Pre-convention CDP meeting

Plans are solidifying for the CDP meeting ahead of the April convention. So far over 30 dance leaders and their spouses have committed to attend. Several more leaders are trying to rearrange their schedules to attend.

We’ll start on Saturday evening with dinner at 6:30 P.M. at the Grand Concourse in Station Square. This restaurant provides fine seafoods and meats in the Edwardian splendor of a 1901 main dining room. Prices start at about $15.00 per person plus a 15% tip. People will be able to order off the menu. Station Square also has 18 other restaurants and is accessible via a trolley car from the Westin.

Following the dinner, we’ll return to the Westin for dancing, exchanging ideas, etc. The session will be tape recorded. Participants are requested to bring records and dances.

Sunday morning we will have breakout sessions on various topics of interest followed by a general session to wrap up the meeting.

Sunday afternoon from 3:00-5:00 PM the CDP Committee will host a dance for the incoming convention members. All CDP leaders are invited to participate in presenting material at this dance.

If you would like to attend this meeting and have not already contacted me, call or write.

Calvin Campbell, 343 Turf Ln. Castle Rock, CO 80104. Tel: 303-790-7921. AOL: CalCampbel

Canadian National Convention will feature CDP

The 10th Canadian Square and Round Dance Convention will feature a program on the Community Dance Program. The Canadian National Conventions are held every two years. The next convention will be in Edmonton, Alberta on July 18-27, 1996.

Andy and Hope Pennock, Program Chaircouple said, “This is the first time a Community Dance Program has been scheduled for our national conventions, so I am looking forward to putting together a program.”

They are looking for suggestions. Please send ideas to Andy and Hope Pennock, 10538 67 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6H 1Z6. Andy will also be attending the CALLERLAB Convention.

The CDP Video Progress Report

The CDP Committee will be producing educational/promotion video(s) in the next few months. The Denver Area Dance Council is supplying dancers and the video will be produced through the facilities of public access TV in Littleton, Colorado. Dianne Gum has been producing a square dance television show named “Dancing Around Denver” through these same facilities since 1983.

The first video will be 20-30 minutes in length and will illustrate the many facets of the Community Dance Program. The purpose will be two fold. First, to educate callers and other leaders on the versatility of the CDP. Second, to provide a video which can be shown to recreation departments, schools, churches, dancer associations, caller associations etc. to get people interested in sponsoring Community Dance Programs in their area.

Following this there will be a feasibility study to produce several instructional tapes of about 30 minutes in length. The goal will be to provide detailed instructions on what and how to teach. We are looking for suggestions from CDP leaders on what has worked best in their experience. We also need to have suggestions on dances and music. Send all information to:

Calvin Campbell
343 Turf Ln.
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Attention

Do you have any issues you wish to have discussed at either the CDP sessions ahead of CALLERLAB or at the CDP Committee Meeting? Send items to;

Ken Kernen
Chairman CDP Committee
9001 Galaxia Way NE
Albuquerque, NM
87111-1440
Friendships Are Very Important.
by Cal Campbell

Most people have limitations on how much they can or wish to learn about dancing. When they have either satisfied their interest in learning or reached their limitations in dancing ability then other factors take over. Many of these people can be retained in a recreation by the careful cultivation of other reasons to stay within the group.

A very strong factor in retaining dancers over a long period of time depends on the friendships that are made within any group of dancers and the support these friends give each other. People will continue to attend dances if they feel they have the support of friends. They will often come to dances even when they cannot dance, for some reason, if they have the opportunity to see and visit with these friends.

The promotion of friendships among dancers should be an active part of every set of lessons and every dance a club conducts. This can be started through the dance material that is chosen, but it must be continued through every aspect of an evening or long term planning of a recreation program.

The dance material chosen for the evening is the obvious point to start. The leader(s) must know the capabilities of each of the dancers in depth. Then they must plan a careful blend of dances that include fun, learning, surprise, nostalgia, excitement, tenderness, sadness, challenge, and relaxation. The dance leader is like a conductor of an orchestra. To get the best out of the orchestra he or she must know the capabilities of each piece. Then they must draw on the strengths of all the pieces and get everyone to work together as a team.

The dancers play a strong role in the success of all this. They must be willing to try new things. They take an active role in seeing that everyone feels successful. Most of all they must be friends to each other and support one another. A lot of this can be achieved by smiling and enjoying whatever happens. Part of it must be strong support of the dance leadership and the people who handle other details of running the dance.

If dancers are to become friends, then they must be given the opportunity to cultivate these friendships. Teaching dance styles where people are encouraged to smile at each other, make eye contact at various points during each dance and be aware they are dancing as part of a coordinated team effort will help. Dancers will feel a lot less need to do-their-own-thing when they feel they are part of a team and dancing as part of that team is part of the fun.

Time must also be provided to build friendships through other social interaction. During the dance breaks, space should be provided where people can visit. Refreshments should be placed in an area away from the dance floor. Leaders should expect that dancers will want to take time out from dancing to just visit. The more enthusiastic dancers need to realize that dancing may be the bricks that build a club, but friendships are the mortar that keep it together.

Events should be provided outside of the dance program to cement friendships. This can often take the form of going out after the dance to someplace for refreshments. Pick a place where people can sit around large tables. Plan the ending time of the dance to allow this type of activity to take place without keeping people up too late.

Another way is to take off an evening from the usual dance schedule and do something different as a group. Your dance leaders should play a prominent role in this. It will give them the opportunity to get to know people on a one-to-one basis and for people to feel that they are friends.

Finally, don’t get too serious about the dancing. That’s not what it is really all about. We live in a world of competition most of the time. Dancing needs to be one of the places where we can escape and relax with friends and friends are what is most important.

Mixer

Ken wrote this mixer for the CALLERLAB Convention held in 1994 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

B. C. SWING
by Ken Kemen

Formation: Circle of couples in open position facing LOD, inside hands joined.
Record: Suggested music - Sunny Mood, CEM 37036, or Ginger Snap, Grenn 15015
Footwork: Opposite throughout, man starts with left, lady starts with right, steps described are for the man.

Measures

1-4 (In Butterfly LOD) Heel, Toe, Side, Close, Side; Heel, Toe, Side, Close, Side
5-8 Walk Four; Lady Under, Change Sides
9-12 (In Butterfly RLOD) Heel, Toe, Side, Close, Side; Heel, Toe, Side, Close, Side
13-16 Walk Four; Lady Under, Change Sides

Description

1-4 HEEL, TOE, SIDE, CLOSE, SIDE; HEEL, TOE, SIDE, CLOSE, SIDE
In butterfly position, man’s back to COH, touch left heel out to left side then left toe beside right foot. Move in LOD by stepping to left on left foot, close right to left, step left to side again. Repeat all with opposite footwork moving in opposite direction (RLOD) to end in open position facing LOD.

5-8 WALK, 2, 3, 4; LADY UNDER, CHANGE SIDES

Cont' Pg 3
Walk forward in LOD four steps, then in four steps both change sides with the lady crossing under their joined hands making a one half left face turn while the man walks around the lady in a clockwise direction one half. End facing in butterfly position.

9-16 REPEAT MEASURES 1 - 8 in RLOD

NOTE: To change this dance into a mixer, in measures 15-16, after the dancers have changed sides, direct the men to move forward to the next lady.

To add additional variety to the dance, change the single heel and toe to a double heel and toe in the same single measure of music.

Solo Dance

About three or four years ago I found a hoedown record that I just couldn’t seem to use as a hoedown. It had too much melody for my limited voice. I liked the music so Judy and I wrote a solo (line) dance for it. Since then I’ve found that it dances very well to Ricky Van Shelton singing Wild Man and a couple of other CW records.

It has proved to be a very popular dance in the Denver area and has even migrated to several other areas of the country as well. The dance teaches the difference between touch and taking weight on a foot very nicely.

Rocky Mountain Scramble
Calvin & Judy Campbell

Formation: Scattered, all facing one direction to start.
Record: “Popps Hoedown” YR 102 or “Wild Man” 38-74748

Counts

Intro Will vary with music chosen.

1-4 Vine Right & Touch
Step to right with right foot, step behind with left foot, step to right with right foot and touch the toe of the left foot beside the right foot.

5-8 Vine Left & Touch
Step to left with left foot, step behind with right foot, step to left with left foot and touch the toe of the right foot to the floor beside the left foot.

9-12 Walk Forward Three Steps & Swing
Starting with the right foot, take three steps forward (R, L, R) and swing the left foot forward.

13-16 Back Up Three Steps & Touch
Starting with the left foot, take three steps backward (L, R, L) and touch the right toe to the floor beside the left foot.

17-20 Point Right Foot Forward, Side, Back & Close
Lightly touch the right toe to the floor three times, moving in a diamond pattern (forward, to the side and on to the back). End by bringing the right foot up beside the left foot and changing weight to the right foot.

21-24 Point Left Foot Forward, Side, Back & Touch
Lightly touch the left toe to the floor three times, moving in a diamond pattern (forward, to the side and on to the back). End by bringing the left foot up beside the right foot and touch the left toe to the floor.

25-28 Step Slow Left, Slow Right
Starting with the left foot take two slow steps forward (L, R) in four beats of music.

29-32 Quick, Quick, Quick & Turn
Take three quicks steps (L, R, L) forward and on the third step with the left foot turn one quarter right face to end with the weight on the left foot and the right knee lifted slightly, ready for the routine to begin again.

CDP Events at the 1995 National SD Convention

The Birmingham convention will host both a panel discussion and a clinic on the Community Dance Program.

The clinic will be from 3:00-4:45 PM on Thursday, June 22nd. Cal Campbell will demonstrate the wide variety of dances available under the Community Dance Program concept. The small syllabus will be provided at cost.

The panel discussion will be Friday, June 23 from 1:00-2:45 PM. Cal Campbell, Mike Seastrum and Stan Burdick will be the panelists.

We are making progress gang. Let’s try and see how much interest and attendance we can get to these events. The NEC will use this to determine what happens in 1996.
Square Dancing

Sometimes the Community Dance Program gets a bad rap as only being a one-night-stand program. That the material is boring and will not "challenge" skilled dancers. I'm not an advocate of "challenging" anyone, but I do think beautiful choreography can sometimes be challenging. Ken Kernen dug this one out of his collection.

"Ocean Sand" was written many years ago and requires very experienced dancers. When done right it is a beautiful dance and fun to do. With the right group, it is well worth the effort to learn.

Mrs. Shaw used to say that any dance worth the effort needed to be pretty when viewed from above. Follow the dancers in this one and watch the pattern that is woven.

Ocean Sand

Head Ladies Chain to the right...
New side Ladies Chain across...
New head Ladies Chain to right...
Side Ladies Chain across...
Head Ladies Chain 3/4 round...
Side gent turn this gal you found...
A full turn round until you're facing out (see right)...
Then Promenade half outside the square...
While the head men & the corner girl go Forward & Back...
Pass Thru...
U-turn Back...
Same Ladies Chain 3/4 round...
Side gent turn this girl you found...
A full turn round until you're facing out (see right)...
Then Promenade just half outside the square...
Circle Left when you get there...
Circle eight you're doing fine...
Gentlemen break & form 2 lines (see right)...
Forward eight & Back with you...
Pass Thru...
Face the girl nearest you...
DoSaDo go all the way around...
Right Hand Turn when you come down...
All the way around to the corner of the ring...
Allemande left...etc.

For those of you who are coming to the PreCALLERLAB CDP session, we might try this one out if there is time and some of you want to.