“SHOW ME” KANSAS CITY

The 36th annual CALLERLAB Convention was held April 6-8, 2009 in the beautiful Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Missouri. CALLERLAB Members and invited guests came together to enjoy Midwestern hospitality and be amazed with sessions dealing with the theme of “Show Me”. Missouri is the Show Me state and the moderators and presenters did their best to make sure those in attendance walked away seeing things they hadn't seen before while refreshing enthusiasm for the activity.

Wishing to offer an invigorating start to the convention, the lady callers in attendance called an open dance on Sunday night to those attending the convention. Kansas and Missouri dancers were also invited to attend the dance to help with the enthusiasm of the event and show the hospitality of the area. The dance on Monday night featured past CALLERLAB chairmen. Over twenty squares enjoyed the calling. Tuesday night featured the always fun auction fund raising event hosted by the Ways and Means Committee. Jerry Story and Jon Jones were the auctioneers and sold various donated items to help raise funds for CALLERLAB. Following the auction, there was a Zesty Contra dance which provided a different feel to Contra dancing.

For many attendees it is always great to see friends they hadn’t seen in a while. One of the true thrills this year was the attendance of Cal Golden who has been unable to attend a convention since 1991. In a history session, Cal, Marshall Flippo, Wade Driver and Jim Mayo were interviewed by Johnny Wedge as to their calling experiences. Extremely informative and enjoyable (this session was video taped and we encourage you to contact the Home Office to purchase a copy for your library.

Even the hotel wait staff got into the act by presenting a “salad parade” to the music of “Be Our Guests” at the Tuesday night banquet. It was quite an enthusiastic presentation.

Congratulations to John Kaltenthaler as a recipient of the CALLERLAB Gold Card. A well deserved award for someone who has done as much as he and Freddie. Also congratulations to Deborah Carroll-Jones who received a Special Recognition award for the work done by the Women in Calling Committee on the project known as “Stages”.

The truly emotional part of the convention was the presentations made to the Cocoa Office Staff for their services to CALLERLAB during the past ten years. Congratulations to Jerry, Del, John and Gail. Even though the office will be moving to Topeka, KS, they will continue to assist CALLERLAB in many ways.

Now don’t you wish you had attended the 36th Convention? Well, you can still purchase the audio recordings of the convention. Check the web site as we hope to have information from the convention on the web site very soon. You also can start making your plans to attend the 37th Convention to be held in Niagara Falls, New York. Dates for the next convention will be March 29 – 31, 2010. The Falls are Fantastic!