CALL TO CONVENTION

In accordance with the Bylaws, notice is hereby given of the Call to Convention to be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia from March 21—23, 2016. All Active Members, Associate Members, Apprentice Members, Life Members (Gold Card Holders), and Youth Members are cordially invited to attend. Convention invitations and registration information was sent in January 2016. If you did not receive information and wish to attend the Convention, please contact the Home Office or go to:

http://www.callerlab.org/Portals/1/43rd%20CALLERLAB%20Invitation.pdf

The Bylaws provide the following concerning matters to be voted on at the annual meeting: “Section 4., Quorum. The quorum for any meeting of the Members shall be a majority of the Voting Members present at such meeting. However, if less than one-third of the corporation’s Voting Members actually attend the meeting, then the only matters that may be voted upon are those which were described generally in the notice of the meeting. The Voting Members present at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough Members to leave less than a quorum. Resolutions may be presented, discussed, and voted on during the annual business meeting.” No resolutions were received in the Home Office to be considered at this annual membership meeting.

TALENT NEEDED!
Ways and Means is searching for talent for the Sunday Night Talent Show to be held Sunday March 20th at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Please contact the Home Office or Shauna Kaaria, Chairman or Bill Boyd, Vice Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee to showcase your talent that evening.
FROM THE CHAIR
By Vernon Jones
It’s Convention time! I love our Conventions. I get to see areas that I might otherwise not get to see. I get to see people and friends that I only get to see at Convention. I get to meet new people and make new friends that I might not get to meet had it not been for Convention. I get to attend seminars and learn valuable information; and there is always something new to learn. It doesn’t matter if you are a new caller or a seasoned caller, there is always something new to learn and that can help you be a better caller.

The Executive Committee and Home Office Staff have worked hard to present the best Convention possible; and the work is not completed! There are always last minute changes and decisions that have to be made right up to and even during the Convention. Putting on a Convention of this magnitude is not an easy task and the folks who do the work for us are greatly appreciated!

The people who attend the Convention are also appreciated! Without you there would be no Convention. Attending a Convention is an important decision and we all understand that. The time away from home, family, and work is a decision that shouldn’t be taken lightly, but I believe that a decision to attend Convention is a good one. The things that one takes away from attending a Convention will never be lost.

During the course of the year that passes after attending a Convention I, like a lot of callers, become run down and fall into a rut. During and after attending a Convention I feel like my batteries are recharged. I am excited again about square dance calling. I see old friends again and make new ones. It is an experience that I treasure!

I strongly urge everyone to consider going to Convention. You will not be disappointed!

Hope to see you in Norfolk, VA March 21-23, 2016!

EXHIBITORS/VENDORS
AT 2016 CONVENTION
CALLERLAB is inviting exhibitors/vendors to attend the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, VA. The exhibitor/vendor must be registered at the Convention hotel to participate. If you are a CALLERLAB Member, you may display and sell products or services of any kind. Non-members may participate at the Convention only if the product or service is primarily for square dance callers. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office. Currently, Hilton Audio, Suzy Q Creations, and Sew-Em-Up Fashions have indicated they will be attending the Convention in Norfolk. If you know of vendors in the Norfolk, VA area, please have them contact the CALLERLAB Office by phone at: 1-800-331-2577 or e-mail: callerlab@aol.com.

CALLERLAB CONVENTION
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
- Community Dance Leadership Seminar—Saturday and Sunday. ($50 Fee).
- Committee for Community Dance Welcome Dance—Sunday afternoon.
- BOG Welcome Reception—Sunday evening.
- Orientation Session—Sunday evening.
- Ways and Means Talent Night (Public Invited)—Sunday evening.
- Social and Banquet-Monday night.
- Past Chairman’s Dance-Monday night (following banquet).
- Zesty Contra—Monday night (following Past Chairman’s Dance).
- Social and Banquet—Tuesday night.
- Women In Calling Dance—Tuesday night (following banquet).

IN MEMORIAM
Dave Hass, CT......................Roy Leber, PA
Bill Terrell, TN ......................Chuck Meyer, AZ
Where have all the dancers gone?
Maybe they haven't gone anywhere. That could be the problem: they are staying at home and not going anywhere – certainly not to square dances. Why? There are several things that could be the cause of dancers not wanting to get out and participate in what we all know to be the best activity/recreation in the world.

1. They simply don't want to put forth the effort it takes to get ready to go to a dance. It can be related to the effort it takes to get ready to go to church. In most cases, a change of clothes/costume is required. That takes a concentrated effort and often times, after a hard day at work, it's just not worth the time and trouble. If they knew they were going to have more fun than could be imagined, they might want to make the effort to go.

2. Speaking of fun, let's look at this aspect. Are the dancers having as much fun as we would like for them to have? Probably not, in many cases. Why not? Maybe club politics are bad and they don't feel welcome. Maybe they don't fit into the “click.” Maybe the experienced dancers don't make them feel welcome. Numerous things can cause someone to not have fun. We all need to be more aware of those around us at the dances and make every effort to make everyone feel welcome. Often time’s dancers say they had more fun in learners' class than at any other time. Perhaps we callers need to look at what we did to make the class more fun than the club dances. Maybe our calling is boring. Maybe we could make the evening more interesting and fun if we would change our program. Maybe we are calling the same things over and over too much. Maybe we put too much emphasis on climbing the program ladder too high too fast. If people are pushed too hard, they will simply leave and never come back. We must put more emphasis on the three F's (Fun, Fellowship & Family).

3. What about club politics? Often times a new excited dancer/club member gets elected to an office and all at once they are expected to do more than they care to. And, if they get pushed too much, they will quit the activity and may never come back. Perhaps we need more caller run clubs with two or three couples helping to do the things that are necessary and then everyone else could attend the dances, have fun and go home without all the worry of the politics.

4. What has been happening in the area of recruitment? Existing dancers are not recruiting friends as new dancers like we used to, because it takes too long for the friend to learn enough to dance with them. How long does it take? Three years! One can almost get a college degree in that length of time. Of course we don’t tell new dancers it takes three years to learn or we would never get anyone into class but, we all know this is how long it takes for a new dancer to dance an entire evening of Mainstream, Plus and Rounds. Our favorite activity has become a survival of the fittest. Therefore, existing experienced dancers are NOT going to recruit their friends. Perhaps they did once, but not again. The new dancer friend asked when could they go dancing together? The experienced friend said, “Not until you learn all the Plus calls.” “How long will that take?”, asked the new dancer. “Another year”, replied the experienced friend. After learning the Plus Program, the new dancer asked again when they could go dancing together? The experienced dancer then replied, “As soon as you learn through Phase III rounds.” “How long will that take?”, asked the new dancer of two years. “Oh, at least another year.” WOW!!! The experienced dancer will never recruit again because they don’t want to be embarrassed about the length of time involved to be able to have fun together.
We don't get out and do demonstration dancing to advertise. It takes a lot of time and effort on the part of the caller and dancers to promote square dancing and it is simply NOT being done like it needs to be.

5. Too much emphasis is placed on the higher levels of our programs. Most of the people running the square dance world are Advance dancers and they won't hire a caller unless he/she calls that level or beyond. Recently this author had the opportunity to attend a fairly large festival with four of the best callers in the world. The most popular hall during the daytime was the A-2 hall. The most popular one in the evening was the “fun” Plus hall. The Mainstream hall had to be closed down for the entire three days due to lack of participation. It made no difference that these four world renowned callers were scheduled at different times in this hall, NOBODY would “lower” themselves to be classified Mainstream. Yet all four of these callers used Mainstream calls as their best material, even in the A-2 hall.

The attitude of the people running our activity MUST change or modern square dancing, as we know it today, is going to die. The attendance at the National Convention is a very good example. The numbers keep dropping every year. At the recent National in Anaheim, the Mainstream Squares with Rounds was the smallest hall of the entire convention and it should have been the largest, in the opinion of this author. Fortunately, there was a Mainstream hall that featured the Ghost Riders Band that was very large and very well attended. Why? Because the dancers were having a GOOD TIME and good callers were programmed.

The same scenario that is happening in square dancing is also happening in round dancing. Too much emphasis is placed on the upper phases of the activity, and the average dancer simply cannot handle it. Too much emphasis is being placed on the international ballroom moves and our amateur dancers cannot do them.

Where do 99.9 percent of our round dancers come from? Square dancing, of course. Are the round dance cuers helping callers and clubs recruit new square dancers? NO! At least not very many. The numbers who are could probably be counted on one hand. Too many cuers are waiting in the wings; waiting for the new square dance class to graduate so they can be recruited into the round dance class, and in many cases they are not seen on the square dance floor for a year. These are the people needed to help get new square dancers NOW!

Almost the same scenario applies to the callers who are not teaching new beginners. Are they helping anyone to get new dancers into the activity? NO! They too are taking newer dancers away from the Mainstream, pushing them as fast as they can into the upper levels and are doing nothing to build the base. We better wake up if we wish for square dancing to survive!

To get our beloved activity to grow again will take a lot of work on the part of those willing to put forth the effort needed. It will also take the cooperation of EVERYBODY!

We keep hearing that we need some new young callers: well folks, we will not have any young callers until we get more young dancers. Most of today’s callers are not willing to work with teenagers. Fortunately there are some who are. Maybe this too will change in the near future.

The average age of the new callers attending callers’ colleges today is approximately 48. All Caller-Coaches are delighted to have these prospective callers attend, but they are not young people according to the world standards, and it takes them longer to learn this new profession. By the time they get good, they are in their mid to late 50s and they start thinking about retirement. In the Dallas/Fort Worth, TX area there have been NO NEW CALLERS for more than 3 years. This is a scary situation! We cannot survive with the current method that is in operation today.

Our attitude MUST change!

HOME OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Home Office will be open “part-time” during the Convention. Office staffer, Jodine, will be working part-time in the office during the CALLERLAB Convention. If you call and no one answers, please leave a message and she will call when she can.
**CONVENTION ATTIRE**

The following are merely suggestions:

**GENTLEMEN**

Casual attire is appropriate at all sessions. Some men prefer a coat and/or tie for the banquets, but it is not required. Square dance attire at evening dances is certainly appropriate but not required. **Please observe the courtesy of removing your hat during Convention meals.**

**LADIES**

Casual attire is appropriate at all sessions.

Most women wear casual clothing during the day and prefer business casual to formal wear for the Monday and Tuesday evening banquets. There will be a Talent Night on Sunday evening. A light wrap or jacket is also suggested due to the changing temperature of the rooms.

For more information about the Convention, please contact the CALLERLAB Home Office by e-mail at: callerlab@aol.com or by phone at: 1-785-783-3665.

Check out our website for updated information about Convention at: www.CALLERLAB.org.

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**2017 CONVENTION THEME**

If you have an idea for a theme for the 2017 Convention, please submit it to the Home Office no later than May 1, 2016. The write-up should include a brief explanation regarding the general nature of the theme and how interest session topics could relate to the theme. The location will be Mesa, AZ in 2017.

A theme will be selected by the Executive Committee at their spring meeting. The author of the selected theme will receive free dues for one year.

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**CALLERLAB FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS**

CALLERLAB Foundation Executive Directors recently revised the guidelines for approving scholarship requests. These revisions are due to dwindling funds available in the CALLERLAB Foundation scholarship funds, as well as a need to standardize the approval process.

The new guidelines provide that there will be a maximum of 15 scholarships awarded per year.

To be considered for a scholarship, applications must be submitted prior to the start of the school. Applications will be considered on the first of each month, and one scholarship will be awarded each month based on the criteria set out by the scholarship guidelines. Unapproved applications will be saved and considered for the next review period. Once a school’s date has passed, unapproved applications for that school will be void. Applicants can then reapply for a future school.

The current policy is that a lifetime maximum of three awards for a single individual may be awarded.

A request for a second scholarship requires a signature by a Caller-Coach on the application’s affidavit stating that the caller is continuing to actively pursue square dance calling. In addition, a statement from the applicant indicating this/her intended benefits of the training must be included.

For a third scholarship, a statement from an Accredited Caller-Coach must be received further outlining the applicant’s calling status and the steps he/she is taking to contribute to the activity and further his/her knowledge of the craft. In addition, a statement from the applicant indicating his/her intentions must be included. The applicant will also need to submit two references from two callers familiar with the applicant’s calling career.

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“Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth.”  
*John F. Kennedy*

“The real secret of success is enthusiasm.”  
*Walter Chrysler*
REASONS TO ATTEND CALLERLAB CONVENTION

Reasons to attend the CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, Virginia

1) Opportunity to spend time and communicate ideas with leaders within CALLERLAB.
2) Educational sessions which introduce new and exciting ideas.
3) A great way to renew your enthusiasm for the activity.
4) Share your thoughts, ideas, opinions, concerns, and views as they pertain to committees and issues.
5) Share in discussions and provide your input to help lead the way and develop the future of square dancing.
6) Enjoy demonstrations of different dances and methods of calling, both old and new.
7) Meet members of the Board of Governors.
8) Attend informal sessions hosted by members of the Board to express your concerns and ideas.
9) Attend activities such as the Community Dance Leader's Seminar, Talent Show, Past Chairman's Dance and Women in Calling Dance.

46th CALLERLAB CONVENTION SITE CHOSEN

CALLERLAB has selected the Omni Hotel in the historic downtown area of Richmond, VA for the 46th CALLERLAB Convention scheduled for April 15 - 17, 2019. This is a lovely hotel located in an area of many historic buildings with an array of night entertainment as well as museums and other interesting sights. Save the date for 2019 to be in Richmond, VA. More information regarding the Omni can be found at: http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/richmond/property-details/gallery

MISSION STATEMENT

“To foster the art of square dance calling and improve caller skills.”

COMMUNITY DANCE LEADER’S SEMINAR

A Community Dance Leader's Seminar is planned beginning Saturday, March 19, 2016 prior to the start of the CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, VA. The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 19th and end at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 20th. The location will be in the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. Cost will be $50 per leader. Spouses and/or partners will be admitted free. Topics will include many of the items important to a successful dance party. Checks should be made payable to CALLERLAB and sent to the Home Office at 200 SW 30th St., Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611. To charge by Discover, MasterCard or Visa, please call 1 -( 7 8 5 ) 7 8 3 - 3 6 6 5 or e-mail CALLERLAB@aol.com. Pay Pal may be sent to callerlab@aol.com.

25 and 50 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Will 2016 be the year you reach 25 or 50 years as a caller? If so, below is the established policy and procedure regarding this very important and historic milestone in any caller’s career. The following is the policy for presenting the 25 and 50 Year Certificates:

1) During the CALLERLAB Convention, the 25 and 50 Year Certificates will be presented to each Member who becomes eligible during that year and who is attending the Convention.

2) Certificates will be mailed to the Members who become eligible in that year but do not attend the Convention.

3) Members who became eligible in previous years and are attending the Convention will be acknowledged.

If you believe you will be eligible in 2016 (started calling in 1991 (25) or 1966 (50), please contact the Home Office to verify we have the correct information within our files.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal information has been sent both electronically and by mail for the membership year 2016/2017. Your current membership expires March 31, 2016. If you reside in the U.S.A., your BMI/ASCAP music performance license and group liability insurance coverage also expire that day. Your membership renewal dues and fees must be received at the Home Office by March 31, 2016 to prevent an interruption in your membership. CALLERLAB membership dues for the 2016/2017 membership year are $105.00. However, those receiving DIRECTION electronically will receive a $10 discount on your dues. If you live in the U.S.A., you will also need to pay your insurance and BMI/ASCAP fees. Be sure to mail your membership renewals to reach the office by March 31, 2016.

Members requiring proof of insurance or needing a certificate of additional insured naming a rental facility are reminded that the necessary certificates must be obtained directly from the insurance company. The certificates are only available by calling Northwest Insurance Brokers at 1-(208) 322-8300 or e-mailing Jenny@NorthWestBrokers.com. This insurance program is only available to U.S. Members.

HOTEL COST SHARING

If you are interested in sharing a room with another attendee at the 2016 CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, VA, please contact the Home Office and ask that your name be added to our list of attendees who wish to share a room. The Home Office offers this service only to help those who would like to share the expense of a room. All arrangements must be made between individuals who will be sharing. If you are attending the Convention as a single individual and would like to defray some of the costs, please contact the Home Office. The staff will advise you if there are others who are looking to share a room and provide you e-mail or telephone numbers for contact purposes.

Mobility Scooter Rental
During the Convention
Med Emporium at 757-428-0787

Convention Shuttle Service

If you are flying into the Norfolk International Airport, and would like assistance in arranging a shuttle, the Home Office will assist you to best coordinate arrivals and departures with the James River Transportation service. The cost is around $35 to $68 per vehicle, and will depend on how many are scheduled to be transported. Please contact the Home Office and provide your flight arrival/departure information including flight times, airline and flight number. We will attempt to pair you up with other attendees to help save money. Once we have you scheduled, you will be advised of the amount that you will need to pay.

DONATIONS TO THE CALLERLAB FOUNDATION

John Sloper..........................Masaru Hiraga
Elaine Mikenas......................David Taylor
Mike Seastrom.....................Ray Donohoo
Bud Garrett .........................Bob Wilson
Tim Tyl..............................Fred Strang
Chuck Chesteen...................Oliver Kuester
Steven Ackerman...................Gary Evans
Hans Gietl............................Mike Amell
Jane Carlson.......................D. Dalton
Mike Preskitt

Scholarship Donations

Walter Wall..........................Bob Wilson
Ray Donohoo.......................Elaine Mikenas
Ronald Raymond..................Chuck Chesteen
Shaney Crawford...................Lou Flego
Oliver Kuester......................D. Dalton
Peggy Anschutz ...................Mike Preskitt

In Memory of Dick Henschel

Gregg Anderson....................Ben Goldberg
San Diego Square Dance Callers Assoc.

Thank You!
CALLERLAB CONVENTION BRAINSTORMING - FACEBOOK

Have some thoughts about promoting the CALLERLAB Convention? Join the CALLERLAB Convention Brainstorming Facebook Group at:


Help CALLERLAB find better ways to promote our Convention. Invite callers and dancers to attend. This will be a brainstorming group so all ideas are welcome.

CALLERLAB'S ANNUAL CONVENTION! Be an “Agent of Change”! Help spread the word and let’s get folks to Norfolk in March 2016! Lots of us are already registered! Are you?

43rd CALLERLAB CONVENTION
Norfolk, Virginia
March 21 - 23, 2016

“AGENTS OF CHANGE”

The CALLERLAB Executive Committee has chosen “Agents of Change” as the theme for the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention to be held at the beautiful Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA. The naming is sort of ironic, since we have had to change the venue for this Convention from Lansdowne to Norfolk. The Executive Committee selected the theme to stimulate ideas to improve the square dance activity. Many interest sessions are planned for this Convention dealing with various topics and ideas. Want to be an agent of change? Plan to attend the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention. Invite friends, as all dance leaders are welcome to attend and share in ideas to improve the future of square dancing.

As always, there will be technical sessions to peak your interest, as well as social events with plenty of friends. Room reservations may be made by internet at:

https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/Callerlab
or
https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1507174839&key=1ECF36B0

Or by calling the hotel at 1-800-325-3535. Ask for the “CALLERLAB Special Rate.”

Room rates at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel will be $109, which includes internet service. Group parking will be $5 per day.

Save the date and come to CALLERLAB's 43rd Convention! Convention fees include two lunches, two banquet meals, and beverage breaks. A Reservation Form is attached to this issue. Convention fees remain $210 for callers and $200 for partners and dance leaders.

Check out the following links to see info on the hotel and city of Norfolk:

Make your plans to attend the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention!

INVITE NON-MEMBERS TO CONVENTION

CALLERLAB would like to encourage you to invite dancers and non-member callers to attend the upcoming 43rd annual CALLERLAB Convention. First time attendees will not only be very impressed, but also nearly overwhelmed with the wealth of educational material and information, entertainment, and fun available at the CALLERLAB Convention. Convention session topics available to our attendees include complex technical issues, marketing and recruiting discussions, issues of interest to club as well as association leadership, information for caller partners, topics for dancers, and much, much more. One of the most common comments expressed by first time attendees is, “I wish I had attended long ago.” Think about the folks you encounter within your square dancing activities and consider inviting those whom you believe would enjoy and
benefit by attending our Convention. Contact the Home Office by phone at: 1-785-783-3665 or by e-mail for further information or to obtain Convention invitations. The e-mail address is: CALLERLAB@aol.com

You may also refer them to the CALLERLAB site that includes an Invitation and Registration Form at:
http://www.callerlab.org/Portals/1/43rd%20CALLERLAB%20Invitation.pdf

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has approved Wendy VanderMuelen as Chairperson of the newly created Public Relations Committee. Thanks to Wendy for agreeing to fill this position. Plan to join this Committee and be a part of the challenges they will be working on in the future.

This committee will be active in developing CALLERLAB promotional materials; interacting with committees to locate news items; interact with convention locations to publicize convention information; and provide value to members via regular communications.

Join Today!
Please contact the Home Office if you would like to be a member of this Committee.

“The greatest tragedy in the world is when the fire goes out in someone’s eyes – when they give up; when they settle. Never let that happen to you.”

Denise Ryan

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
By Shauna Kaaria, Chairperson

WE STILL NEED YOUR TALENTS!

Plans for the fund raising Talent Show on Sunday evening at the 2016 CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, VA are well under way.

We have a great line up of talent so far, and there is room on the program for more!

The program already includes singers, musicians, and comedians. We know you can sing, and some of you play musical instruments, or have developed other talents you can share, so don’t be shy! We will have about two hours to impress the public. We have the talent, skills and capability to put on an awesome show! This has the potential to be a great fundraiser, bringing in money from the general public and local dancers, rather than simply raising money among ourselves.

We will be inviting the general public and local dancers to attend, so bring your A-Game and make sure all humor and acts are in good taste. This is a great opportunity to raise money and, hopefully, introduce non-dancers to the talent and fun that comes with square dancers and square dance leaders.

If you would like to be added to the program, please send information about your singing, comedy, or other talents to CALLERLAB and copy Shauna Kaaria at: shaunamaria@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name (s) of the performers, types of act, time needed, and list any special audio/visual necessary (or whether you will provide it yourself).

Looking forward to seeing you at the CALLERLAB Convention and sharing your talents!
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
By Jeff Priest, Chairman

To all Callers who reside outside of the United States!

You are invited to attend the International Advisory Committee meeting at CALLERLAB in Norfolk this year. The meeting will discuss the current projects in place and mention some that have been completed. We will also discuss future projects and the general purpose of this Committee. It would be very much appreciate if ALL international callers attending the Convention this year would put this meeting on their agenda. We need to have YOUR input!

WOMEN IN CALLING (WIC) COMMITTEE
By Patty Greene, Chairperson

Convention is coming fast and furious and the Women in Calling Committee (WIC) is looking forward to fellowshipping and sharing ideas with each other and all the attendees at this year's CALLERLAB Convention! We hope that you are making plans to join us and be part of the Convention festivities and sessions. Looks like, as usual, there will be lots of great breakout sessions planned themed along secret agents. WIC would like to invite all attendees to come and dance with us on TUESDAY at 9:00 p.m. as we host a square dance! The dance will be called by current WIC members, who we know are some of your favorite women callers! We are looking forward to a good time, and hope that you'll stop by and dance with us. All are welcome, including any local dancers that may enjoy the evening. We will be having a Committee meeting at some time during the Convention and I invite all women callers to attend. If you are not a member of WIC and would like to be, please contact the Home Office. Membership is open to all women callers!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
By Peggy Pingel, Chairperson

The Youth Activities Committee invites Convention attendees to attend our meeting in Norfolk, VA during the CALLERLAB Convention. We plan to brainstorm ideas for the Committee to work on, as well as discuss current projects that are ongoing. Come and add your enthusiasm to the meeting!

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

CALLERLAB is an association of Members helping Members. Most of CALLERLAB's work is conducted by our Committees and is reliant on the work of the Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Members of each Committee. Members' opinions and Committee decisions are the life blood of CALLERLAB.

CALLERLAB is always looking for responsible leaders to help our organization successfully meet its goals. A list of current Committees, their Chairman and Vice Chairman is found at: tinyurl.com/CALLERLAB-Committee. If you are interested in joining any of these Committees, please contact the Home Office. If you are interested in serving as a Chairman or Vice Chairman of a Committee, or if you want to offer more assistance with a special task, please give that information when you contact the Home Office. If you have an idea for a project or task you think would be valuable for a Committee to undertake, again, contact the Home Office and they will forward your thoughts to the appropriate Committee.

CALLERLAB is also interested in finding individuals who feel they possess the ability to be a moderator or panelist at an upcoming annual Convention. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact the Home Office.

Remember — YOU are CALLERLAB!

Hope to see you in Norfolk, VA March 21-23, 2016
DANCE PROGRAM
TRIENNIAL REVIEW
COMPLETE

The Program Policy provides that every three years, each program committee will review dance programs and determine if calls should be added, dropped or remain unchanged. 2015 was a triennial review year and all dance program committees have reported they have completed their assigned task.

Mainstream Committee Action:
Voted to remove the restriction of Extend from a 1/4 Tag Formation only. In doing this, the complete Extend call is now Mainstream.

Plus Committee Action:
The Committee voted no changes to the Plus Program, however the call Extend was removed from the Program List due to action by the Mainstream Committee (see above).

The Advanced Committee Action:
Approved adding Triple Cross as part of Advanced 1 Program List and removed from the Challenge 1 Program List.

The Challenge Committee Action:
Cut and Flip the Galaxy will be added to C1.

The Twosome concept (Couples, Tandem, or Siamese) will be added to C3A

Donations to Callerlab
Oliver Kuester…………………..Mike Amell
James Robertson……………….Holly Ferreira
Elaine Mikenas…………………..Steve Lassiter
Ernie Kinney……………………D. Dalton
Mike Preskitt

Once Removed Diamonds will be removed from C3A, being a case of the general Once Removed concept at C2.

The special case <any call> Choice will be added to C3A as a variation of Locker's Choice / Choice.

The special cases <any call> Couple Up and Like a Couple Up will be added to C3A as variations of Couple Up.

The special cases Grand 1/4 Mix and Grand 3/4 Mix (and their left versions) will be added to C3A as variations of 1/4 Mix and 3/4 Mix.

The Triennial Review has been completed for 2015. Thanks to each Committee for your input and contributions to the process.

PLUS COMMITTEE
APPROVES DEFINITION CHANGE
- FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR -

The Definitions Committee presented, and the Plus Committee approved a definition change of Follow Your Neighbor adding starting formation of 1/4 Tag. New definition is shown below.

FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR - Starting formation - Box Circulate, Single 1/4 Tag.

TIMING - 6
From a Box Circulate: While the Trailers Extend and Arm Turn 3/4, the Leaders move forward in a tight three quarter (270 degree) circle toward their partner to finish as ends of an ocean wave. Follow Your Neighbor cannot be fractionalized.


STYLING: Those who Arm Turn 3/4 use a forearm grip, blending at the end of the call into the usual handhold for an ocean wave.
Minilab 2016
Seattle, Washington USA

www.minilab2016.org

July 29-31, 2016
Seattle Washington USA

Early registration rates open now!

Minilab 2016, near Seattle, will be the beautiful

Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort
15347 Suquamish Way NE
Suquamish, WA., USA 98392
1+360-598-8700 or toll fre 1+866-609-8700
www.clearwatercasino.com

Minilab will be held across the Puget Sound from Seattle Washington. Access to Clearwater is easy by SeaTac International Airport, By automobile or RV and even by boat via Agate Passage. Link lightrail provides a clean and inexpensive transfer from the airport to the Washington State Ferry in Seattle’s Downtown terminal. A 35 minute ferry ride across scenic Puget Sound, and then a free shuttle to the resort at the western ferry slip.

Kitsap County www.visitkitsap.com

Clearwater Resort is located in Kitsap County which features a rich heritage and a ton of interesting activities available to the visitor. Gardens & Nurseries, Nature and Environment, Agri Tours, Just for Fun, Shopping with both malls, and local specialties. Everywhere you drive is scenic. NW Washington peninsula just short drive away via a salt water floating bridge. Many parks including Hurricane Ridge near sunny Sequim (pronounced skwim) which boasts over 300 days of sunshine a year. Poulsbo and Suquamish feature a many specialty shops on a waterfront downtown. Poulsbo features Nordic flavor. The entire region boasts water activities. Golf? A specialty! More than 20 golf courses within driving distance, and even more across the water. Clearwater has their own course, called Whitehorse, too.

Thinking of a vacation? Planning around a trip to the Kitsap and Washington State Peninsula would be a great idea. RV and Boating, hiking, kayaking, driving tours, Pacific Ocean Beaches, Forks Washington, Tours, Mountains, Rainforests, Cruises originate in Seattle and Port Angeles. San Juan Islands, Whale watching tours. Seafair celebration in Seattle is the week following Minilab and if you like hydroplane races, they are the following Sunday on Lake Washington. There’s much to do in addition to Minilab 2016.

Register now for Minilab 2016
for discount rates.
2016 CONVENTION ATTENDEES
200 PEOPLE REGISTERED AS OF JANUARY 29, 2016

Aahz; Lottie Ainsworth; Bob and Cinda Asp; Janienne Alexander; Clark and Mariam Baker; Hal and Elaine Barnes; June Bartley; Scott Bennett; Bo and Patricia Bierley; Bill Boyd; Walter and Patricia Bough; Jeremy Butler; Robert Butler; Mike Callahan; Don Casper; Dennis Clark; Barry and Pam Clasper; Skip Cleland; Paul Cote; David and Donna Cox; Don and Dot Coy; Tim Crawford; Ron Dean; Jim DeNigris; Rich Delgado; Royce Dent; Garry Dodd and Patricia Zeeman; Jim and Sandra Duncan; George Edwards and Rita Seeburger; Dave Eno; Dennis Farrar; Gary Felton; Mark Fetzer and Susan Snider; Heiner Fischle; Winfred (Fitz) and Virginia Fitzgerald; Marshall Flippo; Ed and Marilyn Foote; Virgil Forbes and Peggy Lee; Kent Forrester; Michael Franz; Al Frazier; Corben Geis; Ron Giuliani; Aaron Goodman; Betsy and Roy Gotta; Jim Gotta; Patty Greene; Dennis and Judy Grossnickle; Jay Haines; Wayne and Sharron Hall; Rick and Lynn Hampton; Chuck and Gerry Hardy; Terry Headlee; Joey and Brenda Hebert; Terry and Melonie Hebert; Eric Henerlau; Paul and Pattie Henze; Masaharu Hiraga; Mike Hogan; Tom and Cindy Hollinberger; Brian Jarvis; Kris Jensen; Barry and Anita Johnson; Greg Jones; Deborah Carroll-Jones; Jon Jones; Vernon and Kayla Jones; Ron Kapnick; Jay and Jody King; Harlan Kerr; Jim Kline; Lee and Lilith Kopman; Ralph and Mary Ann Kornegay; Oliver and Andrea Kuester; Dick Kurtz; Art and Amy Lavigne; David and Claudia Littlefair; Melton Luttrell; Bill Mager; Michael Maltenfort; Tom Manning; Mike and Pat Matsko; Jim and JoAnn Mayo; Doren McBroome; Louis and Angie McClure; Mike McIntyre; “Bear” Miller; Shinichi Mochizuki; Mary Moody; Monk and Ann Moore; Susan Morris; Eva Murray and Thomas Willats; Hiroshi Nakagawa; Lynn Nelson; Ron and Carolyn Nelson; Ned Newberg and Connie Laueeman; Marty Northrup; Naru Okumura; Mike and Janet Olivier; Dennis O’Neal; Richard Otis; Tac Ozaki; Jeff Palmer; Gardner and Diana Patton; Peggy and Mitch Pingel; Jack and Sherry Pladdy; Bob and Ann Poyner; Mike and Debbie Preskitt; Ben Purkett, Sr. and Dora Anderson; Pat Push and Peg Millar; Tom Putsinger; Thomas Rainer; Ginny Reaske; Jerry and Del Reed; Rich Reel; Bob and Allyn Riggs; Ken Ritucci; Reinhold and Ginny Roedig; Justin Russell; Theresa and Bud Rutz; Jim Schell; Dana and Donna Schirmer; Christopher and Ri-Sheal Schlitter; Mike Seastrom; Norman and Emma Lou Shaffor; Elmer and Margie Sheffield; Mike Sikorsky; Carl Sims; Lorne and Barb Smith; Jeannette Staebler; Rich Steadman; Guy and Barbara Steele; Al Stevens; Jerry Story; Harue Swift; Wendy VanderMuelen; Masaru Wada; Buddy Weaver; Johnny and Barbara Wedge; Ray and Ilida Wiles; Richard Williams; Jerry Wilson.

2016 MINILAB, SEATTLE, WA

The Northwest Callers Association will be hosting a Mini-lab in the Seattle, the Washington area July 29 - 31, 2016.

Contact: Minilab2016@hotmail.com.

More information will be provided soon. Save the date and plan to attend!


The Mini-Lab site will be the new Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort. It features:

- Waterfront hotel
- High tech meeting area
- Casino
- And more!!

CALLERLAB representatives Patty Greene. and Dana & Donna Schirmer

See Brochure attached:
IMPORTANT
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

FUTURE CALLERLAB CONVENTIONS
MAR 21 - 23, 2016 Norfolk, VA
APR 10 - 12, 2017 Mesa, AZ
MAR 26 - 28, 2018 Albuquerque, NM
APR 15 - 17, 2019 Richmond, VA

MINI LAB CONVENTION
JULY 29-31, 2016 Seattle, WA

CALLERLAB OFFICE HOURS
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time,
Monday - Friday
Phone: 1-785-783-3665
1-800-331-2577 (Business Only)
FAX: 1-785-783-3696
E-mail: CALLERLAB@aol.com
Website: www.callerlab.org

OFFICE STAFF
Dana Schirmer, Executive Director
Jodine Romano, Office Assistant
Donna Schirmer, Office Assistant
Royce Dent, Office Assistant

INSURANCE INFORMATION
Northwest Brokers
Jenny@NorthWestBrokers.com
Phone: 1-208-322-8300
CALLERLAB FOUNDATION LESSON GRANT PROGRAM

CALLERLAB Foundation Executive Directors (FED) announces the creation of a new Lesson Grant Program to offer cash assistance to those conducting Basic/Mainstream classes.

Applications must be submitted in writing after lessons have been completed; instructor must be a current member of CALLERLAB; lessons must cover all the calls on the CALLERLAB Mainstream Program (if destination is Basic, lesson must cover all the calls of the CALLERLAB Basic Program); Grant amount is limited to a maximum of $250; the CALLERLAB Foundation Executive Directors will consider all applications and review the applicants’ supporting documentation and consider for approval. Funds are limited.

Contact the Home Office for Grant procedures or obtain from the CALLERLAB website or the CALLERLAB Foundation Website.

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 1, 2016

* * * * * * * * * * S T A R T * * * * * * * * * *

PLUS EMPHASIS CALL
January 2016

LINEAR CYCLE

Ken Ritucci, Chairman of the Plus Committee, is pleased to announce Linear Cycle has been selected as the Plus Emphasis Call for the period starting January 1, 2016.

STARTING FORMATION: Parallel Ocean Waves or Four (4) Dancer Waves to be either right or left-handed.

TIMING: 8-10

DEFINITION Part 1. The ends and adjacent centers hinge.

Part 2. Those facing out fold behind those facing in and all dancers will then move forward in a Double Pass Thru action.

Part 3. If the hinge is right-handed, peel right; if the hinge is left-handed, peel left to end as facing couples. From a right-hand hinge, all will pass right shoulders. From a left-hand hinge, all will pass left shoulders.

STYLING: Arms in natural dance position. Similar to styling for individual components. Rejoin hands upon completion of move.

STANDARD TEACHING APPLICATIONS (Patter)

1) Heads Pass The Ocean, Extend, Linear Cycle, Pass The Ocean, All 8 Circulate, Linear Cycle, Touch ¼, Girls U-Turn back, Pass To The Center, Centers Square Thru 3, LA

2) Sides Square Thru 4, Swing Thru, Linear Cycle, Pass The Ocean, All 8 Circulate, Linear Cycle, Pass The Ocean, Boys Run, Ferris Wheel, Centers Pass Thru, LA

3) Heads Pass The Ocean, Extend, Single Hinge, Centers Trade, Linear Cycle, Touch ¼, All 8 Circulate, Trade And Roll, Pass The Ocean, Linear Cycle, Square Thru 2, Trade By, Star Thru, Boys Trade, Promenade Home

4) Sides Square Thru 4, Swing Thru, Scoot Back, Fan the Top, (Each Side) Linear Cycle, Pass To The Centers, Square Thru 3, LA

5) Heads Lead To The Right, Circle To A Line, Grand Swing Thru, Very Center 4 Linear Cycle, Ends Hinge, Outside Boys Run, Centers Pass Thru, LA

SINGING CALL FIGURE: Heads Square Thru 4, Right And Left Thru, Slide Thru, Pass The Ocean, Linear Cycle, Slide Thru, Swing Corner, Promenade

* * * * * * * * * * E N D * * * * * * * * * *

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS
In the current environment, technological advances are almost outrunning the capability of the square dance caller. We intend to center on the topics around the theme of Technology, while also addressing those ongoing concerns of the Square Dance Caller and Teacher; choreography, teaching, retaining new dancers, calling skills and more.

Check inside for some of the subjects we are hoping to cover. The list we are proposing is larger than our membership, therefore, we are inviting you, our Caller colleagues for help in leading and presenting one of them for us. Please contact us if you would be willing to lead a group and talk about Technology and the Caller or any one of the other discussions you might have an interest.

**Keynote Speaker**

**Callerlab Representative**

**Keynote presenter: Patty Greene**

Patty has been a panelist at the national convention, and was a NECCA-approved education specialist, speaking on the role of computers in square dancing, which she has presented to caller and dancer organizations throughout New England. She served in various leadership roles in local, regional, and national organizations since 1996. She is a member and of the North Carolina Callers Association, and member and Vice Chairman of the Metrolina Caller and Cuers Association, and is currently serving on the Board of Governors for CALLERLAB.

For a more comprehensive list of Patty’s involvement in Square Dance Calling & Leadership please see her website [http://callerpatty.com](http://callerpatty.com).

Patty and her partner Steve hail from Monroe North Carolina. Patty calls for the Cane Creek Cruisers on Tuesday nights in Waxhaw, NC.

**Dana (& Donna) Schirmer, Callerlab Executive Director**

Dana manages the Callerlab Home Office in Topeka, Kansas. One of his many duties is to plan and run the annual Callerlab Convention.

He started dancing in 1968 and began calling in 1978. He has served two terms on the Board of Governors and has served on staff at Kirkwood Lodge providing dance entertainment to non square dance families vacationing at the Lake of the Ozarks. Dana also conducts caller training sessions for newer callers and was the Business Chairman for the 57th National Square Dance Convention held in Wichita, Kansas in 2008.

Dana and his partner Donna will be presenting and will be available to answer any questions you might have about Callerlab and Callerlab membership.
The Business of Calling

Music
- Alternative music options
- DIY creation / remix
- How to evaluate a piece might work for patter

Equipment
- Microphones, comparing and tips on choosing one for you
- Comparing speakers
- Cables and Adapters
- Connecting to a Sound System
- Mixers: LOOK AT ALL THE KNOBS!

Computer Basics
- PC Fundamentals: Files, Commands, Locations
- Comparing Applications and Software
- What features would you need in an app?

Software
- Audacity
- Cool Edit Pro
- Ceder Sq Dnc System
- Square View

The Business of Calling
- It’s not just calling
- Mentoring the new caller: It’s not just calling
- Contracts
- What should they be paying us?
- Teaching & Classes
- Retaining the new dancer
- The time commitment that the teaching requires for the new dancer
- Amount of time the club wants vs. what we know works.

Caller Training:
- On-The-Fly Dancer Recovery when floor crashes.
- Refrifying singing calls.
- Sight Calling;  [ Right. Cram this into one session. ]
- Appropriate use of calls discussion group
- Does the Callerlab “approve” of the way you’re using a call?
- At what program would we use this variation and expect to have the average dance be successful?
- As a Caller, being really clear in telling the dancer what you want them to do.
- Writing Choreography; it writes easy, but dances hard.
- Guest Tip Calling Etiquette: What do you do with the guest caller at your dance?

Discussion Groups:
- Mainstream
- Plus
- Callerlab Choice?
- Mentoring
- The Business of Calling

Etiquette:
- On stage
- Dancer’s etiquette; When do we teach this stuff?
- Does anyone else not receive applause at the end of a tip?
- Getting them out on the floor

The Dance Program:
- Working with the Cuer to control the emotional level of the dance
- Why do we put a break in the middle?
- Do we need to make public death announcements over the mic?
- How can we politely prevent some of these things?

Minilab is open to all callers and teachers.
You do not have to be a Callerlab member to join us!

Dancers, you too are invited to attend.
Your fee will be the same as a Partner registration.

2016 CALLERLAB Minilab

We will be staying at the amazing Clearwater Resort & Casino, 15347 Suquamish Way NE, Suquamish, WA 98392
Save your spot. Save the date. Save your price.
You may get more details and register online at www.callerlab.org or use this form.

Caller First Name_________________________ Callers Last Name_________________________
Partner First Name________________________ Partner Last Name_________________________
Are you willing to present a topic for us please? _______________________________ We will contact you.

City: __________________ State: _______ Zip / PC: _______________ Country___________
Email ________________________________________________________________________
Phone(s): Hm: ___________________________ Cell: ____________________________ May we text?: ______

Event Registration Fees:
 Minilab Caller Premiere Early Registration Fee received by April 30, 2016: $150.00 USD
 Minilab Caller Registration Fee received by June 15, 2016: $ 199.00 USD
 Minilab Registration at the door: $249.00 USD
 Youth Caller (Under 21,) Registration Fee received by June 15, 2016: $115.00 USD
 Non-Caller Attendee Registration Fee received by June 15, 2016: $110.00 USD
 Non-Caller Attendee Registration at the door: $149.00 USD

Check ____________
Check Enclosed, Check Number ____________
Paid via Credit Card at Paypal Transaction #: __________________

Discounted payment due in full by July 1, 2016

Check one please:
- Checks
- MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Visa Card accepted only via www.paypal.com.

If paying by check, please pay to the order of NW Callers, memo line: 2016 Minilab Registration

(See note above about PayPal payments)

No Refunds after June 15, 2016

Please be sure to send us the form or we won’t know you’re coming! Electronic or Postal Service is acceptable.

Return this form with payment indicated to:
2016 CalleraLab Minilab, %Rem Remington, 5624 183 St SW, #116, Lynnwood, WA 98037-7328

If you have special needs (ie: dietary, ambulatory, hearing, other) please tell us below, or contact us directly.

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2016 CALLERLAB Minilab
“TECHNOLOGY AND THE CALLER”

We will be staying at the amazing Clearwater Resort & Casino, 15347 Suquamish Way NE, Suquamish, WA 98392

Save your spot. Save the date. Save your price. You may get more details and register online at www.minilab2016.org or use this form.

Caller First Name__________________________ Callers Last Name _______________________________

Are you willing to present a topic for us please? ________________________________ We will contact you.

Partner First Name_________________________ Partner Last Name _______________________________

Please PRINT clearly as you would like your names to appear on the event badge. Badges will be required for event access and meals.

Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City: ______________________ State: ___ Zip / PC: _________________ Country__________________
Email ___________________________________________________________________________

Phone(s): Hm: ___________________________ Cell: ____________________________ May we text?: ____

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Minilab Caller Premiere Early Registration Fee received by April 30, 2016: $150.00 USD
Minilab Caller Registration Fee received by June 15, 2016: $ 199.00 USD
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Youth Caller (Under 21,) Registration Fee received by June 15, 2016: $115.00
Youth Caller Minilab Registration at the door: $149.00 USD
Non–Caller Attendee Registration Fee received by June 15, 2016: $ 110.00 USD
Non–Caller Attendee Registration at the door: $149.00 USD

Caller .......................................................... $ _______________________
Partner or Non-Caller attendees ......................... $ _______________________

Total $ _______________________

Event minimum deposit is $90.00. Deposit Amount $ ____________
(Please note that Hotel and Minilab are separate reservations.)
Discounted payment due in full by July 1, 2016

If paying by check, Please pay to the order of NW Callers, memo line: 2016 Minilab Registration

MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Visa Card accepted only via www.paypal.com. Click on SEND and enter www.minilab2016.org, then the AMOUNT of your Minilab registration total. Then click CONTINUE. It will ask you for your PayPal account sign in. Follow the PayPal instructions from there.

Check one please: ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Paid via Credit Card at Paypal Transaction #: ______________

Return this form with payment indicated to:
2016 Callerlab Minilab, %Rem Remington, 5624 183 St SW, #116, Lynnwood, WA 98037-7328

Please be sure to send us the form or we won’t know you’re coming! Email or Postal Service is acceptable.

If you have special needs (ie: dietary, ambulatory, hearing, other) please tell us below, or contact us directly.
43rd CALLERLAB Convention
“AGENTS OF CHANGE”
Norfolk, Virginia
March 21-23, 2016

We will be staying at the beautiful Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel,
777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA

Save your spot. Save the date. Save your price.

Caller First & Last Name ______________________________________________________

Partner’s First & Last Name (If attending) ______________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________ State: _____ Zip: _______ Country______________

Email ______________________________________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________________________________________________

Callers ($210.00 each) ....................................................... $  _______________________

Partners ($200.00 each) .................................................... $  _______________________

CCTD Seminar ($50.00)   $ ............................................... $  _______________________

Session Recordings in MP3 format   ($25.00)  ................. $ _______________________

Minimum deposit is $100.00 per person

Total $___________________

Deposit Amount $______________

Balance Due $ __________________

Payment in full due by March 1st 2016

MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Visa Card#

Expiration Date __________________ (CID#) ________________________________

Signature ________________________________________________________________

Return to: CALLERLAB, 200 SW 30th Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611
If you have special needs (ex: dietary) please write below, continue on back if needed.