on their job as hosting and planning the event. We at GSI cannot thank them enough for all of their hard work. This club is like a beacon of hope for the square dance world. Susanne Hoppe, as the leader of the event is to be commended for her dedication.

We would also like to thank the entire calling and cueing staff for the weekend and school. We feel that this staff was a truly world class staff. We would like to give a special thanks to Kenny Reese. Kenny, too, has worked very hard in the organization of everything. He is truly a credit to the square dance activity.

We would also like to thank all of the dancers that pre-registered for the event. All of them will have their registration money refunded. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the callers that registered for the Callers School. The dedication exhibited by these callers in wanting to increase their calling skills is commendable, and all of the European dancers should be very proud of these callers. GSI is committed to caller education, and we sincerely hope that we will be able to do another school in the near future. .

The blame for the cancellation of the event does not lie with anyone. Everyone associated with the event has gone above and beyond in their duties promoting and organizing things. Sometimes, however, even with the best planning and organization, things just don't go as planned.

It is our hope that GSI will be able to come back to Germany very soon. Over the years, the German people and culture have become very dear to us. We thank you for your past support, and we hope to see you in a square very soon!

Sincerely,

Kim Curlee
President
Grand Square, Inc.