



# Swinging Stars

## Square and Round Dance Club

*Newsletter for September 22, 2013*

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### **PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS**

“The Big Tex Fire Cover UP” Theory – it is felt by this writer that the Dallas media conspired with the State Fair representatives, Park Security, Firefighters and the Police to cover up the true cause of the Big Tex Fire that started in his pants.

Headlines from last year read – “Electrical Fire Destroys Big Tex”

Big Tex, the beloved 52-foot-tall cowboy who’s watched over the State Fair of Texas for decades, caught on fire Friday morning and was quickly burnt to a crisp. He was 60. Hundreds gathered in Big Tex Circle to watch the big guy go up in flames. Many stood in tears. Others snapped pictures with their smartphones, spreading the news online as quickly as the fire spread up Big Tex. He first arrived at Fair Park in 1952. No one was injured.

State Fair officials say the fire was caused by an electrical short that started in his right boot. Flames and smoke shot up his body, which acted as a chimney, stated a State Fair spokesperson. The fire started around 10:15 a.m. white smoke was spotted emerging from his collar.

“I didn’t know Big Tex smoked,” a fairgoer was overheard saying. He doesn’t. Firefighters were sent to Fair Park by an unusual report from a Dallas Fire-Rescue dispatcher over the radio: “Got a rather tall cowboy with all his clothes burned off.” “Big Tex was done in about 10 minutes,” said a visitor of the fair.

Of course the real truth is less flattering and therefore was the driving force of the cover up. Nevertheless, Big Tex had been moon lighting as a sometime cook and had been asked to collaborate as “ghost cook” for one of the chili’s to be entered in the Swinging Stars Annual Chili Cook Off. They, Big Tex and his co-conspirators, worked the better part of 2012 to come up with a winning formula for the big cook-off. The night before the fire they had added too many Onions, Jalapenos and other spices to the delightful mixture. Of course as with most great cooks they sample as they mix and the result he was restless most of the night as later reported by Mrs. Tex. The concoction caused a buildup of internal nauseous gases that left a green fume throughout the house. Later that fateful morning the internal combustion had reached a boiling point and caused Big Tex to suffer spontaneous eruption. That, my friends, is what caused the electrical short in his right boot.

Hope that you come to sample our Chili at our annual Chili contest. This year the winner of the Chili and Desert will be awarded an apron for their achievement. The Chili cook-off is being chaired by Gary Amy as he has always done such a great job.

Lessons of another kind - The Lone Star Caller's College in Arlington, Texas with our third and final weekend of classes will be this Saturday and Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Angels are appreciated.

We took off this coming weekend and had lots of homework. We will be hosting a **free dance** from 3:30 – 5:30 at the Maverick's Athletic Club, 1919 W. Pioneer Pkwy in Arlington, Texas. You won't regret it, these guys and gal are really good.

Jon, Deborah and Vernon are asking for any dancers that are interested in helping out as "Angels", to contact them directly for the dates and times they would like your help.

Jon: 817-469-1179 [JonJonesSDC@att.net](mailto:JonJonesSDC@att.net); Deborah: 817-469-1179 [deborahcjones@att.net](mailto:deborahcjones@att.net)

Richard and Jan

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The following is borrowed from the Nebraska Square Dance Organization web site.

[Square Dance Nebraska \(http://www.squaredancene.org/\)](http://www.squaredancene.org/)

[Ideas \(http://www.squaredancene.org/ideas/index.html\)](http://www.squaredancene.org/ideas/index.html)

## HOW TO BE A GOOD ANGEL

### ON THE HEAD OF A PIN .....

Is your halo on straight? It is important that as many of our club members as possible come to the class as "angels." What are angels? They are the wonderful people who volunteer their time to ensure that a class has the best possible learning experience.

Angles provide the new class members with their first real look at the club. How angels behave and treat the new dancers, other angels, and visitors will affect class members' decisions whether or not to join our club.

Angels are also role models. No matter what the instructor and club try to communicate to the students concerning etiquette, attitudes, or styling, class members inevitably take their cues from what they see the angels doing. So it is important that angels be extra careful to provide good role models.

Smile, be enthusiastic, and enjoy the dancing. Be friendly, courteous, and gentle. This is sometimes easier to say than to do, especially if it has been a long day. And, let's be honest, some of us have personal agendas, perhaps disagreements with club policies or less-than-cordial relations with specific club members that are out of place here and must be put aside.

Although most of us do the right things instinctively the majority of the time it can't hurt to reiterate certain points. The following advice for angels has been extracted from several sources, including articles in square dance publications and handouts prepared for other clubs.

### ANGELS ARE NOT TEACHERS

This is perhaps the most common misconception that causes problems. The primary teaching function of an angel is to teach by example - to be in the right place at the right time. One important thing you can do is to establish handholds after every move. This not only helps the students maintain their orientation in the square, it is a very good habit to develop.

It is always tempting to explain something your square is not getting and the students will often ask you to do this -- **BUT YOU MUST RESIST**. It diverts the student's attention from the teacher and one of the most important things to learn in beginner class is to listen to the teacher/caller. Sometimes you can clarify a simple

point for students between tips; this is fine, but not while the caller is at the microphone.

Another difficult point is just **HOW MUCH HELP** you should give in getting dancers into the right place. Dancers, after all, must learn to do the moves on their own. To gently guide someone through a maneuver if they have a momentary lapse of memory might be okay and sometimes one can help by indicating nonverbally where a person should go. But we accomplish little by pushing or pulling a dancer through an action when he or she doesn't know what was supposed to have been done.

It is better to let a square break down rather than to use too much force getting people into the right place. Broken down squares are an indication to the instructor that the dancers are having problems. Do be sure the teacher is aware of problems, raise your hand if necessary and ask the teacher to explain something if your square is having trouble.

Be careful, however, not to embarrass any dancer by the way you ask for help. It is much better to say that "the square is not getting" a certain move rather than saying "Steve isn't getting" a certain move.

Do encourage students. Let them know that all new dancers make mistakes and that things get better with practice. Also, angels do make mistakes too. It is good to admit to them cheerfully as it makes the students less tense about their own mistakes.

### **CLUB STYLING**

Club styling is always a third major source of contention. It is important the new dancers learn the calls with standard Callerlab styling, that is, without the flourishes we like so much. The teacher will introduce our club styling at appropriate times after the calls are mastered. Angels must use only the styling which has been taught to the class.

This is not always easy. How many of us even remember how to do a DoSaDo without a Highland Fling? But it really is very important. Students are going to want you to teach them "how it's done" before they have mastered the call but you should resist the temptation.

### **SOME RANDOM ADDITIONAL ADVICE**

Square Up With Everyone -- not just a few friends. Seek out the weaker students and ask them to dance with you. Make sure that students are not sitting out because angels are dancing.

End Conversations Promptly -- when the teacher begins a tip. If you are not dancing, keep your conversations far away from the dance area.

Lend A Hand -- cheerfully if you are asked to help set up or clean up, help with refreshments or take attendance.

Keep An Eye Out -- for security problems, accidents, and dangerous situations like spills or debris on the floor.

Let The Instructor -- know if there are problems with the sound.

Don't Complain -- about the hall, the floor, the caller or anyone attending the class.

Don't Criticize -- students or other angels.

Remember -- your name badge.

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# DANCE LESSONS

We had a great night of lessons. Wayne taught 18 calls and the students, and angles, are doing very well. We have 39 paid students.

This is from our Angel signup sheet (courtesy of Mark & Karen Hawkins):

Roger & Janelle Row, Richard & Jan Covington, Mark & Karen Hawkins, Joni & Jerry McClure, Margie & Dale Loven, Lucy & Ralph Hamm, Ron See, Mark Sherman, George Loxsom, Gary Amy, Kenneth & Sally Henneberger, Bob & Terri Pitts and Helen & Barry Feldman

That is 22 angels. Thank you for being there.

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## NORTEX SPOT LIGHT

### TRCA's CALLERS CAVALCADE

Friday November 1, 2013

(Future NTCA Stars 6:00 PM, Early Rounds 7:00 PM, Grand March 7:45 PM)

\$5.00 donation per person

(family package, children 18 or under get in free with an accompanying adult)

### ROUND UP 2013

Celebrating Texas' Heritage

The Yellow Rose of Texas



Featured Caller: Noah Siegmann

Staff Caller: Vernon Jones

Staff Cuer: JL Pelton

Saturday November 2, 2013

(All day & evening)

\$15 donation per person

(family package, children 18 or under get in free with an accompany adult)

Grapevine Convention Center

1209 South Main St., Grapevine, TX

(accommodations may be booked through NORTEX, see Hotel Reservation Form on [www.nortex.org](http://www.nortex.org))

Questions: Please call John & Shirley Currie (214) 557-2411 NORTEX Round-Up Chair or email: [round-upnortex.org](mailto:round-upnortex.org)

Download and print a copy of the 2013 ROUND UP registration from [www.nortex.org](http://www.nortex.org)

Complete the form and mail it to NTCA/NORTEX 2013, 7101 Dobbins Dr, Plano, TX 75025-5740

Make checks payable to NORTEX (no cash please)

Must be postmarked no later than 10/1/2013

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club meeting – officer election – will be November 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at Spring Creek BBQ on Hwy 75 in Richardson, TX.

Keep Bob & Terri Pitts family in your thoughts and prayers at the loss of Bob's mother, Graciela Salas Pitts. Visitation will be held 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2013 at Earthman Resthaven Funeral Home, with a Rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 2730 Nelwood Dr., Houston, Texas 77038, [www.stjohnneumannsa.org/](http://www.stjohnneumannsa.org/)

We have two new members, Doug and Jan Bergesen, they have been visiting, dancing as independents for some time. They are really great dancers. If you have not done so, invite them into a square, you will not regret it.

Please add November 8<sup>th</sup> to your calendar as our New Dancer Dance - more about this to come later.

**Keeping Your Swinging Stars With You** - Andy Piziali likes to keep a copy of the Swinging Stars roster on his [Palm Pilot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_pilot) ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm\\_pilot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_pilot)) so he periodically converts the published roster into a [CSV file](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values) ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated\\_values](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values)) that can be imported into his PDA. If you would like a copy of this file to import into your phone, PDA or other mobile device, **let him know** at (Andrew Piziali <[andy@piziali.dv.org](mailto:andy@piziali.dv.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Keeping Your Swinging Stars With You) and he will send you a copy.

Check out the GRaM committee web-site: [www.lifesjustadance.com](http://www.lifesjustadance.com) click on Lessons and then DFW Area Lessons Map. You will note a Star in Plano labeled "Swinging Stars". If you click this it will bring up our lessons flyer. This is just one of the things that has come out of the GRaM committee to help promote square dancing by advertising the lessons for each club.

NORTEX Grand Prize, the cruise, raffle tickets sales need to be completed before 10/01/2013. Raffle ticket stubs and money need to be turned in on 10/01/2013.

We have been on this cruise and it is really a fun one even without the square dancing but with dancing available each day—What a bargain! Several Swinging Stars have already booked the trip. We have had the flyers on the table at our dances but you can also see the flyer on Jerry Story's website.

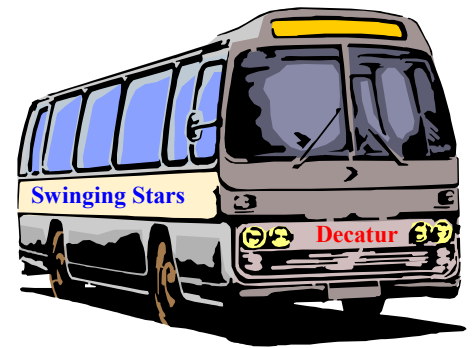
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## \* \* \* From Your 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs \* \* \*

Well, we were down and out another week with the loss of Bob's mom this past Thursday. We hope to get back into the square dancing scene this coming week – as mentioned in last week's report it is a great way to lift our spirits. And we want to mention how much we appreciate the diligence put into many of the dance write ups, again this week while we have been away, especially by Jim Bondi. He has been a real asset reporting on many visitations. And thanks to others over the last few weeks who have also taken the time to write up dance details including Lorraine Burson, Richard Covington, and Ralph Hamm.

This week's activities include a ladies luncheon on Monday at Casa Cha Cha in Richardson, our Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff club dance Friday night (it's not too late to let Gary Amy know you can bring a world class chili or dessert to enter into the fun competition), a Dixie Chainers dance at the Farmers Branch Senior Center, and a round dance special with the Harvest Holidays at Swingtime Center on Sunday. We hope to see you at some of these dances.

**Swinging Stars Bus Trip** – Still a few seats left on the bus going to the Decatur 8'ers anniversary Oktoberfest dance October 5<sup>th</sup>. We will leave from the parking lot of the Walmart in Plano at Spring Creek and US75 at 6:00PM sharp for Weatherford College in Bridgeport. The workshop starts at 7:30PM and the dance is from 8:00PM to 10:00PM, after which we will board the bus and return to Plano. A full dinner will be served at the dance. You should plan on fun and games while on the bus and make sure to bring snacks and beverages to enjoy on the return trip. Get your \$20 per person (first come, first served) to Bob or Terri ASAP to secure your seat (mail a check or bring to a dance).



The current Swinging Star banner inventory is shown below. If you visit a club whose banner we have, please don't bring home another one. We have no Swinging Stars banners out.

Club	Date Captured
Cotton Pickin' Squares	23-Mar-13
Dixie Chainers	10-Aug-13
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13
Lone Star Solos	28-Mar-13
North Star 8	09-Feb-13
Rebel Rousers	17-Aug-13
Roadrunners	04-Jul-13
Solitaires	03-Nov-12
Texas Reelers	19-Jul-13
Texoma Squares	01-Jun-13
Triangle Squares	30-Aug-13
Tri City Promenaders	26-Jan-13
T-Square Gadabouts	15-Feb-13
Yellow Rockers	18-Apr-13

## \* \* \* EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK \* \* \*

### **Plus 4's, Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

A whopping 22 Swinging Stars visited the Plus 4's in Farmers Branch Wednesday evening. Veteran caller Charles Quisenberry (aka "Quiz") drilled dancers through some serious training on tag the line, (anything and) rolls, and diamonds, and also challenged dancers with some all-position work on Tea Cup Chain. All had a terrific time. The visiting Swinging Stars were: P. Amy, the Bondis, Brandens, J. Duncan, Evantos, Hawkins, Lewises, Sees, Shermans, Starretts, Underwoods, and the Whipples. Thanks to Jim Bondi for the dance details.

### **Texas Reelers, Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

A half dozen Swinging Stars visited the Texas Reelers in Richardson on Friday. Rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide while squares were called by Deborah Carroll-Jones. As expected, Deborah called called brisk tips with some unusual moves to "keep dancers honest". In one special singing tip, she and hubby, Jon Jones, joined forces in a duet made especially memorable by cleverly injected original and sassy lyrics. All in attendance had a marvelous time. The visiting Swinging Stars were: the Bondis, Covingtons, and Smith / Hardin. The dance documentation was provided by Jim Bondi.

### **Kissin' Kuzzins, Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Four Swinging Stars visited the Kissin' Kuzzins at the Garland Senior Center Friday night. They enjoyed early rounds by cuer, JL Pelton, and a square dance workshop by caller, Wayne Baldwin. As always with the Kissin' Kuzzins, it was a friendly and fun night of dancing. The Swinging Stars who attended were: the Hamms and the Harrises. Thanks to Ralph Hamm for sharing the dance details.

### **Rebel Rousers, Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Several Swinging Stars visited the Rebel Rousers Saturday night at the Richardson Senior Center. Jack von der Heide manned the cueing with his usual funny self and professional calling style. The caller, Mike Bramlett, was in rare form throwing unusual formations at the square dancers and calling patterns to catch the dancers anticipating his next call off guard. The Rebel Rousers put on a spread of chips, cheese dip, sausage links, chopped vegetables and an assortment deserts. The Swinging Stars who attended the dance included: P. Amy, the Covingtons, Dennisons, Evantos, and the Harrises. Richard Covington graciously provided the dance details.

## **\* \* \* COMING EVENTS \* \* \***

### **Ladies Luncheon, Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Location: Casa Cha Cha (3613 Shire Blvd, Suite 180, Richardson, TX)

Website: <http://www.casachacha.com/>

Time: 11:30PM

Hostess: Fran Bivins

Notes: Let Fran know if you plan to attend (email: [GBivins1@msn.com](mailto:GBivins1@msn.com) ph: 972.495.6925)

### **Swinging Stars, Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)

Website: <http://www.swingingstars.org>

Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / dance – 8:00PM

Caller: Wayne Baldwin

Cuer: Walter Brewer

Theme: Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff

Notes: Come prepared to taste and judge chilis and desserts prepared by your fellow Swinging Stars

### **Dance of Interest – Dixie Chainers, Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Farmers Branch Senior Center (14055 Dennis Lane, Farmers Branch, TX)

Website: <http://www.dixiechainers.com/>

Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / grand march – 7:30PM

Caller: Vernon Jones

Cuer: Jack von der Heide

Theme: n/a

Notes: n/a

### **Harvest Holidays, Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX)

Website: <http://www.harvestholiday.com/>

Time: Round dance – 2:00PM

Caller: n/a

Cuer: Jack Kinney

Theme: Autumn Fun Rounds

Notes: Phase 2, 3, and 4 rounds

## **Official – Decatur 8'ers, Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> (BUS TRIP DANCE – see details above)**

Location: Weatherford College (5180 US Highway 380, Bridgeport, TX)

Website: <http://www.decaturn8ers.com/>

Time: Workshop – 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM

Caller: Vernon Jones

Cuer: Jack von der Heide

Theme: Oktoberfest

Notes: This is a Double Deal anniversary dance, full German dinner will be served

## **\* \* \* SPECIAL WEEKEND DANCE OPPORTUNITIES \* \* \***

### **Houston Hoedown, November 8-9<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Lone Star Convention Center (9055 Airport, Conroe, TX)

Website: <http://www.squarethru.com/hoedown.htm>

Callers: Hunter Keller and Houston area callers

Cuer: Randy Preskitt

### **Log Cabin Swingers Jerry Story weekend, November 8-10<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Promenade Hall (1210 N. Tool Dr., Tool, TX)

Website: <http://swingingstars.org/storytime2013.pdf>

Caller: Jerry Story

Cuer: Walter Brewer

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## **REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION**

September 27

Dennison, Hardin/Smith, Maier

October 11

Gifford, Nejd, Hamm, McGuire

October 25

Amy, Lewis, Kilejian\*, Meyer

\*New Club Members – can be leaders after one year as club member

**The lead couple should contact all members on the team to be sure they know the following:**

- What they are going to bring for refreshments.
- Arrive at dance by 7:00 pm. As per our contract with PISD, we cannot enter the gym before 7:00.
- Enter thru the Gym door.
- Refreshments shut down at 9:30 pm (no earlier).
- If you take home a refreshment bag check that it has all the items listed on the Fluorescent Hang Tag on the bag.
- Be sure all items are clean.
- Repack bags in a Tidy Manner.

**Refreshment Duty Reminders:**

**If you have a conflict with the Refreshment Schedule**

- Please contact someone on the refreshment list to trade with you.
- Notify the refreshment schedulers: Jeff & Anne Stuart at 972-699-1317 or email: [jwstuart@flash.net](mailto:jwstuart@flash.net) with the names of your schedule changes.
- Attend the dance prior to your turn for refreshments to pick up the three bags. If unable to do so be sure that someone picks them up for you.
- Check refreshment Bags for the info regarding “Refreshment Duty Tips” and “List of Items Supplied by the Club”.



- Contact **Mark & Karen Hawkins** at 972-436-4868 or [1stVP@swingingstars.org](mailto:1stVP@swingingstars.org) for supplies prior to purchasing by Monday prior to club dance. They may already have what you need.

Thank you all for serving on our Refreshment Team.

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## Upcoming Advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances



September 27, 2013

Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff



October 25, 2013

Boot Scootin'

Show Your Colors Ball



Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – Cavalcade at Roundup will run from 6:00 – 10:00 on November 1<sup>st</sup>

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – New Dancers Dance

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – Stars Annual Holiday Party**

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – NORTEX Toys for Tots dance will be at the Richardson Civic Center

**Friday, January 31, 2014 – Swinging Stars 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance at All Saints Catholic Church**

### Themes:

August 23, 2013 - Take Me Out to the Ballgame

September 27, 2013 - Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff

October 25, 2013 - Boot Scootin' Show Your Colors Ball – Double Deal Dance

November 22, 2013 – Shake Your Tail Feathers Dance (Thanksgiving falls on November 28, 2013)

December 13, 2013 - Toys & Books for Kids Holiday Ball

February 14, 2014 - Valentine's Day Dance

**Future Dates Reserved with NORTEX:**

Friday, October 31, 2014 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Friday)\*

Saturday, January 31, 2015 – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance (Fifth Saturday)

Saturday, October 31, 2015 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)\*

Saturday, January 30, 2016 – 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dance (Fifth Saturday)

Saturday, October 29, 2016 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)\*

\*provided these dates do not conflict with the NORTEX Round Up Dance weekend

Mark the dates on your calendar right now.....



63rd National Square Dance Convention®

June 25 - 28, 2014

Little Rock, Arkansas

Website: [www.63nsdc.com](http://www.63nsdc.com) & Facebook under the 63rd National Square Dance Convention®.

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**For information about weekend dances go to our Web Page [www.swingingstars.org](http://www.swingingstars.org) and click on Weekends. Go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swinging-Stars-Square-Round-Dance-Club> - "like us," view picture, post pictures, comments about anything what you enjoy about square dancing or a specific dance.**

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Dave and Lorraine have agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee for this fall as a slate of officers needs to be re-elected at our November Club meeting. Roger & Janelle Row and Ralph & Lucy Hamms have also volunteered. We would like to have one or two additional couples. If you are interested, contact me, Jan, Dave or Lorraine.

Remember our Sunshine person is Debbie Piziali and you can email her at [debbie@piziali.dv.org](mailto:debbie@piziali.dv.org) or her phone number is 214-552-9802. Please call her with anything that we need to be aware of in regards to sickness or other issues.

**RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON**

**Swinging Stars, President**

**Email: [president@swingingsstars.org](mailto:president@swingingsstars.org)**

**Phones: (972) 325-1144**