

**News From The  
AL e MO Squares  
Brooklyn, NY  
(March 23, 2003)**

The AL e MO Squares, 150 members strong, will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May 2003. They are holding an Anniversary Dance and through personal contact, by club members, they have invited several of the local politicians to be their guests.

They run a 10 + 10 program with 27 new dancers this year. They alternate tips during the evening with those in the first group serving as angels for the newest dancers. They graduate their new dancers at Mainstream. Their new dancer sessions run from 7 to 9 PM, September through April, with a plus workshop from 9 – 10 PM. There is no set time for the plus graduation. AL e MO's have good member participation with the new dancer sessions normally exceeding 8 squares. They charge \$4.00 per session and the angels pay. A good hospitality table is an attractive addition on workshop nights.

Their recruiting efforts include an open house barn dance twice a year, paid advertising, distribution of flyers in people oriented areas, demo's at local and civic organizations and word of mouth.

Approximately 15% of the new dancers are couples. Some of the single women are urged to learn the leaders part, so they can participate more actively. The club makes an effort to see that all the other singles have the opportunity to dance.

The club has a "Sunshine Committee" that notes Anniversary's, Birthday's and other special occasions. They also contact those who have been absent and encourage their return. They publish a monthly newsletter that goes to all members and area square dance organizations. To aid in dancer retention their new dancers are encouraged to participate in their regular club dances. The club also hosts an occasional bus trip, club luncheons and club visitation, with their new dancers, to other area clubs. The club also sponsors weekend dance activities with their club caller.

While attending the Canadian Square Dance Convention a club song to "I've Been Working On The Railroad" was written. This was a rewarding experience and has brought the club closer together.

Vincent Nunziato, Club President