

# Belles Run



## The Towne Crier

The latest news from Belles Run Philadelphia 2019



### Belle

Hey,

*It's about time that I introduce myself! I'm Belle and I'm here to spread the news about the HUGE event going on in my hometown of Philadelphia in 2019. We will be hosting the 36th Annual IAGSDC Convention, Belles Run!*

*Appropriately named after me, it's happening right here in beautiful Center City Philly from July 4th through the 7th. And, let me tell you, what better place to be on the 4th of July than in Philadelphia where all that stuff happened over 200 years ago. Believe you me, besides hours and hours of the most fabulous square dancing ever; there will be fireworks like only Philly can do. And they will be right down the street by them steps. You know, the ones that my buddy Rocky and me ran up in that movie. You know this Belle can run!*

*Now I know I already met some of youse in Palm Springs and I gotta thank you for the beautiful welcome you gave me. You guys really showed me a lotta love. That gang in Palm Springs really knows how to throw a party. I'm a party girl from way back so I know a good party! Now's my chance to return the favor. Guess what, the folks in Philly can party, too. Yeah, we got all of that history including my twin sister, Liberty Belle, who hangs out near Independence Hall. We got the Betsy Ross House where she sewed our flag and the oldest inhabited street in the U.S., Elfreth's Alley, and way, way more stuff like that. I'll tell youse all about that later.*

*And, we've got art! A beautiful museum at the top of the Rocky steps (but don't let the artsy crowd hear you call them that, they don't appreciate it.), the newly moved Barnes Foundation museum, and the Rodin Museum. The Rodin Museum is free, but they do ask for a donation. And we here in Philly are proud 'cause it's the largest collection of Rodin outside of Paris. And a bunch of other museums we'll talk about later. And guess what, they're all an easy walk from our host hotel, The Sheraton Downtown! We also got the Gayborhood, packed with bars and dance clubs and restaurants, with rainbow flags everywhere. You can eat and party all night. But after dancing all day to our fabulous callers, I just don't have that kind of energy anymore.*

*And, the restaurants! Let me tell you. In the past few years, my little city has become a world-class destination for gourmet dining. Who would have thought? Back in the day when all we had was Bookbinders and the Melrose Diner, who knew this would be the case. But now your taste buds are in for a big treat because we got all kinds of restaurants. Lots of them I can't pronounce, with foods I never even heard of. But I'm game to try them all. So, look forward to lots of restaurant suggestions in the future.*

*And talking about food, I would be run out of town if I didn't mention the staples of Philly*

cuisine; cheesesteaks, hoagies, and soft pretzels! There are all kinds of debates about where to get the best steak and what to put on it, blah, blah, blah. But for me, it's all about the bread. If you ain't got them good Italian rolls, then forget about it.

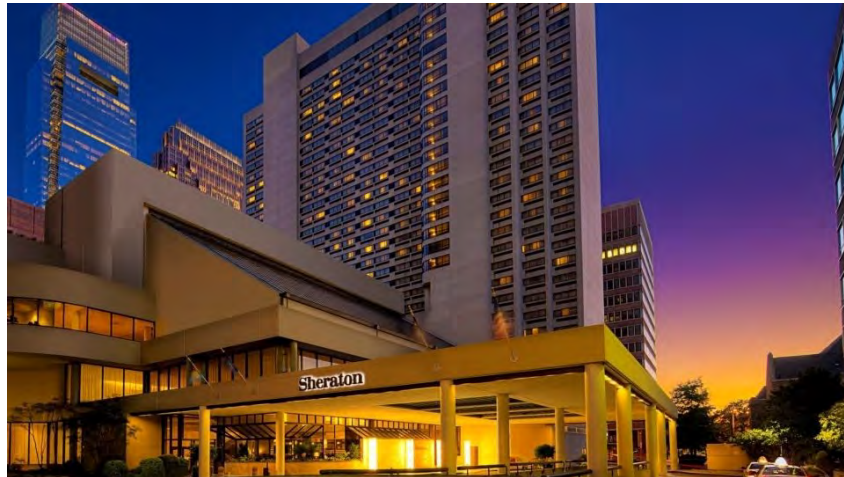
And guess what! All of this history, art, nightlife, and food is just a walk or short cab ride from our host hotel, the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel on the Parkway.

I can't wait until I get to show you how fabulous Philly is and look forward to being your hostess with the mostest. In the meantime, I will be traveling around the US and Canada to get to know all of you better and personally welcome you to the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection!

Look for me in your city sometime soon; I'll have bells on. Get it?

Belle

[Belles Run Website](#)



## The Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown

Okay, let me tell you a little bit about our host hotel for the convention, the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. Even though reservations don't begin until July of 2018, I thought you might want some info about where we'll be staying. After all, a girl needs to plan ahead. At least, that's what my mother always told me.

Belle

The [Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel](#) is in a great location. It's a short walk from the train station and even shorter cab or Uber ride. There's a train from the airport which stops at most terminals and takes you to Suburban Station, about a three block walk to the hotel.

The hotel is just off of The Benjamin Franklin Parkway. In 2017 Philly is having the centennial celebration of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia's grand cultural boulevard with [Parkway 100](#). The Parkway is home to many of Philadelphia's cultural institutions. Closest to the hotel is Philly's Roman Catholic Cathedral, the [Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul](#), the new [Mormon Temple](#), and the fabulous [Swann Fountain](#) designed by Alexander S. Calder. As a matter of fact, you'll see works by three generations of Calders on the Parkway.

Farther up the parkway, you'll find the [Free Library](#), in a really fabulous neoclassical building, the [Franklin Institute](#), and the [Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University](#). Keep going, because just past that are the recently relocated [Barnes](#)

[Hotel Website](#)



### Our Calling Staff

*I just gotta tell you about our calling staff. Later, I'm gonna give you the dirt, but now I just gotta introduce them before I bust. Because we got some of the best callers in the world to get you out on the dance floor and keep you moving.*

*We got callers from the East Coast, the West Coast, the Midwest and, even another country, Canada! I'm telling you, Philly is an international destination, you gotta believe me! And talking about gotta believe, Philly's famous for two Betsys. Betsy Ross, who sewed our flag and has a house over on Arch Street, for one. We also have one of Independence Squares' very own, also an expert seamstress, my girl, the fabulous Betsy Gotta! Yes, we got Betsy Gotta from Jersey, just across the river and then some. Also from the East Coast, we have Dayle Hodge from Maryland, just down 95, and Geo Jedlicka, from northern Jersey, just up the turnpike. These local boys are always good for a challenge.*

*From Chicago, we have Sandie Bryant. This girl likes to have fun so Belle knows who she'll be hanging with. And from California, we got Vic Ceder and Michael Kellogg. They will keep this Belle on her toes! We have two Canadians, Anne Uebelacker, who now calls Washington state her home, and Barry Clasper. These two may be foreigners, but they ain't strangers to our fair city. We welcome them back with open arms.*

*Babe, if that ain't enough for you, there will be lots more GCA callers. Don't worry; I'll keep you posted. See you in Philly for Belles Run 2019!*

Belle

[Meet Our Callers](#)



### Cruisin' On The Delaware

*Hey Babe, I'm here to talk about cruising on the Delaware. Now, let me tell you, I don't do a lot of cruisin' on the Delaware by Penn's Landing no more. Not since they moved the shipyards farther south. But I could tell you stories you wouldn't believe!*

*But this ain't that kind of cruising. I'm talking about a dinner and dancing cruise on the Spirit of Philadelphia. And believe you me, this cruise will be a lot safer and healthier and way more fun! You'll get a nice dinner, some time on the dance floor, and you get to see the city from the water. And best of all is, I'll be there!*

*You just gotta come cruising with me!*

Love Ya,

Belle

Join Belle on the [Spirit of Philadelphia](#) for an evening of dining and dancing on the historic Delaware River. This fabulous dance party is on July 7 following the Trail Out Dance and Closing Ceremonies. Transportation will be provided from the Sheraton to Penn's Landing and back again. Although, if it's a nice night, you may consider a leisurely stroll through Old City and Downtown to get back. It would take about 30 minutes or more depending on your pace or how many bars you stop at along the way.

The price, which includes dinner, dancing, sightseeing, and transportation is \$110 until May 15, 2019. Save \$10 by booking your cruise when you register for the convention if you book before May 15, 2019.

[Spirit Website](#)

### Just a Peek at Some of My Travels...

*Like I said, I like to get around. Here's a peek at some of my recent travels. I hope to get to your town. Keep up with my travels on the [Belles Run Facebook page](#). Be sure to ask to join the page while you are there.*



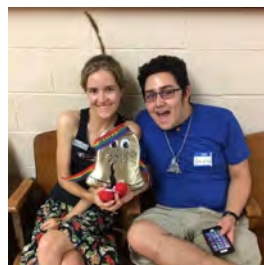
#### Cuesta Squares

*Here I am in San Luis Obispo, hanging with the Cuesta Squares.*



#### Hooking Up

*Hooking up with the callers was a good time. Don't I look exhausted. I let them peal me!*



#### Making Friends

*Hoping to see Caitlyn and David in Philly in 2019.*

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