In my last two articles, I talked about two controversial ideas; competition and testing. At the start of the second article I bemoaned the lack of feedback I received on the first one. My whining generated a more robust set of replies to the second article which discussed testing. I was very pleased that, once again, all replies were thoughtful and insightful. In aggregate, the replies raised some interesting points that I’d like to address:

1) Perhaps “testing” is not the best word to employ. For many, it calls to mind the kind of testing we remember from school; formal, solemn, solitary, stressful. If this is the image conjured in your mind when testing is mentioned, you’re unlikely to associate it with a fun leisure activity. The use of this word, in and of itself, renders the idea of a non-starter for many people. Perhaps a synonym that carries less emotional baggage would be better; confirmation, verification, evaluation, proof, assessment, check, corroboration. etc.

2) A corollary of the above point is that testing is not regarded as “fun”. Conceived in the context of our school memories, that is true enough. However, the testing (or assessment, or confirmation, or whatever we call it) could be presented in a form that is, in fact, fun. Many will remember the classic singing call “Running Bear”. It had a figure that was quite unusual (although not actually that hard), which few people succeeded in dancing error free the first time. But people were enthusiastic about trying it until they made it through without error. When they succeeded, their pride of accomplishment was so pronounced that they bought dangles to proclaim their feat. What if there was a suite of such singing calls that were designed to exercise fundamentals? People who...
enter competitions also do it for fun. I'm sure the creative minds out there can come up with lots of fun ways to confirm or measure dancers' skills. Please share.

3) We are having enough trouble recruiting new dancers to MWSD: why would we want to put another barrier in the way? This notion comes from an incorrect idea of the function served by a test. Instead of thinking of a test as a barrier or a hurdle that has to be surmounted, think of it as a filter that identifies who will enjoy and be successful at MWSD. Currently, a significant proportion of the dancers who move to MS, Plus and beyond, seem to lack the skills necessary to succeed. Here is my theory as to why. As interest in MWSD seemed to dwindle, our reaction was to drop the filters we did have in place (callers or club officers quietly informing dancers they needed more work, invitation-only clubs, etc.). With numbers so low, we felt we couldn't let anyone walk out the door. We labored under the delusion that “anyone can square dance”. You don't have to teach too many beginner classes to realize that is not true. There are some who just don't get it. And there are more who don't get Plus, or Advanced, etc. Dropping the filters we used to have and encouraging poorly prepared dancers to learn even more has led us to where we are today. In a perverse way, our reaction has probably reduced the number of dancers compared to the number we might have had if we maintained standards. By reducing the standard of dance, we are alienating many of the very dancers most likely to provide the most strength on the floor.

The key is to ensure that the filter does not filter people “out” of MWSD altogether, but rather directs them to where they will find the most dancing enjoyment. This implies that we have robust Community and Basic dance programs where people can hone their foundation skills and have fun on a regular basis.

On the topic of competition, some interesting information has emerged from recent research. A BOG Ad Hoc Committee has been tracking down known square dance competitions. The idea is that, since we surmise most competitions tend to involve younger people, the information might be useful to assist in youth recruiting. The Ad Hoc has so far identified a dozen or so (work is still ongoing) regular events. This many may be something of a surprise to those of us who believed there was no competition in square dancing. Clearly it has more of a presence than we might have imagined. Another interesting aspect is that the majority of the competitions are Traditional square dancing (the Committee is focusing on Traditional or MWSD and not counting events such as Contras or Clogging). We might have expected that the form of dance more focused on “puzzle solving” would be more prone to generate competitions. So far, however, the most common competitive elements seem to involve styling, timing, appearance, and presentation.

If we were to inject more competition and testing into our activity, it would represent a significant structural change. I recognize these particular ideas may never actually gain widespread acceptance, but the good news is that we are seeing more and more innovation and experiment happening out there “in the wild”. The theme of our 2014 Convention was “Make Something Happen” and we are pleased to see many of you are doing just that. When you try something new, please let us know what you’re doing and how it is going. Even better news is that society in general seems to be growing more receptive to the benefits square dancing offers. We are hearing positive reports from many quarters about new beginner classes and classes that are considerably larger than in recent years. It seems momentum is starting to build. Let’s make sure we capitalize on it.

“Change is the only constant” Proverb

DIRECTION is the official newsletter of CALLERLAB, The International Association of Square Dance Callers, with offices located at 200 SW 30th St., Suite 104, Topeka, Kansas, 66611, Phone: 1-785-783-3665; E-mail: CALLERLAB@aol.com. DIRECTION is published and mailed first class or electronically to all Members and affiliates of CALLERLAB. DIRECTION is edited by Dana Schirmer, Executive Director.

The opinions expressed in articles submitted by Members or affiliates do not necessarily reflect the policies of CALLERLAB. All articles submitted for publication must be signed by the author.

The Editor reserves the right to exercise discretion in accepting, editing, or rejecting any material submitted for publication. Articles submitted for publication that describe square dance formations or arrangements MUST be in accordance with CALLERLAB standards.

2
Most of the articles you have read in the past have dealt with the need for change. I don't mean to bore you, but I have a little more to say on that subject. Without change, things stay the same; think about it. If you continue to do exactly the same thing over and over, you achieve the same results over and over. However, change does not always come easy. Sometimes it doesn't happen at all. There are always those who resist change for various reasons, and in lots of cases their resistance wins out. We have enjoyed a great activity for many years without a great number of changes. Unfortunately, we are at a crossroad; either we make a few changes and move ahead or we continue work as usual and remain on the same path, achieving the same results. It's up to you!

On a brighter note, let me tell you what happened in our local club because of a little change. I have called for this club for over 40 years and have seen many ups and downs. In the good years, we danced 10 to 12 squares on a regular club night. We never thought much about it. Then, as with many clubs, we saw the numbers slowly start to fall. The club wasn't too concerned. Members just said, "Oh it'll come back." Finally, they decided we needed a class. The club had a meeting and decided, "We'll start a class in three weeks: tell all your friends." That was the extent of advertising. On the designated night we showed up expecting a big crowd of newcomers. Three couples attended. Needless to say, no class was held. We continued to lose members due to death, age, lack of interest, etc. Again the club said, "We must have a class." They used the same advertising as before and got the same results except this time we had four couples. After dancing for about four months, class talk started again. Now we have decided it's time for change.

Two of the last couples to join our club took it upon themselves to be in charge of this new class. They had newspaper articles coming out almost every day (free, by the way), used the Internet, Facebook, and any way they could think of to get the word out that we were starting a new square dance class. They even had a question and answer section telling all about square dancing. I have included the information at the end of my article and you may feel free to use it if you like. I am proud to say that on our first open house night we had 52 people show up. That's right; 52. Now it was my time to make some changes—no rush to Plus. I taught these dancers to dance Mainstream in 12 weeks. We had FUN! The very first tip we laughed, danced, and did a singing call. We had 3 full squares graduate and join our club. But the story doesn't end here. After about 4 months of dancing, these new people wanted another class. They wanted their friends to come and see what they had been missing. The same 2 couples, with help now from new dancers, started the advertising campaign again. The first night, guess what—54 new people. It can be done, but you must make some changes in your methods. Stop the rush to get them into Plus dancing. It will come; just let them have fun!

The main reason I felt compelled to write about this is to show you what can happen with just a little change. It is a major truth that we need to know when it's time for change and how to help affect it. Sometimes we have a sense of sorrow when some things must be left behind, but we have a great sense of accomplishment knowing new things will allow continuity and the betterment of our great activity. Try these things. I believe you will see that they will work for you too. You will see your clubs begin to grow and the old enthusiasm and fun will return. I know it works—I've seen it.

**LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE**

**AT THE SENIOR CENTER**

(Continued from Elmer Sheffield's article)

Since the Capital Twirlers, a local square dance club, will be offering square dance classes for beginning and previous dancers starting on September 10th, this seemed the perfect time to answer...
questions you may have about square dancing. The following list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is intended to provide information about this fun and healthful activity.

Q: What is square dancing?
A: A “square” consists of eight people; one couple on each side of the square. A caller instructs the moves that the dancers are to make following the beat of a song. Square dancing is performed to any music that has a steady count of four beats. If you can count to four, you can square dance.

Q: How do I learn to square dance?
A: The Capital Twirlers will be starting a new class for new and previous dancers on September 10, 2012. Classes will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and finish at 8:30 p.m. Lessons are free on the 10th, 17th and 24th and you may begin on any of these dates. Sorry, but no new students after the 24th. Our caller, Elmer Sheffield, is internationally known, well-respected personally, and is an excellent teacher who makes square dancing a lot of fun. Experienced club members will join in the dancing to assist and accelerate learning.

Q: Can I come and watch a dance sometime to see if I would like it?
A: Yes! By all means, please stop by and visit. The Capital Twirlers dance on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor auditorium at the Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe St., Tallahassee. Better yet, give it a try during the free lessons on the 10th, 17th and 24th of September. Please note that we will not be dancing on September 3rd due to the Labor Day holiday.

Q: Do I need a partner for the lessons?
A: Generally speaking, most of our new students are couples, but singles are welcome. If there are no other singles for you to dance with, an experienced club member will dance with you.

Q: I felt as though I had two left feet when I tried ballroom dancing. Is there a chance for success at square dancing?
A: Absolutely! Square dancing is quite a bit different from other types of dancing you may have tried. There are no patterned steps and no fancy footwork is required. It’s more like walking in time with the music as you form moving patterns with the other dancers.

Q: What kind of music is used in square dancing?
A: The simplest answer is “Just about any kind.” Much of the appeal of square dancing relates to the music. It can be done to any style of music ranging from country and western, rhythm and blues, rock, gospel, classical or oldies from the 50s or 60s if you prefer. You can even dance to some of the old favorite Christmas Carols.

Q: Are special clothes required for square dancing?
A: No, not unless you want to wear them. Lots of women wear the popular long mid-calf (prairie) skirts, but casual wear, work clothes or slacks are fine. Long-sleeved shirts are preferred for men, and western-style shirts are very popular.

Q: Are special shoes required?
A: No, but shoes are required. Bare feet present a high risk of injury. Just about any type of comfortable shoes is fine as long as they have non-sticky soles. Please avoid wearing tap-dancing shoes, baseball cleats, ice-skates, or any other kind of footwear that will mar the dance floor.

Q: Will I be ready to dance with the club after lessons are over?
A: Absolutely! In fact, you will be dancing from the very first lesson. Square dancing is definitely an activity in which you “learn by doing”. After learning a sufficient number of calls, students will be invited by Elmer to dance with club members after the time set aside for lessons. He will limit the calls to those that you already know.

Q: After I complete the lessons and join the club, will I be able to dance in other cities?
A: No problem there! You can travel to any city in any State in the U.S.A. or in the world and be assured that the calls will be the same as those you learned. All calls are standardized and are used not only across the United States, but around the world. The international language of square dancing is English.

Q: Is smoking permitted?
A: NO!

Q: Is there alcohol at square dances?
A: NO!

Q: Is square dancing a senior’s only activity?
A: Absolutely not! All ages are welcome. It is not uncommon to see dancers ranging in age from the teens well into the 80s. There are many seniors dancing because they began 30-40 years ago and they are still active.

Q: Why should I learn to square dance?
A: Basically, because it’s a heck of a lot of fun! Aside from fun and fellowship in a smoke-free, alcohol-free environment, square dancing has the benefit of being a low impact activity but great aerobic exercise. Mayo Clinic encourages square dancing because it burns a lot of calories, strengthens bones, and helps the cardiovascular system. It also may help to relieve stress. While dancing, you are listening to a caller and following instructions leaving little time to worry. Square dancing involves constant movement along with quick directional changes. These factors work together to help keep your body in shape. It has been referred to as the “perfect exercise” because of the positive effects of continuous physical movement but with none of the negative effects. It is also tremendous mental exercise because you must quickly recall and execute the caller’s instructions as you move from one formation to another.

Register for the 42nd Convention TODAY!

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR YOUTH AND NEWER CALLERS**

The CALLERLAB Foundation Board recognizes the importance of supporting youth and newer callers (less than three years experience) as a way to lend support to the square dance activity. The Board also recognizes that some of these individuals may need assistance obtaining calling equipment. Therefore, the Board has established a grant program as a way to provide assistance to these callers.

The goal of this grant program is to provide useable equipment at little or no cost. To make this grant program feasible, we ask callers and cuers to assist by donating equipment to the Foundation. Let’s “Pay it Forward”. Contact the Home Office and notify us what equipment you may have available. Donations may be tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.

**2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

The 2015/2016 Membership renewal information will be mailed in the very near future. We are happy to announce that CALLERLAB dues for Active and Associate Members will not increase for the 2015/2016 membership year, and will remain at $105. Apprentice dues are set at $85 this coming year, also unchanged from last year. Youth Member dues are only $5. Those Members (excluding youth) receiving DIRECTION electronically will receive a $10 discount off their dues amount for agreeing to receive it electronically. This discount is provided to Members who have assisted the Home Office in reducing labor, printing, and postage expenses associated with publishing DIRECTION. Thanks for “thinking green” and helping CALLERLAB save money!

BMI/ASCAP will not be able to provide the 2015/2016 licensing rates until early December, so membership renewals will be sent sometime later in December. Insurance renewals will remain at $25. The Home Office continues to
search for ways to reduce expenses. Maintaining our membership numbers has also helped generate cash savings, which in turn helps to prevent membership dues from increasing.

If you are only calling a few dances a year and are finding it difficult to pay the full CALLERLAB membership fee, contact the Home Office to see what alternatives may be available for your particular situation. We are here to assist you in any way that we can.

RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

The Board of Governors has approved a process whereby proposals (resolutions) may be offered by any CALLERLAB Member (Active, Life, Associate, or Apprentice) to the membership for consideration, discussion, and vote. Such resolutions shall be in writing, signed by the author with a second, each of whom shall be a Member (Active, Life, Associate, or Apprentice) in good standing of CALLERLAB. Resolutions shall be presented to the Executive Director in writing either in person, by mail, or fax to the Home Office. An explanation in writing of why the presenter feels the resolution is necessary shall accompany the resolution.

The procedures require resolutions to be submitted by January 1 of the Convention year so they may be listed in the "Call to Convention" and placed on the Convention Agenda. Please contact the Home Office for additional information or for a resolution submission form.

EXHIBITORS/VENDORS AT CONVENTION

CALLERLAB is inviting exhibitors/vendors to attend the 42nd CALLERLAB Convention in Springfield, Missouri. 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. If you know of vendors in the Springfield, Missouri area, please have them contact the CALLERLAB Office.

25 and 50 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Will 2015 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 Certificate 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 2015 (started calling in 1990 (25) or 1965 (50), please contact the Home Office to verify we have the correct information within our files.

CALLERLAB LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS

Here’s another holiday gift idea. CALLERLAB has a long sleeved Port Authority shirt available now with the CALLERLAB logo embroidered. This very nice shirt comes in men’s and women’s sizes, is very comfortable, and comes in various colors. However, the CALLERLAB Royal Blue is the favorite. Men’s shirts have a button-down collar and a pocket. The cost for the shirt is $40 and includes shipping. If you want your name embroidered, the cost is an additional $4. Shirts larger than X-Large are an additional $4.

‘There are only two rules to success.
1. Never tell everything you know.
2. .......

unknown
MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW!

Room Reservations may be made by internet at:
https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1266501&hotelID=17728,
or call:  1-417-864-7333
Our Group Code is CLISD

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Many CALLERLAB Committees need your help! Here's your chance to get involved with the internal workings of CALLERLAB. Use your knowledge and expertise to help a Committee make the right decisions. Make your opinions count by taking an active part in Committee actions. Remember; under the bylaws, all Members except Apprentice Members may serve on Committees and vote on Committee business. This means Associate Members may join a Committee and vote on Committee business. Also, partners may join certain Committees and vote on Committee business. Please call the Home Office for information or to join one or more Committees. The following Standing Committees solicit your participation:

Advanced*
Calls’ Partners
Caller Training*
Challenge*
Choreographic Applications
Community Dance
Definitions*
History
Youth Activities*
International Advisory*
Mainstream*
Marketing
Music Producers*
Plus*
Ways and Means
Women in Calling*

Committees identified with an asterisk (*) require qualification.

“Talk It Up #Squaredancing”

CONVENTION ROOM SHARING

If you are interested in sharing a room with another attendee at the 2015 CALLERLAB Convention in Springfield, Missouri, please contact the Home Office and ask that your name be added to our list of other attendees who would like 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 be glad to help.

ALTERNATE INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENT PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND:

During the 2001 CALLERLAB Convention, a Bylaws Amendment was approved which directed the Board Of Governors to establish an alternative to Convention or mini-lab attendance to establish Voting Member status. That requirement was named the Alternate Involvement Requirement Document. Over the next several months the Executive Committee and the Board reviewed, discussed, and approved this document.

DEFINITION:

A Member who meets the other requirements for Voting Member status may complete any one of the three requirements listed below in lieu of attending a CALLERLAB Convention or mini-lab. The other requirements for Voting Membership includes: 1) calling more than 3 years; 2) calling at least 12 dance events per year averaged over the past 3 years; 3) subscribe to the CALLERLAB Code Of Ethics.

Alternative Involvement Requirement applications may be obtained from the CALLERLAB website or by contacting the Home Office.

Visit our Winning Ways
http://tinyurl.com/CALLERLAB-WinningWays

“Being negative only makes a difficult journey more difficult. You may have been given a cactus, but you don’t have to sit on it.”

Unknown
CALLERLAB FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The following scholarships were recently approved by the Foundation Executive Directors to the following individuals:

Anthony Casale
Jerry Wilson
Noah Siegmann

Congratulations, Everyone!

CALLERLAB FOUNDATION
GRANT AWARDED TO
STATE FAIR PROMENADERS

This Grant is awarded to promote square dancing at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kansas. Congratulations to the State Fair Promenaders!

HOME OFFICE
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The CALLERLAB Home Office will be closed on December 25, 2014, and January 1, 2015 in observance of the seasonal holidays.

42nd CALLERLAB Convention
Springfield, Missouri
March 30 - April 1, 2015

“Talk It Up #Square Dancing”

The CALLERLAB Executive Committee has chosen “Talk It Up #Square Dancing” as the theme for the 42nd CALLERLAB Convention to be held at the beautiful University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. As always, there will be technical sessions to peak your interest as well as social events with plenty of friends. The hotel features a hot breakfast and free internet as part of its room accommodations. During the 2014 CALLERLAB Convention, marketing expert, Patrick Schwerdtfeger, noted that people were not talking about square dancing because we are not talking about square dancing. The Executive Committee wishes to emphasize the importance of publicizing square dancing utilizing various social medias.

Room Reservations may be made by internet at: https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupId=1266501&hotelID=17728., or by phone at: 1-417-864-7333. Our Group Code is CLISD. Enter the dates and your rate will automatically load into the reservation. Select your preferred room type and then fill in your personal information. The University Plaza Hotel website is www.upspringfield.com.

Room rates at the University Plaza Hotel will be $98, which includes a daily free hot breakfast as well as free internet service.

Save the date and come to CALLERLAB’s 42nd 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.

Springfield, Missouri is located about 45 minutes from Branson, Missouri, which features many shows and activities. Check the website at: http://www.bransontourismcenter.com. Additional information regarding Springfield, Missouri may be found at: http://www.springfieldmo.org.

Make your plans now to attend the 42nd CALLERLAB Convention!
FROM OUR MEMBERS

Opinions expressed in letters or articles from our Members are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of CALLERLAB, nor of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to condense, omit or re-write all or any part of material sent to CALLERLAB for publication.

THEY CALL IT COURTESY

By Jim Wright

I would like to talk about courtesy at and during square dances. I (and many others) have noticed over time that what used to be called “common courtesy” seems to be falling by the wayside these days. There are many specific topics that need discussing in this area, but due to space limitations, I want to specifically address two areas; applause after a tip and leaving a dance before the end of the dance without saying “Thank you” to the caller and cuer, or failing to thank the caller and cuer at the end of the dance.

Would you go to a concert by your favorite musician and not wildly applaud after each song? No, I don’t think you would. Happily, we still thank each member of our square at the end of a tip. That is part of square dancing courtesy. But listen carefully at the end of a tip; there may be several people applaud the tip and the caller or cuer, but not very many. Rarely do you hear loud applause for the caller or cuer. Now maybe the caller or cuer doesn’t deserve the thanks. That is a different subject. But “common courtesy” dictates that people show their appreciation to the performer at the end of each song or set (tip).

Yes, callers and cuers are performers. Their job is to entertain the dancers. They work very hard before each dance, during their careers, and at each dance to ensure that the dancers have fun and are entertained. I will tell you that it is disheartening when people just walk off the floor, after saying thank you to their fellow dancers, without bothering to say “Thank you” to the caller or cuer. Also, the callers and cuers publically thank the dancers for coming to the dance several times during the evening. They also walk around the room during breaks to individually thank each dancer and to make sure that they are having a good time. Don’t the callers and cuers deserve the same respect and courtesy?

Most long-time dancers know Jon Jones. He is an internationally renowned caller and, along with his wife Deborah Carroll-Jones, has been calling all over the world for almost longer than I can remember. They are both very well respected leaders in the dancing and calling communities. A number of years ago, Jon wrote an article about this very subject. In part, he wrote “The U.S.A. is the only country in the world that has dropped the ball in this regard (applause after a tip). In all other countries, we have to lay the microphone down and walk off the stage to get the dancers to stop applauding. It is really a great feeling.” It makes me sad that such a comment could be made about the founding home of square dancing, the United States. We should be the leaders in all things about square dancing. And we are not, at least when it comes to courtesy.

Jon also reminds us that “The first really good caller/teacher manual that we had was published by Bob Osgood of Sets In Order, with a lot of input from the very best in our field, and I quote a passage from that book; ‘A part of good square dance manners is the APPLAUSE at the end of a tip that says to the others in the square, ‘Thank you,’ and to the CALLER, ‘We appreciate your calling.’”

This isn’t only the dancers’ fault. The callers and cuers deserve some of the credit for this failure. It is our job to teach new dancers, and to reinforce (remind) long-time dancers all of the courtesies associated with our beloved pass-time. We (the callers and cuers) obviously need to do a lot better in our classes and at our dances to help ensure that “common courtesy” does not get lost.

(continued on page 10)

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

Abraham Lincoln
I would also like to mention a second area of “common courtesy” that seems to have gone by the wayside these days. It concerns the thanking of the caller and cuer at the end of the dance. I really don’t think that I need to go into the reason for doing this. The reasons pretty much follow the above reasoning. Most dancers, but not all, still line up at the end of a dance to thank the caller and cuer for their efforts. That is great and is well appreciated by the callers and cuers. But there are a few dancers who don’t. They just leave. That does not send a very good message to the performers. And believe me, it is noticed by all.

But maybe the worst offenders these days are the dancers that leave early, for whatever reason, and fail to take the 30 seconds needed to thank the caller and cuer for the dance (between tips). I don’t think that I have ever heard a caller or cuer say it in exactly this way but it really is a slap in the face to the performer. It tells the performer something negative about the person that left. It might also make the performer feel that they have not done a good job of entertaining the dancers. And that is not a good thing. For those who stay to the end of a dance, you know that most callers and cuers thank those that have stayed. I will tell you that staying to the end of a dance is highly appreciated by the caller and cuer (and other dancers). Again, it is a high form of “common courtesy”. But it truly sends a bad message when dancers leave a dance (unless they are upset with the caller or cuer) without saying thank you. It is not good manners to do so (when was the last time that you heard or read the word “manners”?).

We all need reminding of the basics of common courtesy every once-in-a-while. I would like to suggest that it takes very little effort to say “Thank you” to the callers and cuers; both at the end of each tip with enthusiastic applause, and when you leave a dance. It will make you feel better about yourself and will really help the caller and cuer feel appreciated. It will make the performer work that much harder to make the next dance even more fun. Try it. You’ll like it!

“When you're finished changing, you're finished.”

Benjamin Franklin

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CONSENSUS TEACHING ORDER DOCUMENT

An Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Tim Marriner and Bill Harrison has developed the “Condensed Teaching Order Document” now available through the Home Office or on the CALLERLAB website at: http://www.callerlab.org/Portals/3/condensed teach%20order%20document.pdf

64th NSDC

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Paul Cote

Ted Lizotte

The 64th National Square Dance Convention has announced that Paul Cote and Ted Lizotte will be the Keynote Speakers at the 64th NSDC in Springfield, Massachusetts on Friday, June 26, 2015 at the MassMutual Center Arena starting at 1:00 p.m. Paul and Ted are both Members of CALLERLAB. Congratulations to Paul and Ted and best wishes in their presentations. CALLERLAB wishes to thank them as well as all Members who volunteer their time and contribute so much to the NSDC, CALLERLAB, State and local events. Your experience, leadership and willingness to help others is very much appreciated!

Want to help? Contribute by joining committees or contact the CALLERLAB Home Office to volunteer your services. Become active in your State and local associations. Encourage your area organizations to perform leadership seminars and help with the campaign to recruit new dancers, new callers and more clubs. Become involved—today!
CALLERLAB
42nd Annual Convention
Convention Recordings
(Recorded by CCD)
Order form
Complete MP3 Set of Interest session
of 2015 Springfield, MO Convention

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Members of a CALLERLAB Affiliated Organization

$ 25.00 per set
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200 SW 30th Street, Suite 104, Topeka, KS. 66611
Fax: 785-873-3696
Email: callerlab@aol.com
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CALLERLAB
42nd Annual Convention

Save the Date!
Springfield
Missouri
March 30-April 1, 2015

We will be staying at the beautiful University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
333 John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO 65806 417-864-7333 Fax 417-831-5893

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

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Phone:

Callers ($210.00 each)....................................................... $ ____________________
Partners ($200.00 each).................................................... $ ____________________
CDLS (Beginner Community Dance Leaders 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 15th 2015

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.

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