

Pre-Convention Activities

Sunday – June 21, 2026

9:00 AM – Board of Directors Board Meeting

Guadalupe

3:00 – 5:00 PM – Registration Packet Pick-up

Three Rivers Pre-Function

Early birds may check in and pick up their convention packet. Convention education staff will be on hand to answer questions and sign-up session MCs.

6:00 PM – Meet Your Mentor

Three Rivers Pre-Function

This time is designed for all first-time attendees to gather and meet with their mentors. This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have about the Convention and get some advice based on experience.

7:00 PM – Welcome Reception

Three Rivers Pre-Function

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and catch up with everyone attending the Convention. Make sure to take a moment to chat with the Board of Directors and various committee chairs (identified by ribbons on their badges). This gathering provides a chance to renew acquaintances and make new friends, especially the first timers. Registration packets will be available for pick up.

----- **8:00 PM – Optional Breakout Group** -----

Dance Wizard

Cottonwood A

50th ROUNDALAB Convention Activities

Monday – June 22, 2026

8:00 AM – Gathering Time & Meet Your Board

Cottonwood C

Come to gather with friends before the opening Business Meeting and meet your current Board of Directors. They will introduce themselves, so you can find them throughout the Convention to share your thoughts and ideas about ROUNDALAB.

8:30 AM – Opening Business Meeting

Cottonwood C

Terri Wilaby, Chair of the Board of Directors, will be presiding along with Al Hipkins, Executive Administrator. The Board of Directors and VIPs will be introduced. All will present an overview of the Convention. Remember to bring your folder.

10:00 AM – Beverage Break

Sabine/Lavaca

10:15 AM – Does Your Mic Really Make a Difference?

Cottonwood C

Dancers need to clearly hear what we cue and teach to dance smoothly. Even with clear enunciation of your words, your microphone might be working against you. Everyone's voice is unique and finding the proper microphone for your voice and usage is essential in helping our dancers find success. Come learn what to look for in a microphone, so it works for you and your dancers!

11:00 AM – Break (No Beverages)

----- **11:05 AM – Breakout Sessions** -----

Choreographic Flow

Cottonwood C

Do your dancers seem to regularly sit out certain dancers? More informative, do they let you know those dancers are uncomfortable? When creating new choreography, how can you keep dancers moving on the dance floor comfortably? Learn ways to review your choreography for smooth dancing and body flow. Let's identify choreographic connections/sequences that could challenge the dancers' ability to move smoothly.

Welcome to West Coast Swing

South

Entering the standards manuals in 1989 in Oklahoma City, the first figures were approved as experimental, unapproved standards. Over the years, the timing has changed and many new figures have been added. Come learn how to easily introduce this fun rhythm to your dancers and how to help them avoid some beginning challenges.

Moving On With Kiss

North

Are your students struggling with understanding a new figure? Are you running out of ways to explain the figure? This session will teach you how to recognize the components that make up a figure and how you can help your dancers assess their prior knowledge to complete more difficult figures.

12:00 PM – Lunch

Sabine/Lavaca

----- 1:15 PM – Breakout Sessions -----

Intro to Rounds: This is what I do. What do you do?

Cottonwood C

Each teacher has their own approach to leading an Intro to Rounds. Some prefer to teach a specific rhythm or dance while others prefer to expose new dancers to the basics of dancing and all rhythms. Join this discussion and learn from each other different approaches and why they can work.

Taking West Coast to the Next Level

South

After your dancers have fallen in love with West Coast Swing, how will you keep the excitement going? This interactive session will workshop many intermediate figures. With a focus on body mechanics and styling, learn new ways to help teach your student the proper way to execute these fun West Coast figures.

Advanced Merengue – Keeping It Fun!

North

AS figures and technique need to get more advanced, it is easy to forget the fun of dancing a rhythm. While digging into various advanced merengue figures, you will learn exciting ways to help your students better understand how to execute the figures while still having fun dancing this exciting Latin rhythm.

2:10 PM – Break (No Beverage)

----- Round Robin Sessions (Standards) -----

During the next 2 hours, you will not have to choose which session you want to attend, as you will get to attend all 3! You will start in the session that matches your last initial and rotate through all the sessions. The presenters will stay put in their room and while you get up and moving. No voting will happen during these Standards presentations.

2:20 PM – Rotation 1

[A-F] Classic Cue Sheets, Manual Changes, Glossary & Abbreviations

Cottonwood C

[G-N] Phase III, Phase IV Latin, Phase IV Smooth, STS Consortium

South

[O-Z] Phase II, Phase VI, Hustle Consortium

North

3:00 PM – Beverage Break

Sabine/Lavaca

3:10 PM – Rotation 2

[O-Z] Classic Cue Sheets, Manual Changes, Glossary & Abbreviations

Cottonwood C

[A-F] Phase III, Phase IV Latin, Phase IV Smooth, STS Consortium

South

[G-N] Phase II, Phase VI, Hustle Consortium

North

3:50 PM – Rotation 3

[G-N] Classic Cue Sheets, Manual Changes, Glossary & Abbreviations

Cottonwood C

[O-Z] Phase III, Phase IV Latin, Phase IV Smooth, STS Consortium

South

[A-F] Phase II, Phase VI, Hustle Consortium

North

4:35 PM – S&P Committee Meeting

Cottonwood C

S&P Committee Members Only

5:30 PM – Dinner

Sabine/Lavaca

7:30 PM – Evening Dance

North/South

Tuesday – June 23, 2026

8: 00 AM – Business Meeting

Cottonwood C

Terri Wilaby, Chair of the Board of Directors, will be presiding. Remember to bring your folder and vote card.

9:45 AM – Beverage Break

Sabine/Lavaca

----- 10:00 AM – Breakout Sessions -----

Working With Partners

Cottonwood C

Not all teaching units are the same, but all teachers involved play an important role in the education of our dancers. Come learn how these four teaching units work to teach their dancers. Each has their own style that works for them and they will help you find your partnership's identity.

Swingin' through Advanced

South

This session will help you to understand and better dance several Phase V and Phase VI West Coast figures. The key to round dance improvement is to not only think in terms of "steps," but also to learn the "feel" of correctly doing those steps with a partner and then to "hear" the music so the figure fits.

Latin Flourishes

North

Dancing the Latin rhythms is more than just putting your feet in the right place. It is about connecting with your partner and showing off for those watching. While each couple adds their own styling to how they dance, this session will provide multiple flourishes you can try out and incorporate directly into your dancing. Come learn to be a little showy, sassy, and sexy in your Latin dancing.

11:25 AM – Break (No Beverages)

----- 11:30 AM – Breakout Sessions -----

Classic Voting: How Does It Work?

Cottonwood C

Every year we are asked to vote on the classics, but do you understand how the process works? How does a dance become a Classic or a Golden Classic? When does a dance become eligible? Come learn how it all works and the important role that you play in the process.

You Asked For It? – Phase II & III

South

When it comes to explaining a figure to our students, sometimes we get stuck coming up with new ways to explain it. Our Mini-Lab Clinicians will offer their suggestions and discuss approaches to teaching various suggested figures from Phase II and III.

Picture Figures, in the Phases...

North

How can we help our dancers to successfully generate those picture-perfect figures we all strive for in our dancing? In this interactive session, you will learn various techniques for your advanced dancers that you can easily integrate into your teaching.

12:00 PM – Lunch

Sabine/Lavaca

----- **Round Robin Sessions** -----

During the next 3 hours, you will get to attend all 3 sessions! You will start in the session that matches your last initial and rotate through all the sessions.

1:15 PM – Rotation 1

[A-F] Characteristics of Rhythms

Cottonwood C

What makes each rhythm unique to dance? There are specific characteristics to each rhythm that are considered when new figures or rhythms are created. These characteristics are provided in the manuals but are easily missed by teachers. Learn where to find the characteristics and how they make various rhythms unique.

[G-N] Left Turning Figures

South

There are many figures that turn to the left and they build off each other in a nice progression. Come understand how you can help your dancers start to turn left and then how to use their prior understanding of left turning figures to better execute new figures that turn left.

[O-Z] Turn and Step or Step and Turn

North

When it comes to rotations, do you turn then step or do you step and turn? This action has confounded dancers for years and many don't even know that there is a difference. Come learn how to help your dancers better understand when the rotation happens as they execute rotating figures.

2:10 PM – Break (No Beverage)

2:15 PM – Rotation 2

[O-Z] Characteristics of Rhythms

Cottonwood C

[A-F] Left Turning Figures

South

[G-N] Turn and Step or Step and Turn

North

3:10 PM – Beverage Break

Sabine/Lavaca

3:25 PM – Rotation 3

[G-N] Characteristics of Rhythms

Cottonwood C

[O-Z] Left Turning Figures

South

[A-F] Turn and Step or Step and Turn

North

4:20 PM – S&P Committee Meeting

Cottonwood C

Open Meeting for all about S&P Issues

5:30 PM – Dinner

Sabine/Lavaca

7:30 PM – Evening Dance

North/South

Wednesday – June 24, 2026

8: 00 AM – Business Meeting

Cottonwood C

Terri Wilaby, Chair of the Board of Directors, will be presiding. Remember to bring your folder and vote card.

9:45 AM – Beverage Break

Sabine/Lavaca

----- 10:00 AM – Breakout Sessions -----

Cha Cha Teaching Progression

Cottonwood C

The Teaching Progression committee has been around for many years working on developing teaching progressions to help teachers understand what figures build off each other. This moderated interactive session will work to revamp the Cha Cha teaching progression. You will have a direct say in what future teachers use.

Fingertip to Fingertip: Using Your Arms to Dance

South

Dancing is so much fun, but executing the steps is only part of dance. By adding some arm work and styling, you make the dance you own. Take your dancing to the next level as you learn how you can add styling and arm work to figures you already know.

Let me tell you about Tele Figures

North

Continue your left turning figure deep dive with a look at the Tele Family. This family of figures builds off each other, sharing many characteristics. Come learn how to use the family progression to better execute the figures and find new ways to teach them to your dancers.

11:25 AM – Break (No Beverages)

----- 11:30 AM – Breakout Sessions -----

ROUNDALAB: How We Started

Cottonwood C

As we celebrate our 50th Roundalab Convention, come delve into the rich history of the organization. Learn about the origins, growth, and milestones from over the past five decades and how Roundalab has shaped the world of Round Dancing.

You Asked For It? – Phase III & IV

South

Do you struggle with reaching different learners while explaining a figure? Our Mini-Lab Clinicians will offer multiple suggestions and discuss different approaches to teaching various suggested figures from Phase III and IV. Come with questions, leave with multiple solutions!

Leading is Respectful Connection with Intent to Move Harmoniously

North

How can you help your dancers with learning to lead and follow? Learn how the leader guides the couple and how the follower responds to these nonverbal signals. You'll even learn how to easily teach this to your dancers. This will be a very informative presentation for all levels of dancers and teachers!

12:00 PM – Lunch

Sabine/Lavaca

----- 1:05 PM – Golden Classic Teach Sessions -----

Green Door

South

Written by Charlie and Bettye Procter of Dallas, Texas, this Phase II Jive/One Step was published in 1964. Since becoming one of the first Golden Classics in 1988, *Green Door* has continued to be a popular dance around the world. Come learn how to teach this historically classic dance.

Patricia

North

Charlie Walkinshaw and Sharel Goss of Vancouver, BC, Canada wrote *Patricia* in 1975. When it became a Phase III+1 Two Step Golden Classic in 1992, it helped solidify that Roundalab was an international organization. Learn how you can teach this fun dance to your dancers.

2:10 PM – Break (No Beverage)

----- 2:15 PM – Golden Classic Teach Sessions -----

Tampa Jive

South

John and Mary Macuci, of District Heights, Maryland, wrote this Phase V+2+1 Jive in 1985. Since becoming a Golden Classic in 1994, it has continued to be a popular dance with dancers the world over. Learn how you can teach this dance to your dancers.

Street Fair

North

Street Fair is a Phase II Two step written by Paul and Laura Merola of Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Highly popular when it came out in May of 1972, it became one of the first Golden Classics in 1988. Come learn this very accessible dance that your dancers will enjoy!

3:20 PM – Beverage Break

Sabine/Lavaca

3:30 PM – Protecting Your Voice

Cottonwood C

We all use our voice every day, but are we consciously remembering to take care of it? There are many stressors that affect our ability to continue to communicate throughout the year. Come learn from a professional singer about how your voice works and ways to make sure that you are maintaining a healthy voice for life!

4:25 PM – Possible Committee Meetings

Cottonwood C

5:30 PM – Social Gathering

Sabine/Lavaca

Gather with other attendees for conversation before the Awards Banquet. A cash bar will be available.

6:15 PM – Awards Banquet

Sabine/Lavaca

8:00 PM – 50th Anniversary Dance

North

Following the Awards Banquet, join us for our 50th Anniversary Dance. This celebration is presented in conjunction with the 75th National Convention.