NEWSLETTER
for Members of
CALLERLAB



The International Association of Square Dance Callers

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#### VOLUME XXV NUMBER TWO – AUGUST 1997

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#### CURRENT QUARTERLY SELECTIONS:

MAINSTREAM: None

PLUS: Go Right/Left to a Wave (7/97)

Fan the Boat (3/97)

ADVANCED: Swing the Fractions (5/97)
TRADITIONAL: Big Circle Square Dance (7/97)
CONTRA: Queen Ka'ahumanu Triplet (7/97)

EMPHASIS CALLS:

BASIC Run Family (9/97)
MAINSTREAM: Hinge Family (9/97)
PLUS: Coordinate (7/97)

**FUTURE CONVENTIONS:** 

SEP 21-23, 1997 Mini-Lab, Portland, Maine

APR 6-8, 1998

JUN 10-12, 1998

MAR 29-31, 1999

Drawbridge Estate, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mini-Lab, Adelaide, South Australia

Dallas Grand Hotel, Dallas, Texas

CALLERLAB OFFICE HOURS:

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#### FROM THE CHAIR

quare dancing has come a long way from its roots. Our activity began in homes and barns. As I write this article, I'm staying at the Lawrence Welk Resort, in Branson, Missouri! What an exciting time for square dancing this weekend has been! What a step forward to have square dancing sponsored by the Welk organization. For years we have looked for ways to attain corporate sponsorship. What better corporation could we have than the family oriented Lawrence Welk Resort? The dancers, callers, and cuers could not have been treated better. More about this in another article in this issue.

Soon fall will be upon us. Have you started plans for a new class? The most important thing we do is to teach new dancers. You should have already mobilized and energized your club members to begin the task of recruiting new dancers. It is a big part of our responsibility, as callers, to motivate the dance population. We MUST make them aware of the importance of recruiting in order to perpetuate this great activity.

Motivating dancers takes leadership. Leadership takes several things. Effort, time, and dedication are some qualities of leadership. However, real leadership takes more, in my opinion. It takes something intangible. That intangible is passion. A passion and a love for this activity. A passion to not only teach new dancers, but also to be able to instill in them, that passion. As leaders we must energize our recruiting force, the current dancers. And, we must mobilize ALL of them. Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and Round Dancers, ALL need to recruit.

Let's take an honest look at ourselves. Do we have that passion, that affection, that desire? Or, do we hope someone else teaches the classes this year? At a recent callers school, one new caller said he was anxious to get home and try his new skills because he had eight new couples lined up to learn to dance. He so much wants to call that he lined his class up before he even went to caller's school! Have you started promoting your fall class?

This edition of Direction is the election issue. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO VOTE! Your Board of Governors spends a great deal of time and effort in conducting the business of CALLERLAB. They are sincere in their desire to make square dancing a better activity. Those who are running as candidates are doing so because they have the same desire. They feel that they can add something to the Board. Please give each candidate your serious consideration. Make YOUR voice heard through your vote. Be a participant, not a spectator.

This is an exciting year for square dancing. We have many new things happening. With the ad hoc committee proposal there is much to think about and discuss. YOU can be a part of the excitement. YOU can be involved in the discussions. CALLERLAB will be having a Mini-Lab in Maine in September. I invite each of you to make plans to attend, either the Mini-Lab, or the regular convention in Kentucky next Spring. I encourage everyone to join in and make a contribution to the revitalization of our activity.

Have a great summer.

Jerry Junck Chairman of the Board

#### REPORT ON BYLAWS BALLOT

he April issue of DIRECTION contained a ballot for all Voting Members, asking whether or not the resolutions passed at the Los Angeles Convention should be rescinded. Resolutions passed at the convention were:

MOTION: Be it resolved that Article IV, Section 4 (B), of the revised BYLAWS OF CALLERLAB identified as "REV-15.397", be amended to read: "Beginning with the election in the year 2001, no Governor is eligible for nomination or election if he would, as a result, serve more than three consecutive terms in office. However, once a Governor has left office, he would not be eligible for nomination for a period of twelve months." MSC

MOTION: Be it resolved that the revised BYLAWS OF CALLERLAB identified as "REV-15.397", be approved as amended. MSC.

Of 889 ballots mailed, only 194 were returned. Since the number returned does not equal one-third of the voting members, the resolutions stand as approved by the members attending the Los Angeles Convention.

#### BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION

n this issue of DIRECTION, we present the nominees for the Board of Governors. Members eligible to vote will be electing eight (8) members to be seated on the Board following the 1998 CALLERLAB convention. Board members serve a term of three years.

Daryl Clendenin, Randy Dougherty, Mike Jacobs, Martin Mallard, Tony Oxendine, Deborah Parnell, Ken Ritucci, and John Sybalsky will complete their current terms on the Board at the 1998 convention. Ken Ritucci and Daryl Clendenin have chosen not to seek reelection.

Short biographic sketches are included to aid you in making your decision. Members eligible to vote in this election will find an orange ballot enclosed with this issue of *DIRECTION*. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE TO VOTE! Return your ballot NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 1997!

Please read the instructions on the ballot carefully. Do not sign the ballot.

The results of this important election will be announced in the October issue of *DIRECTION*. Press releases will be mailed to publications and callers associations announcing the results.



#### **REMEMBER - VOTE TODAY!!**

DIRECTION is the official newsletter of CALLERLAB, The International Association of Square Dance Callers, with offices located at 829 – 3rd Avenue SE, Suite 285, Rochester, Minnesota, 55904–7313. Telephone (507) 288–5121. DIRECTION is published bi-monthly and mailed first class to all members and affiliates of CALLERLAB. DIRECTION is edited by George White, Executive Director.

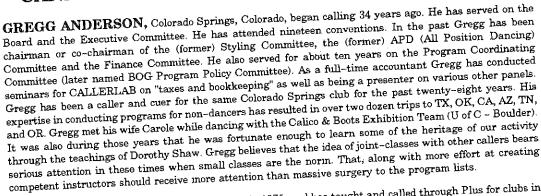
As DIRECTION is computerized, it would be most helpful to have articles, reports or letters to the editor submitted on computer diskettes whenever possible. DIRECTION uses WordPerfect 5.1 as its word processor, on an MS/DOS based computer. Computer diskettes (5 1/4" or 3 1/2") containing articles, reports or letters to be published should be submitted in either WordPerfect 5.1, 6.0 or 6.1 format. ASCII text files or MicroSoft Word for Windows files are also acceptable. Please enclose a printout of the article, report or letter.

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 Editors reserve the right to exercise their 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.

# CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS







YONA B. CHOCK, 'Ewa, HI, began calling in 1975, and has taught and called through Plus for clubs in Italy, Maryland, the Netherlands, and Hawaii. She joined CALLERLAB in 1981, and has attended 9 is a member of the Community Dance Program, Education, Research & Development, and Women in Calling is a member of the Community Dance Program, Education, Research & Development, and Women in Calling is a member of the Community Dance Program, Education, Research & Development, and Women in Calling is a member of the Community Dance and teaching, she has conducted seminars and panels at U.S. and Canadian committees. As a partitime caller and teaching, she has conducted seminars and panels at U.S. and Canadian of 35 years, Al, conduct an American Folk Dance Program in the public and private schools in Hawaii as Artists-in-Residence, and are Board members of the Hawaii State Dance Council. They are also members of CONTRALAB, Country Dance & Song Society and Lloyd Shaw Foundation, Inc. Yona is Dance Chair of the Hawaii Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (HAHPERD); State Vice President of the National Dance Association, of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (AAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (AAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (AAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (AAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (AAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (BAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (BAHPERD). They presented a program on integrating American Folk Dance into the Social Studies Dance (BAHPER



LARRY DAVENPORT, Foster City, California, began calling in 1984 and is a part-time caller and teacher. Larry has called regularly for many Mainstream and Plus clubs in the New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania area. He now calls for two Plus clubs and an A2 club in the San Francisco Bay area. Larry is a scientist and works for Genentech in pharmaceutical development as a senior manager in regulatory affairs. A called CALLERLAB in 1985 as the first apprentice and became a full member in 1989. Larry and his wife Kathy attended their first CALLERLAB convention in 1986. He is active in CALLERLAB, assisting with Kathy attended their first CALLERLAB convention in 1986. He is active in CALLERLAB, assisting with registration for three years, participating on various panels, and serving as the Plus Committee Chairman for registration for three years, participating on various panels, and serving as the Plus Committee Chairman for conducted three biennial reviews. If elected, he will work with CALLERLAB to make square dancing more fun, conducted three biennial reviews. If elected, he will work with CALLERLAB to make square dancing more fun, can more popular. Larry appreciates our geographical and international diversity and easier to learn, and more popular. Larry appreciates our geographical and international diversity and understands our need to think globally as we seek solutions to today's issues. CALLERLAB represents callers and dancers worldwide. We are in a unique position to be the major leader for our activity.



RANDY DOUGHERTY, Mesa, Arizona & Minneapolis, Minnesota, has enjoyed the wonderful world of square dancing for 37 years. Inspired by Ken Bower at age 15, he attended a caller's clinic in Des Moines to learn creative choreography.

For the next twelve years Randy called square dances in Minnesota and surrounding states while finishing high school, college, and while teaching at Fridley Grace High School. In 1979 he left his teaching position to devote full time to his calling career. From 1979 to 1986 he called for seven home clubs in the Twin Cities area, and travelled much of the United States and many foreign countries.

In 1986, Randy moved to Arizona, where he runs a busy dance program in Tucson and Mesa during the winter. In summer he tours the United States and Canada, including frequent national and foreign festivals.

Randy has recorded for Global Records, and currently calls the Royal label home. He has called for 30 National Conventions. Over the years Randy has put his teaching skills to work, inspiring hundreds of new dancers, and has contributed his time and energy working with beginning callers.

Randy has been an avid supporter of CALLERLAB since it's inception, joining in the late 70's and attending his first convention in 1981. He has served on the Board of Governors for two terms, was on the Executive Committee for two years, and has served on several instructional panels. He was given a Special Recognition Award for his assistance in taping at the NSDC, in order to establish the frequency count in use today.

Randy would again appreciate the opportunity to share his experience, knowledge, and perspective of the calling world today by serving on the Board of Governors. If elected, he would work to ensure preservation of good dancing, expand activity growth through leadership development, and assist in caller education.



CHUCK HANSEN, Hurricane, Utah, started calling as a teenager at the age of 14, when he was in a youth group called the Country Cousins, in 1963 in the southwestern part of the United States. Chuck started calling full-time in 1984.

As a professional caller in the Yuma and Phoenix area, Chuck starts his programs from the end of October thru the middle of April. Chuck calls programs from Basic thru A-2.

As a full-time calling professional, Chuck has opened up new square dance areas in Northern California, Colorado, Northern Arizona, and Utah. Chuck travels in the summers doing dances, jamborees, festivals, conventions, and square dance tours.

Chuck is an accredited member of CALLERLAB and has in the past served on the Mainstream and Plus Committees. Chuck has also served as president of the Southern Utah Callers Association and the Yuma Area Callers and Cuers Association. Chuck has recorded for Buckskin/Rawhide records.



MIKE JACOBS, Herndon, Virginia, started dancing in 1962, calling in 1971, going full time in 1979. He has lived in the Washington, DC area since 1987. He has 4 clubs, calls Mainstream through C-4, and travels nationally and overseas. Mike has been a member of CALLERLAB since 1976, working on many committees and panels. He has chaired both sub-committees on the Advanced Teaching Order, the Membership Committee, and the Career Callers Committee. He was elected to the Board in 1995.

"I believe square dancing and CALLERLAB are at a crossroads. No matter what road we decide to take, it is our execution of those decisions that will make or break us and our activity. I feel I can help us plan for our future by working with the Board of Governors."



MARTIN MALLARD and Terry Mallard, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They have been active in square and round dancing and the training of callers for 41 years. During those years both worked full time and called 5 nights a week. Now retired, they still call 5 to 6 nights a week. Their current clubs are clubs they started, ranging in age from 30 to 41 years. They have been active members of CALLERLAB since 1975. Have attended all the CALLERLAB Conventions and served on the CALLERLAB Board of Governors since 1983. Served as Mainstream Chairman and are members of several committees. Martin is presently Chairman of the Caller-Coach Committee. They have taught classes for beginners each year, and for the last 10 years have taught classes for Plus and A-1. Both are very active in their Local, Provincial and National Square Dance organizations. They are currently chair couple for the Canadian Western Dance Instructors Association. In 1991 Martin obtained his accreditation as a Caller-Coach. In 1994 Martin was awarded the Milestone by CALLERLAB. Their concern is the recruitment and training of new dancers and callers and the retention of them. These people are the future of our great activity. As Board members, they believe that service to the members is of prime importance.



DOREN MCBROOM, Manchester, Maryland. Doren began his calling career in 1968. He currently calls for two clubs and does a moderate amount of traveling. As his full-time profession, Doren works in the electronic industry for Northrop Grumman. He has been a member of CALLERLAB since 1983 and has attended twelve conventions. He has served on numerous committees since joining CALLERLAB. Currently Doren is serving as the Plus Quarterly Selection Chairman, and he is working with the Accreditation committees project of developing an accreditation for square dance teachers. As a caller of 29 years, he has seen the square dance activity go through many changes; most notably, he feels that dancers do not seem to dance with the same comfort and proficiency as they once did. He wants to work to restore the quality of our dance, and he feels that the best way to do that is through the kind of caller education and program guidance that CALLERLAB provides. He also feels that differences exist in the destination of our class programs, and he believes we need a method of acknowledging those differences without fracturing the uniformity we have worked so hard to gain. He would like to bring these ideas to the Board, and he would appreciate your support.



TOM MOHNEY, Oil City, Pennsylvania, began calling in 1972. Tom became a member of CALLERLAB in 1978 and has attended 19 conventions. He was previously chairperson of the Rural Area Considerations Committee and is currently a member of the Mainstream, Plus, Advance, and Education Committees. Tom works as a school administrator and calls part-time. In addition to calling regularly for two square dance clubs, he has worked extensively in a three state area fulfilling various club, federation, and professional responsibilities. His professional affiliation at the local level is with the Lake Shore Callers and Cuers Association of Erie. Tom believes in CALLERLAB, in what the organization has accomplished and knows that CALLERLAB is key to the future of square dancing. Because society is changing, the challenge for our activity is to develop new perspectives and new directions. If elected, "I will work to strengthen and promote the activity that all of us so dearly love."

VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE



TONY OXENDINE, Sumter, South Carolina, began calling in his hometown. At one point, he regularly called and taught for four clubs in South Carolina. In 1980 he decided to pursue calling as a full-time vocation. Regularly traveling in excess of 150,000 miles annually, Tony has called in 45 states, Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and several Scandinavian and European countries.

Tony joined CALLERLAB in 1974 and became accredited in 1978. Since that time Tony has served on the Plus QS, Mainstream QS, and Career Callers Committees. He has served three terms on the Board of Governors and is currently a member of the Executive Committee. He is a past Vice Chairman of the BOG and served two terms as Chairman of the Board.

If we are to remain leaders of the square dance activity, many goals must be established and reached. We must continue to improve our public image. We must also devise ways to improve our activity without alienating todays dancer. Most importantly, we must come up with a plan to increase our new dancer base.

Over the years, the name CALLERLAB has become synonymous with leadership. CALLERLAB and square dancing continue to need strong positive leadership. With your vote and help, Tony hopes to continue this great tradition.



**DEBORAH PARNELL**, Rancho Cucamonga, California. "I began calling in 1982 and became a member of CALLERLAB in 1985, having attended 11 conventions. I am currently a member of the Board of Governors and am seeking a second term. I have served as Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee for the Foundation for the state of California and am currently serving as Vice—Chairman of the Caller Training Committee. I am also an Accredited Caller Coach. I have conducted many panels at CALLERLAB Conventions and National Conventions. I currently serve on several committees. My husband is also a member of CALLERLAB and my daughter is a round dance cuer.

As a local, traveling and festival caller, I had the opportunity to meet and interact with many groups of callers and dancers alike, all possessing diverse ideas and opinions. This prepared me quite well for serving on the BOG and I would very much appreciate the opportunity to continue to be a part of this process, bringing this perspective and experience to the BOG. We stand now at the dawning of what could be a whole new era for square dancing. More than ever, we need the patience and humility to truly listen to differing opinions and place the good and the future of the activity above our own personal feelings. I have done that as your representative and would continue to place principals before personalities. I am extremely proud to be a member of CALLERLAB and am very grateful for having been allowed to serve."



BOB POYNER, DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Bob began calling in 1963 while in the Air Force stationed at Eglin AFB, Florida. Bob returned to his pre-Air Force job at Caterpillar, Inc. Retiring from CAT after 31 years of service to become a full time caller, Bob and wife, Ann, returned to the Northwest Florida, Defuniak Springs area in 1992, where he presently calls for six area clubs, covering the Basic through A-2 levels. A member of CALLERLAB since 1975, Bob is also a member of Florida Callers and Northwest Florida Callers Associations. Bob was President of the Northwest Florida Callers Association in 1993 and 1994. Bob, who records for Chicago Country Records and has recorded on several labels since 1975, is on the staff of the Fall Jubilee at Fontana Dam, NC in October. If elected to the Board of Governors, Bob would work hard for the preservation of square dancing, and help where ever needed to promote it.



**DANA SCHIRMER**, Berryton, KS, has been calling since 1978 and has been a member of CALLERLAB since 1981. He maintains three Mainstream clubs, a Basic group with Mainstream workshop, a Plus workshop group, an Advance workshop group, and conducts caller training courses with primary emphasis towards new callers. Dana has conducted multi-session lessons for three years and averages four sets of lessons per year.

Dana attended his first CALLERLAB Convention in 1984 and has attended several others since that time. He is presently the Chairman of the Basic/Mainstream Committee and previously served as Vice Chairman of the Basic/Mainstream Committee. Dana has been elected to various offices of the Northeast Kansas Square Dance Callers Association and the Kansas State Square Dance Callers Association including nine terms as President of the state association. For many years he has been instrumental in the coordination of the annual Kansas State Square Dance Convention. The 1997 CALLERLAB Convention theme of "A New Beginning" provides his motivation to serve the membership of CALLERLAB.

Dana is retired from Santa Fe Railway Company and presently works as an Administrative Manager for a small company where he is responsible for accounting, quality control, human resources, purchasing, and other assignments (including making coffee).

VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE



JERRY STORY, Mission, Texas, began his calling career in 1970 at the age of fifteen. Upon finishing high school, Jerry went on the road full-time calling dances throughout the United States.

He has called in a dozen different countries and does annual weekends in Japan, Germany, Sweden, and England. He feels because of his extensive traveling he can offer insight to square dancing from much of the world.

For the past fifteen years Jerry has resided in Mission, with his wife Kristy of 20 years and sons Joshua and Jacob. They run a winter square dance program consisting of 9-12 sessions weekly. He calls for beginners and up through C-1 which gives him awareness of the different levels.

Jerry helped establish the McAllen RGV Callers' Association which he has participated in for ten years. Their main focus is beginner classes.

He has been a member of CALLERLAB since 1976 and was Chairman of the Alternative Dance Program Committee last year. Jerry is tremendously dedicated to the preservation of the art of square dance calling and the square dance activity.

He would very much appreciate the opportunity to bring his perspective as a full-time caller for over twenty-five years to the Board of Governors. If elected, he will have the chance to give back to the activity which has been so good to him through the years.



JOHN SYBALSKY, San Jose, California, has been calling since 1973, teaching beginners and calling for clubs and workshops in New England and California. He also travels a bit in the US and Europe. He joined CALLERLAB in 1979; ever since then, he's been active in efforts to standardize definitions, to accredit callers and teachers of beginning dancers, and to educate ourselves. You may have attended one of the Convention panels he has helped run over the years, covering topics like body flow and controlling difficulty.

"CALLERLAB is a group of caring people, committed to making the square dance world better. We work best when we're sure that we all share that vision, and when our caring and commitment are reflected in how the organization works.

During my term on the Board, I've worked to make that happen; the new bylaws that I helped draft bring back binding votes at our Convention, while making it easier for members who can't travel easily to demonstrate their commitment to our ideals and stay active in decision-making. I've championed greater openness on the Board—not because the Board is doing ill, but because all members need to SEE how much good the Board does. As a Board member, I've been guided by what members have told me they wanted. I look forward to continuing my work on the Board, and ask that you tell me what YOU want the organization to be."



JIM WASS, Riverdale, Maryland, first square danced in 1961. He began calling in 1989 and with his wife Ann created a caller-run program the next year. He now calls regularly for two Mainstream clubs in the Washington, D.C. area and does some traveling in the region. He also calls for a developmentally disabled group and has done work in local schools.

Jim joined CALLERIAB as an apprentice in 1989 and attended his first convention in 1992. Jim has served on the Education, Training, and Recruit-Promote-Maintain committees. He has chaired the Accreditation Committee for four years and has guided it toward a certification program for callers who are square dance teachers. This program is being pilot tested this year.

Jim's day job takes considerable time away from square dance calling. His work in business process reengineering and computer consulting gives him a perspective on business improvement that can benefit CALLERLAB.

Jim is particularly interested in new dancer recruiting and caller training and would like to promote efforts in these areas and pursue the interests of callers and dancers everywhere through service on the CALLERLAB Board of Governors.



CINDY WHITAKER, Quincy, Illinois, has been calling 17 years, the last 7 of those as a full-time traveling caller. She organized and is club caller for a local Mainstream club, as well as club caller for a Plus club in Quincy. Cindy travels extensively throughout the U.S. and has called in Canada and New Zealand. A CALLERLAB member since 1986, she serves on the RPM, Choreographic Applications, and Career Callers Committees, and was on the Ad Hoc Committee for the Alternate Dance Program. Cindy is also a recording artist with Mountain Records.

"I am very optimistic about the future of square dancing. I see some positive changes on the horizon and a revival of what I think of as the greatest activity in the world. We need to come together as one, putting aside any and all prejudices and egos, and work toward the promotion and preservation of square dancing. I would like to see all callers be proficient in teaching, positive in attitude, and open minded in ideas. I feel that by being on the Board of Governors, I can better help our activity by working toward this end."

VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE

# "PERSPECTIVE" BY TEAM 2000

Editor's Note: The purpose of this feature is to present a balanced perspective regarding the recommendations and proposal presented by the ad hoc committee. This very important proposal will be the central issue at the next CALLERLAB convention. The members of Team 2000 have been asked to each provide one article in favor of the proposal, and one article against the proposal. These articles are presented for the purpose of educating the membership as to the issues and arguments for and against the proposal. The Executive Committee and Board of Governors urges each and every member to attend the convention in 1998. Every vote counts on this very crucial

The articles that follow are written by members of Team 2000 to present the arguments both for and against the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. The opinions expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the proposal. opinions of CALLERLAB, it's members, or the Board of Governors. Furthermore, these viewpoints may not even reflect the viewpoint of the author regarding these issues. The authors endeavor to bring to the attention of the reader, salient issues regarding the proposals of the ad hoc committee.

# THE PROPOSALS - PRO AND CON

By Jim Mayo

It is agreed by nearly everyone that some change is needed to improve the popularity of square dancing. Most callers believe that teaching people to dance comfortably at the available dances is not possible in one season.

If we accept these opinions it appears that the existing Basic Program would be attainable in 10 to 12 weeks of class time.

It would, of course, be necessary for callers to establish dance programs for the graduates of these classes. We could not look to existing dancers for much help.

The emphasis on standard position for the first two steps in square dancing would make the initial experience easier and more fun. The initial commitment would be reduced and even the classes could be more fun if the variety offered were not so challenging.

Most callers today believe that dancers should know the calls they are dancing very well before they attempt to enter the advanced program(s). The emphasis on Extended Applications - meaning much more variety in setups than is common at dances today - would serve to discourage those who are not interested in more complex dancing from moving on.

Many callers believe that most dancers know only a few of the Plus calls. Thus a program teachable in 10-12 weeks beyond the Basic Program could include most of what today's dancers do. For dancers who now dance only Mainstream, there would be only a few additional calls for them to learn. Much of the saving in teaching time would be the limitation to Standard positions.

It is foolish to have the first three steps in square dancing involve 49, 17, and 30 calls respectively. The second step should approximately equal the first step in size. The recommended proposals accomplish this.

The three proposals are based on an assumption that the problems in square dancing are affected by the content of the dance programs. This is not true. The problems in square dancing have little to do with the program content. They result in large part from poor judgement, lack of discipline, and inadequate teaching by callers. No change in the programs will change this.

In fact, changing the programs will only divert our attention from the REAL problem, which is what callers do with the programs we have.

We should make the entry program easier. If we really believe this, the Basic Program has been and is available to us now. We could accomplish the recommendations of the first proposal without any vote if we really believed in it.

The principle problem facing square dancing is recruiting. None of the three proposals will have any effect on that. It is possible that establishment of Basic dance groups would make the first year of dancing more comfortable. This could make first year dancers more willing to recruit. But, again, we could accomplish this without any changes in our existing programs.

We could accomplish most of what the proposals address by teaching Mainstream in standard positions in our entry classes - and then providing dances for the graduates of these classes. Again, no change to the programs that are now enjoyed by the existing dancers would be needed.

It is a mistake to make major changes to the programs that our customers are now pleased with, unless we can demonstrate our ability to recruit large numbers of new customers.

# HOW FAR TO THE NEXT BUS STOP?

By Nasser Shukayr

hat if riding a BUS were like square dancing? At a square dance, people dance at their chosen program or "destination". Similarly, passengers ride to a chosen destination.

Although each bus rider would like to ride to his or her own destination, the bus only stops at a bus stop. Similarly, a brand-new square dancer must learn EVERY call on a program list. After riding the bus of program lists to one of the predefined bus stops, then, and only then, can a new dancer get OFF the bus and attend dances.

The problem is that the very first bus stop is too FAR away. In many regions, new dancers must learn all the calls through PLUS before they can go to an open dance. They must learn roughly a HUNDRED calls before the first bus stop!

The popularity of square dancing has diminished because it's too FAR to the first stop. Is there a solution? Why can't dancers get off the bus and start dancing after learning just the 49 Basic calls? It's a good idea, but it doesn't work. In many regions, if you dance "only" Basic, there are NO regular dances to attend. The bus stops at Basic Street, but it's a deserted area and no one wants to go there.

CALLERLAB doesn't even treat Basic as a full-fledged program! There are committees for Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and CDP, but NO Basic Committee! The combined Basic/Mainstream Committee handles Basic. Should the Basic Program be the ONLY program WITHOUT a committee? Obviously, a separate Basic Committee needs to be created.

After getting on the bus of program lists, how long should you have to ride until the first stop? The ad hoc committee for Alternative Dance Programs recommends that the first bus stop be reachable in TEN weeks. The bus ROUTE is still the same. We're only adding a new bus STOP after 10 weeks.

If no one wants to get off the bus at Basic Street, why add a new bus stop? No one wants to be labeled a BASIC square dancer. The word BASIC implies SUB-STANDARD. This is why the ad-hoc committee proposes that the 10-week program be named "square dancing". People who choose to get off the bus at this new stop will be known as Square Dancers, instead of Basic dancers.

WHO is likely to get off the bus at this new stop? Certainly not any EXISTING dancers! They are already happy with their own bus stops farther down

See Shukayr on Page 9

### CASE AGAINST IMMEDIATE CHANGES TO THE CALLERLAB DANCE PROGRAMS

by Kip Garvey

The three resolutions proposed by the ad hoc committee, if adopted as is, will create more problems than they supposedly will fix. The challenges in square dancing regarding recruitment and rapid movement of dancers through the dance programs cannot be solved entirely by reorganizing, realigning, renaming, or otherwise re-identifying the existing dance programs. Such changes will very likely have an effect of exacerbating the problems by artificially dislocating existing dancers relative to their current dance program environs. Acceptance of the proposed resolutions, without careful analysis of the substance and content of the proposed changes, could be disastrous. Agreeing to abide in concept to the principles contained in the resolutions seems easy and appropriate. But doing so without carefully analyzing the resulting content of each of the newly proposed programs is not only foolhardy, but is unconscionable, unprofessional. Doing so, in essence, constitutes dereliction of duty and responsibility to safeguard and protect the activity.

At the very least, we have the responsibility of listing the calls that will go in each of the newly proposed dance programs and where necessary to conclude a satisfactory disposition of those calls that are discarded. Dancers and callers alike deserve the right to view the content of the proposed dance programs before acceptance of those programs. To do otherwise is tantamount to issuing a blank check when we don't even know if there are funds to cover the check.

Since the 1970's CALLERLAB has dealt with program content. Each and every year, in each and every circumstance, care was taken regarding the appropriateness of each and every call that went into a dance program. Are we now ready to discard this careful and responsible process and proceed recklessly to adopt three new dance programs, the contents of which have not been dutifully examined and accepted? I think not. The first, most significant step toward confronting the challenges of recruiting and retaining dancers is to develop new entry level groups, clubs, and organizations that emphasize the existing Basic Program as an entry level program.

Many of today's callers may not have the experience of initiating such programs. Guidance should be offered from those callers who have such experience.

See Garvey on Page 9

#### Skukayr, continued from Page 8

Those who will choose the new 10-week stop haven't even started square dancing yet! The new bus stop is aimed at a brand-new (and hopefully LARGE) dancer population of the FUTURE.

If the first bus stop is at 10 weeks, when is the next one? The ad-hoc committee proposes that the NEXT stop be teachable (using only STANDARD APPLICATIONS) in TEN additional weeks.

Who will want to get off the bus at this SECOND stop? Certainly not any EXISTING dancers! They have already been on the bus a LONG time. In many regions, it takes MORE than a YEAR to learn to dance at club level. A YEAR is a LONG time to ride a bus.

What list of calls can be taught in 10 weeks, and what list of calls can be taught in 10 additional weeks? Please, let's NOT define the exact lists for the two new bus stops! Past efforts to create a reasonable entry program have always bogged down at this point. Since all previous attempts have failed, let's use a DIFFERENT approach this time.

Let's agree ONLY that the first bus stop occurs at 10 weeks, and the second bus stop is at 10 more weeks. AFTER this has been agreed upon, THEN we can come up with the precise list of calls for each stop. Eligible CALLERLAB members will get to vote on the lists, in a FUTURE year. For THIS year, the only issue is WHEN does the bus STOP?

If we add new bus stops aimed at new dancers, what happens to EXISTING dancers? They have already SURVIVED lengthy lessons. They have already ridden the bus PAST the two new bus stops. They have learned MANY calls from MANY different positions. The ad-hoc committee proposes that the third bus stop consist of all calls from the first two bus stops, used from ALL (including NON-standard) applications.

Many experienced dancers enjoy Extended Applications of the calls. They enjoy bus rides with TRICKY or FAST driving. They enjoy creative DETOURS from the standard bus route. It adds a new thrill to the bus riding experience. It keeps people from getting BORED. Experienced bus riders ENJOY this, but tricky driving is not suitable for NEW bus riders.

Today's square dancing is a lot like TRICKY bus driving. We throw calls at dancers from all positions and applications. Existing dancers ENJOY this complexity, because if they DIDN'T, they would have already dropped out of square dancing. The net result is that today's bus riding is an activity suitable only for EXPERTS who have stayed on the bus a LONG time.

See Shukayr on Page 10

#### Garvey, Continued from Page 8

CALLERLAB, as an organization, should present educational materials, seminars, and assistance to this end.

As a necessary aspect of this new development the current mode and mores of square dancing in general needs review. The presentation of square dancing in today's society needs updating, including the operations of dance groups (club run versus caller run operations), dress, other traditional aspects, and dovetailing these new entry groups into the existing square dance community. Think tank groups and committees need to be established to review these aspects and make well thought out recommendations.

These are the most important goals for the next century. Simply changing the dance programs will not achieve these goals. However, some changes in the dance programs will be necessary as these new goals are reached.

The existing dance programs are serving an important need throughout the world. Massive, immediate changes to these programs will result in much dancer and caller frustration. We hear many callers talk about realignment of the programs calling for combining of Mainstream and Plus. The result of such a combination, if implemented as an immediate change, will be that many Mainstream dancers will be forced to either move to Plus or settle for the Basic Program. This will put many dancers who are currently dancing their chosen plateau back into a learning situation. What if they don't want to learn more, a choice that is currently available to them if they so choose? What if they don't want to dance just the Basic calls? They could be gone forever. We will be forced to respond with further changes to the dance programs to minimize dancer loss and to insure that the dancers who stay don't continue their education by rushing into the Advanced Program. This puts CALLERLAB in a reactive mode instead of a proactive mode. Not a good situation to be in. We could end up putting band aids on the dance programs for years to come without ever having the opportunity to really plan for the future, and worse, without achieving the desired goal of minimizing dancer loss and improving recruitment.

Such suggested changes to the dance programs are nothing more than thinly disguised reshuffling of existing dancers into new "groups" that can be more easily marketed, rather than emphasizing the real problem: Getting more people to square dance. Simply spinning the pie around so more berries are on one side doesn't solve anything. We need a bigger pie!

See <u>Garvey</u> on Page 10

#### Skukayr, continued from Page 9

Without the two new bus stops, if someone wants plain easy-to-learn square dancing, the bus doesn't stop for him or her. The first two bus stops are for people who want to ride an ordinary bus in a standard manner. The third bus stop is for people who want tricky bus driving. In the past, all CALLERLAB programs have been based on actual lists of calls. The new third bus stop will be the very first CALLERLAB program based instead on degree of difficulty.

Square dancing is a fantastic product. We offer the best bus ride anyone could ever want. We have skilled bus drivers and friendly bus riders. All the proper ingredients are in place, except for one minor glitch. The general public doesn't want to get on our bus, because it's too FAR to the first bus stop.

It's time to change, because the WORLD has changed. Back in the early days of CALLERLAB, there was NO way to foresee today's world. The perfect bus route 25 years ago CANNOT still be perfect today. It's time for CALLERLAB programs to be updated. Don't be afraid to vote for progress.

Countless surveys have shown that the public prefers LESS complexity, SIMPLER bus riding, and a SHORTER ride to the first bus stop. Should you APPROVE the proposal to add two new bus stops aimed at many THOUSANDS of future happy bus riders? Or do you continue to FORCE new bus riders to endure the same excruciatingly LONG bus ride WE had to take, and to put up with the same TRICKY driving WE had to learn, before they can get off at their first bus stop?

It takes too long to learn how to ride a bus. New riders become discouraged and drop out, then tell all their friends how hard it is to ride a bus. New riders are becoming harder and harder to find.

Let's change the bus route. If people can get off the bus at these new bus stops and if the new bus stops are in a POPULAR and FUN area, it will be easier to get people to take their first bus ride. We'll have fewer dropouts. New riders can bring their non-dancing friends into the world of bus riding after only 10 weeks. Let's increase the number of bus riders by making it easier for them to get on and to get OFF the bus.

#### Garvey, Continued from Page 9

Looking toward the future, certain structural changes to the dance programs are required. Structurally speaking, the Mainstream and Plus dance programs are very weak. The ease of moving from Basic (39 calls), to Mainstream (another 17 calls), to Plus (another 32 calls) does little more than teach dancers that their "goal" is to conquer the next program, not to enjoy the one they are currently dancing. The rationale for combining and streamlining Mainstream and Plus into a single program of about 40 calls is not without merit and strong persuasion. It is certainly much more desirable, from a structural viewpoint, to have each of the early dance programs about the same size and able to be taught in a full "season" of about 20 two-hour sessions. This makes a lot of sense as a long term goal, and I would support it as long as the changes were minor from year to year and would not result in a large dislocation of existing dancers relative to their dance programs.

It would be a shame to begin a redevelopment initiative at the Basic level only to lose dancers out the top because the Mainstream and Plus Programs are too thin. These programs must be changed to prevent such an occurrence. And the change should be toward a consolidation of the two programs.

But such changes need to be in conjunction with, and after, a major emphasis on a new entry level program, the Basic Program. Shrewd use of the Community Dance Program as an introduction to square dancing, along with the Basic Program as the initial goal, will result in the building of a new base of square dancers. Callers will need to provide these dancers with all the trappings that current dancers enjoy; Saturday night hoedowns, special events, weekends, festivals, and such. These dancers need to be kept separate from the current square dance community so as to diminish the desire to move to the next level. This shouldn't be too difficult with the apparent disdain with which current dancers view the Basic Program. We need to keep these dancers localized at Basic to help in the recruitment effort, at least long enough to complete the build up of a substantial base of new dancers.

At that point we can expect the "surviving" MS-Plus clubs will "catch on" and want to enjoy a similar success by sharing in the new base of dancers. We won't be able to prevent that from happening. Our only control mechanisms will be moral suasion and a redesigned Mainstream-Plus Program that will discourage rapid advancement. We will have no other sanctions. So by that time, the Mainstream and Plus Programs must be fixed.

#### OFFICE CLOSING

The Home Office will be closed Monday, September 1st, through Friday, September 5th, for the Labor Day holiday and to accommodate staff vacations.

The entire staff will be back in the office on Monday, September 8th. Thank you.

### SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

BUY AN EARLY-BIRD CERTIFICATE!

The 50th National Square Dance Convention in Anaheim, California, has graciously donated 500 Gold Certificates (early bird certificates) to the CALLERLAB Foundation. This represents a potential income of \$12,500 to the Foundation.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to help raise funds for the Foundation and also get a discount on your convention registration for the Anaheim National.

If you are planning to attend the National Convention in 2001, you can help the Foundation by purchasing one or more of these valuable certificates.

Buy a certificate <u>now</u> for \$25! After March 15, 2000, you can trade it in for a convention registration which normally sells for \$35. Purchase of the certificate also entitles you to free admission to the Pre-Convention Dance to be held in the Spring of 2000.

If you buy a certificate and do <u>not</u> attend the convention, you may be able to claim the certificate's fair market value (\$35) as a tax deductible donation on your 2001 income tax. Be sure to check this out with your accountant.

Order your "Gold Certificate/s" from the Home Office. Send a check for \$25 per person, made out to "The CALLERLAB Foundation", for each certificate. Don't delay! Do it today. The Foundation desperately needs your support.

## SQUARE DANCING IN BRANSON

Jerry Junck

quare dancing took a step forward on July 11, 12, 13, 1997. The Lawrence Welk Resort, in Branson, Missouri. It was an exciting event. To be honest, there were circumstances that were not perfect. Dancing was on a hard wood floor, but, under a tent. There was no denying it was hot. However, we were invited to dance in the theater lobby for the afternoon sessions. It was very nice of the Welk organization to do that and made those sessions most enjoyable.

The thing that made the event so great was the

courtesy and genuine friendliness of the Welk organization. Everyone associated with the organization made an effort to see that the dancers were treated well. From the staff to the stars of the shows, we could not have been treated better.

It was fun to have the stars of the show mingle with the dancers. They even brought their families to watch the dancing. Ava Barber, who was the country singer on the Lawrence Welk Show, was brought in to MC the square dance event and she even sang with the callers. She was great.

Also, there was an afterparty in the restaurant after the dance each evening. On Friday, Ava Barber performed. Saturday the afterparty was put on by the callers. And, Sunday's afterparty featured JoAnn Castle and the entire Welk show performers, including the Lennon Sisters and their families. It was a great time.

Should you attend the Lawrence Welk Resort sometime, be sure to let them know that you are a square dancer and that you are pleased to see them sponsor a square dance event. My thanks to John Frederick, Lawrence Welk's grandson and manager of the resort, Dan Lennon and Brian Sheehan, and the entire Welk organization for a great time.

### DANCIN' 'N BRANSON

lans are well underway to televise square dancing from Branson, Missouri. A daily one-hour show is set to start soon on LVTN (Las Vegas Television Network) and on selected UPN (United Paramount Network) affiliated stations.

The DANCIN' 'N BRANSON television show needs dancers and callers! Organized group tours are currently being scheduled. You can help publicize square dancing, appear on TV, and enjoy a nice vacation all at the same time. Many dates are available, but they are filling up quickly. For more information, contact CALLERLAB member Jim Cholmondeley:

12610 Lusher Road Florissant, MO 63033-5127 phone: (314) 741-7799 fax: (800) 333-7349

E-Mail: JimWho136@aol.com

#### JIM PENROD AUTHOR OF FAN THE BOAT

e are pleased to report that Jim Penrod is the author of the Plus Quarterly Selection, Fan The Boat. We regret that this information was not available in time to be included with the press release announcing Fan The Boat's selection in the February issue of DIRECTION. Congratulations, Jim!

### PORTLAND MINI-LAB

t's not too late to SEE the LIGHT in Portland, Maine, at the Mini-Lab hosted by the New England Council of Callers Association on September 21 – 23, 1997. The staff will consist of Jerry Junck, Chairman of CALLERLAB, George White, Executive Director, Mike Jacobs, Jon Jones, and Tony Oxendine. Attendance may qualify Associate Members for full membership in CALLERLAB (call the Home Office for confirmation).

To date, 89 callers and 62 partners have registered at the newly redecorated Doubletree Hotel (formerly the Ramada). For further details contact Johnny Wedge, Registration, 25 Pinetree Rd, Billerica, MA 01821– 3422, phone (508) 663–2393.

Everett Mackin, Chairman 1997 Portland Mini-Lab

#### GOOD NEWS ABOUT RADIO ADVERTISING

uring the last two weeks of August, radio commercials about square dancing will air on at least 33 stations in at least 19 states. The commercials ask people to call an 800 number. Each person who calls in will be mailed information which includes a list of beginner classes in their own area.

The commercials will air on the "Dr. Toni Grant" show. Dr. Grant is the original call-in radio psychologist. In 1990 her show was on over 180 stations. She returned to radio this year. Every station carrying Dr. Grant's program in August will air 20 square dance commercials during a 2 week period in the 3 to 6pm (Eastern) time slot. The commercials will be heard in the following regions:

Albany NY, Albuquerque NM, Birmingham AL, Charleston WV, Dallas TX, Eugene OR, Fairbanks AK, Little Rock AR, Los Angeles CA, Lubbock TX, Kirksville MO, Minneapolis MN, Monterey CA, New Martinsville WV, Odessa TX, Phoenix AZ, Rochester NY, Wilkes Barre PA, Seattle WA, Spokane WA, Springfield MO, Tampa FL, Toledo OH, and Wheeling WV.

These ads have already been paid for by Lea Veronica and Open Squares Magazine and hundreds of donations. If the Dr. Toni Grant radio show is heard in your region, YOU will benefit from these ads.

The commercials were bought in April at a bargain price. They will air on ALL stations carrying the show this August, while the price was based on the 21 stations carrying the show as of April. The number of stations has since grown to 33 and is growing every day.

In a separate project, Lea Veronica is now in the third year of local radio advertising in Southern California. California dancers and callers continuously raise funds for hundreds of radio ads in August and September.

Efforts are underway to duplicate California's successful local radio advertising into other regions. For more info, see the article "Radio Advertising Works!" in the June 1997 issue of *DIRECTION*. So far, the following metro areas will be using this plan to advertise their September beginner classes: Oklahoma City OK, Phoenix AZ, Pittsburgh PA, and Reno NV.

To find out how you can put radio advertising to work in your own region, contact:

THE OPEN SQUARES 9626 LURLINE AVE, UNIT A CHATSWORTH CA 91311 Phone and Fax: (818) 993-4648

Southern California's success with radio requires continuous donations and fund-raising. More funds produce more local advertising. 1997 is the startup year for nationwide radio ads. Donations are crucial to the long-term success of the project.

You can send a donation of any amount to The Open Squares at the above address. Or, send a donation to the CALLERLAB Foundation and indicate that it is for "Radio Ads". Donations to the Foundation are fully tax deductible as charitable contributions:

The CALLERLAB Foundation 829 - 3rd Ave SE, Ste 285 Rochester MN 55904-7313

There is no reason for each of us to become an expert in radio advertising. Lea Veronica is the best radio advertiser in all of square dancing. She has made her expertise available to others. It makes sense to support this plan, because of the tremendous growth it can bring to square dancing.

### IN MEMORIAM

Jack Drake, Apple Valley, California, 3/23/97 Claude Wesley "Wes" Wood, Clinton, N.Y. 4/15/97 Bill Pasco, Butte, Montana, 5/15/97 Nonny Arena Maxfield, Surprise, Arizona, 6/19/97 Billy Hall, Galveston, Texas, 7/17/97

### JUST THE FAQs, MA'AM!

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions. Popularized by the internet and now a feature of DIRECTION. We'll try to answer some of the more frequent questions we get at the Home Office. If you have a question you'd like to have answered in this column, please send it to the Home Office.

- Q: Do the new bylaws change the policy on the use of the CALLERLAB logo on my stationery, business cards, magazine ads, or flyers? Do I need to change the decals on my record case?
- A: The CALLERLAB logo which contains the word "Member" may now be used by all members, regardless of your membership category. The old logo decals with "Subscriber", "Associate", or "Apprentice" are no longer available. "Member" decals are available from the Home Office. See the enclosed "CALLERLAB Sales Items" sheet for a logo which you can use on flyers, etc.

The CALLERLAB logo with the "star" in place of the word "Member" is the corporate logo and is not to be used by individual members. Its use is reserved for official CALLERLAB materials. If you have been using it on business cards, magazine ads, or flyers, please change it to the "Member" logo at once. Thank you.

- Q: I've heard that there's scholarship money available to help me improve my calling skills. Can you tell me more about it?
- A: CALLERLAB administers the funds for the Jerry Schatzer Memorial Scholarship, which is funded by friends of Jerry Schatzer, and the Tex Hencerling Memorial Scholarship which is funded by the Overseas Dancers Association and individual contributors. Individual awards of up to \$200 are possible from each of these scholarships. Other scholarships are available through enterprises such as ASD Magazine, Supreme Audio and some local or state callers' associations.

Applications for the 1998/99 Jerry Schatzer and Tex Hencerling Scholarships must be received by the Home Office no later than May 1, 1998, in order to be considered by the Executive Committee at their May meeting. Applications are available from the CALLERLAB Home Office.

## "FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION"

n behalf of the Board of Directors of the CALLERLAB Foundation, we wish to express our appreciation for the generous donations from the following "Friends of the Foundation":

Betsy Gotta - a memorial to her father, Art Seele Raymond H Mason

Jerry & Del Reed

Melonie Shipman and Elton & Petra Smith

Your contributions will enable the Foundation to increase public awareness of the fun and fellowship that makes square dancing a popular recreation today. Foundation projects that will help preserve and promote square dancing are important to the growth

and image of the Foundation. Caring people are what will keep our activity alive.

All contributions will help us expand our resources and do a far more extensive job in the preservation of square dancing.

To make a tax-deductible donation or memorial to the Foundation, send it to The CALLERLAB Foundation, 829 - 3rd Ave SE, Ste 285, Rochester, MN 55904.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

s of July 30th, we have a total membership of 2522 callers and are adding new members every week. The current membership is broken down as follows:

Category	US	O/S_	<u>Canada</u>
Members	675	177	53
Gold Card Holders	7	0	0
Subscribers	813	45	27
Associates	16	0	1
Associate Licensees	384	8	7
	194	11	<u>0</u>
Apprentices	2089	$2\overline{4}\overline{1}$	88
Totals			

A total of 2,206 BMI/ASCAP licenses have been issued; 695 for less than 50 dances a year and 1,459 for over 50 dances per year. We have a total of 52 callers and partners licensed to teach Country Western dances.

331 callers have not renewed their membership for the insurance coverage Their current year. BMI/ASCAP license is no longer valid. If you have not yet received a grey membership card from the Home Office, your membership has expired. Please contact the Home Office if you believe you paid your dues but have not yet received a membership card.

#### AFFILIATED CALLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

ny recognized callers' association may "join" CALLERLAB in order to secure benefits for the association and its members.

Affiliated organizations receive the CALLERLAB newsletter,  $\widetilde{\textit{DIRECTION}}$ , along with the press releases and other announcements sent to all CALLERLAB members. They may also purchase all the same booklets and materials available to CALLERLAB members.

Affiliated associations are eligible for an Education Grant of up to \$150 per day (to a maximum of \$450) to help them contract an Accredited Caller-Coach to conduct a clinic or seminar for local callers.

The association may also purchase liability insurance to protect the association and its officers during association sponsored events. The annual rate for this insurance is only \$25.00.

Once an association has purchased the liability insurance, any association member (caller) who is not a CALLERLAB member, may also enroll under the CALLERLAB group liability and accident insurance policy for \$15 per year.

Affiliated organizations are expected to subscribe to the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics and otherwise support CALLERLAB policies and recommendations.

Is your association a member? Why not? The low cost of membership and the \$25 insurance package is one of the best bargains in square dancing. For complete details, contact the Home Office.

The following fifty-two callers' associations are currently affiliated with CALLERLAB.

Nova Scotia S&RD Teachers (ANSSRDT)

Birmingham Area Callers Assn.

Blue Mountain Callers/Cuers Assn.

Caller's Society of Denmark

Calgary Callers Assn.

Callers Assn. of Western Australia

Callers Assn. of Modesto Area

Callers Clinic (SW Ontario S&RD Assn.)

Callers Council of New Jersey

Central Arizona Callers Assn.

Central Ohio Callers Assn.

Country Dance & Song Society

Czechoslovak Callers & Teachers Assn.

Denver Area Callers & Cuers Assn.

East Texas Callers Assn.

European Callers' and Teachers' Assn.

Federation of Lake County Area Callers

Florida Callers Assn.

Illinois Square Dance Callers Assn.

Indiana Square Dance Callers' Assn.

Kentucky Callers' Assn.

Lakeshore Callers & Cuers Assn.

Lloyd Shaw Foundation

Long Island Callers/Cuers Council

Metrolina Callers Assn.

Minnesota Square Dance Callers Assn.

Montreal Area Callers Assn.

Nagoya Callers Assn.

Narragansett Callers Assn.

Nat'l Capital Area S/D Leaders Assn. (NCASDLA)

New Style Callers Assn.

New Zealand Callers & Cuers Assn., Inc.

Newfoundland Square Dance Callers Assn.

North Alabama Callers Assn.

Old Colony Callers Assn.

Omaha Area Callers & Cuers Assn.

Orange County Callers Assn.

Peoria Area Callers & Instructors, Inc.

S/D Callers Assn. of the Sacramento Valley

S/D Clrs Assn. of No California (SDCANC)
S/D Society of Queensland
Santa Clara Valley S/D Callers Assn.
Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain
Swedish Assn. of Callers & Teachers (SACT)
Toledo Area Western Dance Leaders Assn.
Toronto & District Sq & Round Dance Assn.
Tri-State Callers Assn.
Tulsa Area Callers & Teachers Assn. (TACT)
Upper Vancouver Island Clr/Tchr Assn.
Victoria & District Caller Teachers Assn.
Western Missouri Callers Workshop Assn.

PLUS COMMENTARY

he biennial review is a program developed by the Board of Governors as a mechanism to allow gradual change of our dance programs to occur so that our programs continue to evolve and reflect the needs of callers and dancers alike. This year's review of the Plus Program has not yet been completed by the Plus Committee, however some things are clear from the responses received from the committee members. Overall, the committee strongly supports dropping three calls this year (the maximum allowed per review). Which three calls has yet to be determined. We are a very diverse group, however, with members throughout the world. The greatest support for dropping calls comes from the U.S. The least support for dropping any calls comes from callers outside the U.S. The difference is clear cut. It is CALLERLAB's goal to represent and support callers and square dancing throughout the world. Clearly the majority of our members come from the United States, and in any CALLERLAB-wide or committee-wide vote, the will of the majority of the U.S. callers will generally prevail. This doesn't raise issues when the majority opinion is equally spread across all groups within CALLERLAB. It does raise an issue when a regional majority opinion that is different from the overall majority opinion is lost in our decision making process. I don't have a solution on how to address this, but I do feel that we need to think about how we can balance our respect for our international diversity and our desire to achieve fair and equitable international standards.

Larry Davenport Plus Committee Chairman

#### FROM OUR MEMBERS

Opinions expressed in letters or articles from our members are that of the writers and do not necessarily reflect that 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.

### PROGRAMS NOT THE PROBLEM

By Gordon R. Harper

I have just read in the June '97 issue of DIRECTION several proposals that are to be considered by the membership of CALLERLAB. The first proposal is that the Basic Program be considered a destination program by itself, the second is that Mainstream and Plus be combined into a single program that can be taught in 10–12 two hour sessions and the third that these programs use only the "standard" positions. If "non-standard" positions are to be used, this would be considered a separate (third) program. These proposals are intended to address the problem of a diminishing number of square dancers, but I believe the approach being taken is of the "quick fix" variety and does not really address the causes of the problem. They are therefore, I believe, doomed to failure.

Why is our dancer population diminishing at such a rapid rate? Why is it getting harder and harder to get dancers to turn out for special event dances, ranging from local events to national conventions? I believe it is because square dancing is not as much fun as it used to be and, if it isn't fun, who needs it?

Why isn't it fun? It's not fun because we rush our new dancers into programs before they're ready. We try to teach them Plus while their Mainstream is still weak. They struggle and try but the squares break down because of poor foundations. The more experienced dancers who have survived this process go on to more advanced programs as much to escape the problems of the newer dancers as anything else.

The newer dancers do their best to muddle through without the stronger, more experienced dancers to help them. If they succeed (sort of), they try to move on, to catch up with their friends. If they fail, they get discouraged and leave the activity.

Those that "advance" are also at risk of leaving the activity. Where weak foundations exist, square breakdowns will occur and breakdowns are not fun. So people leave. Or they find the program too difficult to learn, they get discouraged and they leave. Or they find the breakdowns caused by the weaker dancers intolerable and they leave. They're not having fun so they leave.

All because we, the leaders of this activity, don't have the will to say to our dancers, "You're not yet ready for the Plus (or A-1, A-2, or Challenge Program. There's a whole lot in the Mainstream Program we haven't even explored yet and what we have explored, you need to practice. Dance Mainstream for at least a year, then you can think about Plus."

We don't do that at Mainstream. What makes us think we'll do it with Basic ("Square Dancing")?

I don't know who came up with the idea that Mainstream and Plus could be combined into one program that can be taught in 10 to 12 two-hour sessions, but I, for one, do not believe it can be done. I think you'd be doing very well to teach the Mainstream Program in 24 teaching hours! Plus, by itself, would have to take at least twice that! Combine them and you'll only make a bad situation that much worse.

As far as teaching moves only from the "standard" positions, isn't that exactly what we're doing now? And you know what? It doesn't work. It limits the dancers knowledge and ability and makes them weak by definition. No, I believe these proposals are three (running) steps in exactly the wrong direction.

We, as callers and leaders of the activity, need to say to our dancers, "You must dance Mainstream for at least one full year after completing lessons before we will even allow you to enter a Plus workshop." Then we need to take that year and really present the Mainstream Program. We need to teach our dancers that they can Fan the Top from Two-Faced Lines as well as Ocean Waves, that they can Chain Down the Line from Left-Handed Waves as well as Two-Faced Lines (and that those waves and lines can be tidal as well as parallel), that ladies can Courtesy Turn men and same sexes can Courtesy Turn each other. Maybe we, as callers, need to learn some of these lessons too, and maybe that's part of what we're afraid of, that there's a whole lot more we have to learn and train ourselves to do! But most important, we have to provide Mainstream dancing for our Mainstream dancers, and we have to make it fun!

As long as dancers are having fun, they'll keep coming back. Dancers that are having fun will tell their friends about it and bring them along to share the fun. Dancers that are dancing well will add not only to their own enjoyment, but also the enjoyment of others around them. Square dancing will once again become the win-win situation that it's supposed to be.

But – and there are two very big buts here – it's going to take time and it's going to take a lot of courage on the part of we callers. We are going to have to find the courage to tell our dancers when they're not ready to go on to the next program, be it Plus, A–1, A–2, or Challenge. We're going to have to organize our local caller groups to insure that dancers are uniformly encouraged to dance each program for a minimum of one year before they even consider going on to the next program and we are going to have to insure that those programs, especially Mainstream, are available.

It's not going to be easy. It may not even work. It all depends on us and how successful we are in putting the fun back into square dancing.

### AN UNINTENTIONAL PUSH TO PLUS

By Chris Froggatt

would like to express my concern regarding what I believe will be the result of the ad hoc committee's current investigation into the CALLERLAB Programs: – What at first glance appears to be a very noble attempt to revitalize the Basic Program (and hopefully give new dancers a club level that is easier to attain), will in fact result in the elimination of Mainstream, and force the current Mainstream clubs to move to Plus.

An exaggeration? A misunderstanding? I don't think so! Lets look at this in more detail. From reading the Committee report in the CONVENTION FLASH edition of Direction, there are two things that the AdHoc Committee is investigating:

Establishing the Basic Program as a genuine destination program for beginners and re-naming it "Square Dancing". A good intention. BUT!!!! Isn't a destination level club supposed to be somewhere the new square dancers can dance and socialize with the friends that encouraged them into the activity? Isn't a destination level club supposed to be where these friends will be dancing? How many Plus square dancers (or beyond) are currently willing to dance at a Mainstream club (the current destination level in many areas)? How many Mainstream, Plus (and beyond) dancers will be willing to dance at a "Square Dancing" (read as "Basic Program") club? I suspect even less than now. It will not work!

Combining the existing Mainstream and Plus Programs into a single unit and re-naming it "Plus". Why do we have Mainstream clubs now? One of the many reasons is that Mainstream is a "level" (Program) that most average people have the ability to attain in a reasonable time. People do not have to go beyond Mainstream to have a good time. Any caller worth his salt can provide interesting dancing at Mainstream, and many people enjoy square dancing for reasons other than the choreographic content of the dancing. The dancers who are currently enjoying their Mainstream dancing will now have to learn Plus in order to attend any clubs beyond "Square Dancing" level. (By the way, does this mean that anything that is not in the "Square Dancing" Program is not Square Dancing?) Mainstream is working in many areas, don't kill it!

I recognize that many experienced dancers wish to move beyond Mainstream, this is only natural in any activity. My own area has a very strong Plus contingent, as do many areas of Australia. What I find most disappointing is that CALLERLAB appears to be going down a road that I never thought it would. Looking at changing an internationally accepted set of

programs to try to fix a problem in the USA. It appears that square dancing in America has a problem (in some areas more than others), yet the whole world will have to live with the consequences of fixing it.

I have been a member of CALLERLAB since 1986 and have been happily promoting CALLERLAB to all who would listen. Even though many callers and dancers from Down Under think that CALLERLAB is just a bunch of Americans, I have been active in stating that ALL CALLERS can join, and have a voice. I hope that this is true.

I would like to offer the following thoughts on the premise behind the Ad-Hoc Committee's task (and a few long-standing misconceptions about square dancing in general):

Square dancing is no different than any other activity. There will always be beginner groups and expert groups. We should stop pretending that the groups will mix happily. Beginner groups and expert groups from any activity mix on special occasions and enjoy the experience, but each group has its own niche and usually meets separately (golf, bowling, karate, stamp collecting, you name it.)

We have to stop pretending that Mainstream can be taught in a short time (and successfully learnt by the majority of people). We do not have to reduce the time that it takes to learn Mainstream, we have to stop telling people that they can learn it in 20 weeks. Let's be honest about it, what activity (as complex as square dancing) makes the promise that you will be an expert in next to no time. When square dancing was booming, there was no rush to get beyond beginners level. Make the learning experience fun, instead of a just a means to an end and people won't care how long it takes.

If any area chooses to have Plus as the destination program, then let's accept it. We must then devise a suitable way of recruiting new dancers to that area, without affecting every area that DOES NOT have Plus as the destination program.

As I stated at the beginning, the ad hoc committee may have noble intentions (or has been given the task for noble reasons), but remember the old saying – the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. I simply request that we think very carefully before we act.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 1997

START \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



### BASIC EMPHASIS CALL

Mike Alexander, Vice Chairman of the Basic/Mainstream Committee, is pleased to announce the **RUN FAMILY** has been selected as the Basic Emphasis Call for the period September 1, 1997 thru January 1, 1998.

#### **RUN FAMILY**

STARTING FORMATION:

Any two dancers formation in which the directed dancer has a shoulder directly adjacent to the other dancer.

ARRANGEMENT:

Standard Application is from "1/2" Waves (boys in the center with girls on the end). The most common application for **CROSS RUN** is from "0" Left-Hand Waves (boys in the center with girls on the end).

**DEFINITION:** 

The directed (active) dancer moves forward in a semi-circle (180 degrees) around an adjacent (inactive) dancer to end in the adjacent dancer's starting position. Meanwhile, the inactive dancer, who may be facing in any direction, adjusts by stepping (without changing facing direction) into the vacated starting position of the active dancer. The active dancer doing the RUN has reversed his original facing direction. If the direction to RUN (right or left) is not specified and if the active dancer has an inactive dancer on each side, then centers RUN around ends and ends RUN around centers. RUN from an Alamo Circle are to the right unless otherwise directed.

For a **CROSS RUN**, each of the two directed (active) dancers, who must both be either centers or ends, **RUN** into the spot vacated by the farthest inactive dancer. If the inactive dancers are centers, they sidestep to become ends, if they are ends, they side step to become centers. When the active dancers are both facing the same direction, they move forward in a semi-circle, pass each other, and then **RUN** into the vacated spot on the far side. **CROSS RUN** may be executed from a Wave, Line, or Two-Faced Line.

STYLING:

Hands should blend into handhold required for following formation (i.e. Wave or Line).

TIMING:

RUN, 4 steps

CROSS RUN, 6 steps

ENDING FORMATION:

Dependent on starting formation.

#### DANCE EXAMPLE (for EMPHASIS USE:)

Heads Pass Thru, Separate Around One to a Line, Pass Thru, ENDS RUN, Centers Pass Thru, BOYS RUN, All 8 Circulate, BOYS RUN, Touch 1/4, GIRLS RUN, Pass Thru, Right & Left Grand.

Heads Lead Right, Touch 1/4, Split Circulate, BOYS RUN, Pass Thru, **GIRLS RUN** (left), Centers Trade, Left Swing Thru, **BOYS** RUN (left), Touch 1/4, BOYS RUN, Pass Thru, Left Allemande.

#### (using CROSS RUN:)

Heads Lead Right, Circle to a Line, Pass Thru, Ends CROSS RUN, Centers RUN, Wheel and Deal, Boys Pass Thru, Touch 1/4, Girls CROSS RUN, All 8 Circulate, Left Swing Thru, Girls CROSS RUN, All 8 Circulate, Boys RUN, Bend the Line, Star Thru, Square Thru 3, Left Allemande.

#### GETOUT FROM A ZERO BOX:

Star Thru, Pass Thru, Boys  ${f RUN}$  (right), Girls  ${f RUN}$  (right), Pass Thru, Boys RUN (left), Girls RUN (left), Square Thru 3, Left Allemande.

SINGING CALL EXAMPLE: Square Thru 4, Dosado, Star Thru, Pass the Ocean, Girls Trade, Girls CROSS RUN, Boys CROSS RUN, Girls Trade, Swing, Promenade.

END

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



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 1997



START

### MAINSTREAM EMPHASIS CALL

Dana Schirmer, Chairman of the Basic/Mainstream Committee, is pleased to announce HINGE FAMILY has been selected as the Mainstream Emphasis Call for the period beginning September 1, thru January 1, 1998.

### HINGE FAMILY

STARTING FORMATION:

COUPLES HINGE - Lines or Two-Faced Lines

SINGLE HINGE - Mini-Waves

ARRANGEMENT:

COUPLES HINGE - The most common application for

COUPLES HINGE is from "0" Parallel Right-Hand Two-

Faced Line (boys on the ends, girls in the center).

SINGLE HINGE - All Arrangements

**DEFINITION:** 

A HINGE is half of a trade. Any two adjacent couples or

dancers who can trade can also HINGE.

STYLING:

COUPLES HINGE use couple handhold and styling

similar to Wheel and Deal.

SINGLE HINGE use hands-up position.

TIMING:

**COUPLES HINGE** – 3 steps SINGLE HINGE – 2 steps

ENDING FORMATION:

Dependent on starting formation.

DANCE EXAMPLE: (for EMPHASIS USE:) (Zero Box) Swing Thru, SINGLE HINGE, Centers SINGLE HINGE, Very Centers Trade, Centers SINGLE HINGE, Centers Run, COUPLES HINGE, Center Couples Trade, COUPLES HINGE, Couples Circulate, Bend the Line, Pass the Ocean, SINGLE HINGE, Centers Trade, SINGLE HINGE, Centers Trade, Swing Thru, Centers Run, Half Tag, SINGLE HINGE, Right & Left Grand.

**GETOUTS:** RIGHT & LEFT GRAND:

(Zero Box) Swing Thru, SINGLE HINGE, Centers Trade, Centers Cross Run, SINGLE HINGE, Centers Cross Run, Centers SINGLE HINGE, Very Centers Trade, Centers Cast-Off 3/4, Centers Run, Ferris Wheel, Pass Thru, Swing Thru, Ends Circulate, Centers Trade, SINGLE HINGE, Centers Trade, Split Circulate, Centers Run, COUPLES HINGE, Center Couples Trade, COUPLES HINGE, Half Tag, SINGLE HINGE, Pass Thru, Right & Left Grand.

#### **LEFT ALLEMANDE:**

(Static Square) Heads Lead Right, Veer Left, **COUPLES HINGE**, Center Couples Trade, Wheel and Deal, Pass the Ocean, Swing Thru, **SINGLE HINGE**, Centers **SINGLE HINGE**, very Centers Trade, Centers Cast-Off 3/4, Centers Run, Bend the Line, Pass the Ocean, Boys Run, Right & Left Thru, Dixie Style to an Ocean Wave, Centers Cast-Off 3/4, very Centers Trade, Centers Swing Thru, Centers **SINGLE HINGE**, Allemande Left, Promenade Home.

#### SINGING CALL EXAMPLE:

(Static Square) Heads Square Thru, Dosado, Swing Thru, **SINGLE HINGE**, Boys Run, Reverse Flutterwheel, Ladies Lead Dixie Style to a Wave, Boys Cross Fold, Swing and Promenade Home.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 1997



START \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# ADVANCED QUARTERLY SELECTION

Steve Minkin, Chairman of the Advanced Quarterly Selections Committee, announces that the committee has selected **NO NEW MOVEMENTS** for the period September 1, 1997 – December 31, 1997.

Quarterly Selections are provided as optional material for those callers and/or clubs that wish to include a workship in their programs. Do not use a Quarterly Selection unless you walk it or workshop it first.

# MAINSTREAM QUARTERLY SELECTION

Walt Cooley, Chairman of the MSQS, announces that the committee has selected **NO NEW MOVEMENTS** as the Mainstream Quarterly Selection for the period September 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997.

Quarterly Selections are provided as optional material for those callers and/or clubs that wish to include a workshop in their programs. Do not use a Quarterly Selection unless you walk it or workshop it first.

### CURRENT QUARTERLEY SELECTIONS

MAINSTREAM NONE

PLUS FAN THE BOAT (3/97)

GO RIGHT/LEFT TO A WAVE (7/97)

ADVANCED SWING THE FRACTIONS (5/97)

NONE (9/97)

\*\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 1997

\*\*\*\*\*\* START \*\*\*\*\*\*



### SQUARE DANCE PROMO-PAKS

September is Square Dance Month and it's not too soon to start planning a campaign to interest folks in your community in learning to square dance. Don't wait until August 31 to make your plans. Start now—focus on making square dancing interesting and available to younger square dancers. While younger dancers are being courted, it important also to retain those who are now enjoying the activity.

Square dancing has traditionally been an inter-generational activity, where folks of all ages could have fun together. The activity will benefit by gaining the enthusiasm and energy of young dancers and mixing it with the estimable experience of seasoned dancers.

Plan now for your fall recruitment campaign. Appoint a committee, study the materials, make plans for a blitzkrieg of publicity. Use all the media and resources available. The clubs that really plan a campaign and use new ideas are still teaching sizable classes.

Are you unsure how to go about this campaign?

Order the LEGACY Promo-Pak, from LEGACY, 1100 Revere Drive, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. The cost is \$5, which includes postage. The Pak includes a poster with the 1997 theme, Better to Do Si Do than be a DO-DO, and 18 pages of promotional information. Every caller and club promotion chairman should have one of these kits.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

# CALLERLAB SALES ITEMS'

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