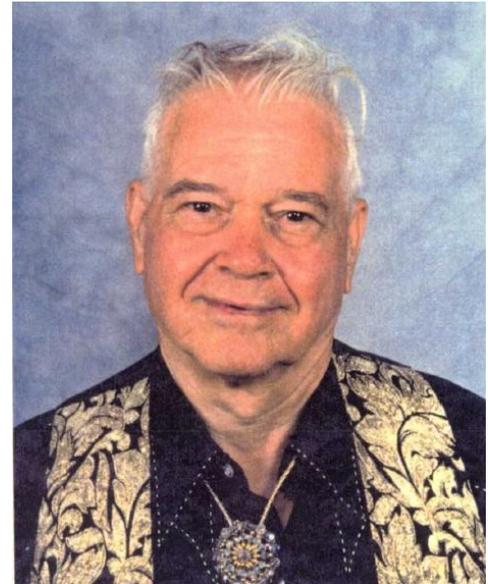




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**MILESTONE
AWARD WINNER 1989
“Decko” Deck**

H. A. Deck, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
August 5, 2010

“Decko” Deck was born in Oklahoma and was raised on a farm. “Decko” joined the Air Force in July 1941. He was active in guerilla warfare, sabotage, OSS, Wild Bill Donovan operations, and became a counter intelligence agent while in Europe. In 1948 his wife Lou said, “Lets go square dancing.” “Decko” replied, “Nah, I saw it in Oklahoma and no, I don’t think I want to get into that.” She then said, “It only costs \$4 a month for four lessons and that’s only \$1 a lesson.” Needless to say, they went. Shortly after they finished lessons, he began calling in 1949. He began calling regularly in 1950 while still in the Air Force, and he and Lou organized his first square dance club. The Decks created the first leadership organization in the Washington, D.C. area and fostered dance activities in the Virginia and Maryland suburbs. During the ‘50s “Decko” traveled the eastern seaboard, calling and conducting home-club training programs. While stationed in

(Continued on page 2)

CHALLENGE EMPHASIS CALL: With the Flow

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

APR 18 - 20, 2011 Las Vegas, NV
 APR 2 - 4, 2012 Nashville, TN

CALLERLAB OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm Central Time, Monday - Friday
 Phone: 1-785-783-3665
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 Website: www.callerlab.org

INSURANCE QUESTIONS & CERTIFICATES

Marsh Affinity Group 1-800-503-9227

(Continued from page 1)

Detroit, he conducted caller training classes and organized the Detroit Callers' Club. In 1954 "Decko" was transferred to Ottawa, Canada, where he introduced western style square and round dancing and trained local leaders in the techniques of western style calling and modern cueing. He organized the Callers' Club of Ottawa and was an influence in the development of square and round dancing in the Ottawa area. In the 1960s and '70s, "Decko" organized and operated the Washington Fall Cottillion, a three-day festival, developed to bring the local callers and cuers in front of the dancing public on an equal basis with the featured calling and cueing staff. They also conducted square dance tours to England, Europe, Scandinavia, the South Pacific, Hawaii, and Mexico and worked with the callers and leaders in those areas.

"Decko's" contributions to square dancing are too numerous to list entirely. In 1986, together with **Eben Jenkins**, he created the National Capital Area Square Dance Leaders' Association. In addition, he was one of the organizers of the Virginia State Callers' Association and became its first Chairman. During his tenure, he assisted in founding the annual Virginia State Convention. "Decko" was awarded lifetime membership in his local leaders' organization, received plaques in appreciation for "The many years of dedicated service", and for his work as organizing Chairman of his State leaders' association.

"Decko" joined CALLERLAB in 1975 and was one of its most active members. He served as Chairman of the Mainstream Quarterly Selections Committee. He also became an Accredited Caller-Coach in 1985 and served as Chairman of the Caller-Coach Committee. His status later

"The idea is to get the music and the dancer together and get out of the road."
Rickey Holden

changed to Emeritus Caller Coach. "Decko" received two Outstanding Achievement Awards from CALLERLAB during his career, one for lobbying at the Federal level on behalf of Canadian callers who were requested to call in the U.S. He received the Milestone Award, in 1989. "Decko" attended his last CALLERLAB Convention in 2005.

His wife, Lou, passed away in 2005. These two wonderful people leave behind a son, a daughter, and many, many friends.



FROM THE CHAIR Tim Marriner, Chairman

For many, September marks the start of new dancer sessions. Hopefully, you were successful at recruiting some new dancers. If not, be sure to review the Winning Ways information on the CALLERLAB website. As this teaching season starts, ask your self a few questions. How are the dancers from your last class doing? Are they still dancing? Are they up to speed? Have they integrated well with your existing dance base? Is there anything that should change to improve the results for this new group? An honest evaluation might shine some light on some problems.

Most callers, and dancers alike, have favorite dance moves. Sometimes they are calls that require many steps to dance. Other times, they might be a combination of calls to provide a unique flow or a fancy get out. Most callers are very eager to show these dance maneuvers in order to provide entertainment to their liking. It is important to remember that new dancers, however, are not attracted to our activity because of any one call or combination of calls. They have no preconceived knowledge of Grand Square, Eight Chain Thru, or Yellow Rock for that matter. Most have been lured in by folks

(Continued on page 3)

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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.

(Continued from page 2)

that have enthusiastically sold them on the fun and excitement, not to mention the exercise and social networking that is offered by square dancing. The new dancer has no knowledge of how difficult one call is from the next, and if they are having fun, they don't care. If the caller can successfully teach Square Thru, for example, and the dancers understand the concept of what the action does and not just what to do if called from one arrangement or handedness, then the dancer will have a stronger foundation with more success and confidence. I am not saying we need to prepare the dancers to be Advanced or Challenge minded, just provide a stronger foundation to be well grounded before moving through all the favorite calls or dance patterns.

While calling across this country, too many times I've called from a squared set, Heads Lead Right, and the dancers are already moving through Circle to a Line; or, from zero out facing lines call, Boys Run, only to have the dancers remind me afterwards, "Boys Run can only be done after a Swing Thru." These are examples of existing teaching problems. Often these dancers are not capable of dancing to anyone other than the caller that taught them, or dare I say, exposed them to a few routes. Frustration follows with more breakdowns, and confidence drops to the point where the activity is no longer providing them enjoyment; so they quit. Often times these same dancers are being introduced to the next big call or worse yet, the next Program, before they have learned all the previous calls. What's the rush?

Here are a couple of analogies: Too much fertilizer will cause plants to grow too fast, shooting to tops; wither and die. Cooking food at a higher temperature usually char-burns the item making it hard and not so tasteful. Similar things happen to new dancers when they are over exposed to new material or forced to learn so much so fast. We as leaders need to put the breaks on this type of force feed teaching; allow the new dancer time to slowly grow, gain fundamental skills, and proper understanding of the dance steps. They need to be nurtured.

In my opinion, each call should be taught without an over complicated teach (described in words new dancers understand) from various formations and arrangements, to provide as much dancing variety as possible, before introducing anything else. After a successful walk

thru, the next step is to let them dance the action in real time—up to speed. By providing several different lead-in and follow-up calls, the new dancer will better understand how each individual call works. If the caller has done his or her homework beforehand by reviewing the Teaching Order, Definitions, Standard Applications, and Teaching Tips associated with each call, they should be able to provide proper instructions for the new dancer to have success and provide endless hours of entertainment with fewer calls.

The outside peer pressure to show favorite dance actions needs to be ignored. The urge to teach a call prematurely because it must be used with some other call to fit the most common dance pattern must be stopped. Bypassing the endless dance combinations that thoroughly teach each individual call, favoring only to show the most common routes, may speed up the time of exposure to the calls, but usually results with less competent dancers. Requiring these same dancers to attend another class or workshop later for the next Program is doing them and our activity a disservice.

Slow down! We owe it to our dancers to better prepare them for dancing. Get them use to the tempo and the game of figuring out how to blend from call to call without stopping and without anticipating. We must get back to showing the dancers how to dance, not walk, from one call to the next and not just a set pattern or grouping of favorite calls. It is equally important to quickly involve the new dancers with the club to provide more social fun, fellowship, food, games and special outside events. Again, if everyone is being entertained and having fun they won't need more material. The peers applying pressure will be so busy having fun that they will have forgotten everything else. Hopefully, the energy and enthusiasm new dancers provide will remind us all that we too were once beginners. This season, let's vow to take the time to really **teach** square dancing.

IN MEMORIAM

"Decko" Deck: August 5, 2010
Jack Taylor: August 22, 2010



**FROM THE PAST
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE
Jerry Junck
1996-1998**

What will square dancing be like a few years from now? Will it be a vibrant, healthy, exciting recreation? Or, will it be an activity enjoyed only in resort parks and isolated pockets around the world? For those of us who love this activity, there is no doubt as to which way we would like to see square dancing in the future.

Can square dancing be a vibrant, healthy, exciting activity? Absolutely! Is there an easy formula to achieve these goals? Absolutely not! It will take effort. It will require all of us, callers and dancers alike, to work on two things—understanding and tolerance of new dancers.

First of all, how did we get to where we are now? Quite frankly, I feel a large part of our current situation has not been due to disinterest or lists. Instead, in part it may well be the result of our enthusiasm for our favorite program within the activity. Let me explain.

Square dancing is made up of two types of dancers—recreational dancers and hobby dancers. These two types of dancers are divided into the five programs in the activity; Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and Rounds. Most of the recreational dancers dance the Mainstream and some of the Plus programs. These are the people who only dance once or twice a month. The hobby dancers spend most of their time dancing Plus, Advanced, Challenge and the Rounds. These are the dancers who dance more often. In addition to their clubs and workshops, they attend festivals, weekends, and vacation resorts.

Hobby dancers have been derived from our pool of recreational dancers. They love their particular program, whichever it is. However, we sometimes love those programs to the exclusion of the other programs. This includes the exclusion of contributing and helping with beginner lessons. All of us must take the blame for this, callers and dancers alike.

This is, and has been, our problem. We are not replenishing the recreational dancers as we

should. Furthermore, we cannot expect to replace them when basically, only one fifth of our activity contributes to beginner lessons. The Mainstream dancers cannot, and should not, have to do all the work. Everyone—Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and Round dancers are all going to have to contribute in order to perpetuate our beloved activity.

Now is the perfect time to begin. Beginner lessons will be starting soon. I challenge every dancer to make an honest attempt to BRING someone to lessons. Notice, I said BRING, not send someone to lessons. That is still the single best way to introduce people to the square dance activity. Then, let's make these new people feel welcome. Stay and dance with them for at least a few weeks.

The second part of the equation falls to the caller. It is his/her responsibility to provide an enjoyable experience for the new dancers. We have to be more tolerant and understand that we must SELL our activity to these new dancers. This is done by providing a dance program that is fun and entertaining. Too much complexity in lessons leads to frustration and DRIVES dancers from our activity. Let's hook them on fun and friendship first.

Finally, how do we retain new dancers? This must come from us, and embraces the two characteristics I mentioned at the beginning—understanding and tolerance. We must remember that new dancers become comfortable within their lesson setting. However, once lessons are finished, it's like starting over. The club situation is completely new to them: they are scared to death. How many new dancers would we save if we again BROUGHT them to their first two or three club dances? Wouldn't they feel much more welcome and at ease?

One thought regarding retention at the club dance—and this will require a great deal of understanding and tolerance from the experienced dancer. I would like to see Mainstream clubs do away with the "Star Tip", especially during the middle of the dance. Many clubs now do a fourth tip Plus or even third and sixth tip Plus. How would you feel if you finished a full set of lessons only to learn that you still are not good enough to dance one fourth of the dance? By dancing two tips of Plus during a Mainstream dance, one fourth of the dance is EXCLUDED

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from the new dancer. If it is a Mainstream dance, let's dance Mainstream and INCLUDE everybody for the evening.

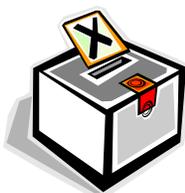
Everyone would like to see the square dance activity of the future as a vibrant, healthy, and exciting recreation. I believe that it can be. It will take everyone's effort, understanding and tolerance. But in reality, it will only take a small change in attitude in those of us who enjoy this activity so much. We must be more understanding and tolerant of the new dancer. Let's show as much enthusiasm for square dancing as a whole, as we show for our own particular program within the activity. Square dancing will continue to be the wonderful activity that we know if we take some time to show it the love and affection it so richly deserves.

89T Needles for Hilton's
<http://tinyurl.com/CALLERLAB-Needles>



VOTING TURNOUT

Ballots for the 2011 Board of Governors election were sent to all voting members on July 22, 2010. This year, we sent 772 ballots: 317 were returned resulting in a voting percentage of 41%. Voting Members have the right to vote and we encourage ALL Voting Members to exercise that right. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOTED!**

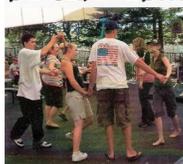


BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION RESULTS

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following members who have been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Governors: **Clark Baker, Patty Greene, Bill Harrison, Jerry Jestin, Vernon Jones, Bear Miller, Tom Miller, Bob Poyner, John Swindle**

We also would like to thank those candidates who, although unsuccessful in this election, took the time and initiative to run for the Board of Governors. They are: **Trevor Day, Tom Mohny, and Mike Olivieri.** The newly-elected Board members will begin serving their terms at the conclusion of the 2011 Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

MY TEAM SPORT IS...



DANCING



NEW YOUTH BROCHURES AVAILABLE

These new, exciting brochures are "hot off the press" and are available from the Home Office for only \$15.00 per one hundred—yes, that's a mere \$0.15 each. Don't waste an opportunity to "spread the word" to your non-dancing family, friends, neighbors and co-workers through these amazing brochures. See a sample at <http://tinyurl.com/callerlab-YB> Order yours today! Call the Home Office at (785)783-3665 or e-mail Wade@CALLERLAB.org



← .8750" →

NEW PINS AVAILABLE

CALLERLAB offers these new beautiful pins with or without the post (allows you to glue to your badge or equipment) They are blue and white with silver microphone and lettering. Purchase one for the low price of \$5.00. Call Wade at the Home Office at 1-785-783-3665 or e-mail him at Wade@CALLERLAB.org.

Donation to The Foundation

Gregg Anderson
 Clark Baker
 Betsy Gotta
 Vernon Jones
 Tim Marriner
 John Marshall
 Jerry Reed
 Dana Schirmer
 Elmer Sheffield

Donation in Memory of **Carla Jones John & Gail Swindle**

Donation in Memory of **Gloria Roth John & Gail Swindle**

Donation in Memory of **Jack Taylor Zonie Taylor Edward Swan Motivator Square Dance Club John & Gail Swindle Lynne & Bill Moon Graham R Pigg**



FCC TELLS WIRELESS MICS TO GET OFF 700MHZ SPECTRUM BAND

Under a new FCC rule, anyone who uses a wireless microphone (or similar device) that operates in the 700 MHz Band must stop operating their wireless microphone (or similar device) no later than June 12, 2010. The FCC prohibited electronics makers from selling existing devices that operate in the 700MHz spectrum as of January 11. To see if this law affects your wireless microphone, check the FCC's Equipment list at <http://tinyurl.com/CALLERLAB-FCC>

The main products affected by the ban will be wireless microphones, which have operated without FCC licenses in television spectrum for years. While many wireless microphones operate in lower spectrum bands, and will be able to continue there, the FCC has listed more than 300 models of wireless microphones and related components from 12 major manufacturers that will no longer be allowed to operate.

"Most wireless microphone systems will continue to work because they don't operate in the 700MHz band", said Matthew Nodine, Chief of Staff in the FCC's Wireless Telecom Bureau. "Our decision will accelerate the build out of 4G wireless networks, and will prevent interference with first responders who rely on the 700 MHz Band for mission-critical communications."

Why did the FCC make this rule?

Certain wireless microphones have operated in frequencies that are needed for public safety. When these microphones were first designed, the frequencies they used were in between the frequencies that television stations used to broadcast television programs. With the completion of the digital television (DTV) transition on June 12, 2009, television stations no longer use the frequencies between 698 and 806 MHz (the 700 MHz Band) for broadcast. These frequencies are now being used by public safety entities (e.g., police, fire and emergency services), and by commercial providers of wireless services such as wireless broadband services.

Devices similar to wireless microphones are also known as equipment for "low power auxiliary stations". Typically, these devices can transmit over distances of 100 meters. Examples of simi-

lar devices include wireless intercoms, wireless in-ear monitors (IEM"), wireless audio instrument links, and wireless cueing equipment. (aka "IFB").

Hilton Audio reports, "We have been shipping new UHF systems with the new frequency for around a year now."

Change is not necessary, survival is not mandatory. William Edwards Deming



COACHES' CORNER Paul Henze, Caller Coach Chairman

This new section will appear in *DIRECTION* on a regular basis. In each edition, we will have articles written by one of the 28 active and six Emeritus Caller Coaches on a variety of subjects or questions that hopefully will interest any of us as square dance callers.

Some things that might be discussed are:

1. Better ways of teaching.
2. CRaMS.
3. Mentoring.
4. Why go to a caller's school?
5. Women in calling.
6. What is happening with the overseas callers and what are their teaching methods?
7. Experiences of advanced, Challenge callers—how do they apply to the square dance activity?
8. Calling at resorts, vacation spots, etc.
9. What's involved with "cutting" a record?
10. How to begin using a computer for calling.
11. What prompted some of the coaches to get into calling at an early age?

Do you have questions you would like the CALLERLAB Caller Coaches to answer? Please send them to CALLERLAB@aol.com. We hope this new section will spark a lot of interest and enthusiasm. Please give us your feedback and suggestions.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change." Charles Darwin



2011 CONVENTION INFO

The Convention Planning Committee has chosen “That’s Entertainment” as the theme for the 2011 CALLERLAB Convention in Las Vegas, NV on April 18-20, 2011. The Convention theme provides an emphasis that we provide entertainment to the dancers in various ways. As always, there will be technical sessions to peak your interest as well as Committee meetings. There will also be sessions that will challenge you in new and innovative ways. In addition, Las Vegas offers vast vacation opportunities with plenty of lights, glamour, and glitter—now “That’s Entertainment”!

The Convention will be held at the beautiful Riviera Hotel and Casino with newly remodeled guest rooms and plenty of activities to keep everyone busy. Room rates are only \$69 per night. Sessions will include something for everyone, whether it be entertainment, technical, choreography, or leadership. Many of the Committees will also be having meetings during the Convention. Come be a part of what CALLERLAB is all about—people sharing experiences with others to help improve square dancing. Meet callers from around the world, members of the Board of Governors, recording artists, legendary callers, VIP’s from other organizations, and many others.

Watch for the Convention packets coming soon. Hotel reservations can be made by visiting the Riviera’s website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2011-Hotel>

You may also call the hotel directly at 1-800-634-6753. Please indicate that you will be attending the CALLERLAB Convention in April, 2011 and that you wish to register at the International Association of Square Dance Callers’ Convention rates.

HOME OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The CALLERLAB Home Office will be closed November 25 and 26, 2010 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We hope you, your family and friends have a happy and safe holiday.



VOICE TRAINING 2011 CALLERLAB CONVENTION

CALLERLAB is very pleased to announce that our featured voice coach, **Dr. Arden Hopkin**, will join us again in Las Vegas. However, we are sad to report that this will be his last year to attend the CALLERLAB Convention. **Dr. Hopkin** will present several special interest voice sessions during the convention, so please plan to attend at least one of them.

In addition, **Dr. Hopkin** is offering 20 minute individual voice sessions during the Convention for only \$30 each. A limited number of these sessions are available, so if you wish to register for one, please contact Wade by phone at 785-783-3665 or by e-mail at Wade@callerlab.org.

INVITE NON-MEMBERS TO CONVENTION

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

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION ISSUE

The Home Office is proud to present this additional issue of *DIRECTION* to promote better communication to CALLERLAB Members.

BEGINNER DANCE PARTY LEADER'S SEMINAR

A Beginner Dance Party Leader's Seminar will be held on Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the 2011 CALLERLAB Convention in Las Vegas. The seminar will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, and from 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday April 17 in the Riviera Hotel. The fee is \$50 per leader. Spouses and/or partners will be admitted free. Topics will include many of the items important to achieving a successful dance party. Checks should be made payable to CALLERLAB, and sent to the Home Office at 200 SW 30th Street, Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611. For more information contact Bob Riggs at Bob@SquareDanceEtc.com or the CALLERLAB Office at CALLERLAB@aol.com.

GOLF OUTING IN LAS VEGAS

Roy Gotta is organizing a golf outing and lunch on Sunday morning April 17, 2011 before the Las Vegas Convention begins. If you are interested in participating, please contact him at roygotta@optonline.net.



HISTORY COMMITTEE Jerry Reed, Chairman

The History Committee, is proud to announce that several issues of *DIRECTION* from prior years have been posted on the CALLERLAB website. They may also be printed for your convenience. This service is intended to assist Members and other viewers who are interested in reviewing and researching information from previous issues of our newsletter. In addition, the History Committee invites you to view information regarding former Milestone recipients that has also been posted.

The History Committee wants to serve you! Input regarding the type of information you would like to have posted on the website is always welcome! Please send your requests or suggestions to the CALLERLAB Home Office by phone at 785-783-3665 or by e-mail at CALLERLAB@aol.com.

MEET THE HOME OFFICE STAFF



Royce Dent, Administrative Support – Coordinator

Royce was born in Topeka, KS and was raised in a small rural town nearby. She began square dancing over 30 years ago in her hometown and soon joined a Topeka club whose caller was CALLERLAB's own Dana Schirmer. She attended her first National Convention in 1979 in Memphis, TN. Her love for square dancing has given her the opportunity to travel, meet many new friends, and now to support the CALLERLAB Home Office doing editing, convention planning, and other activities. She also assisted Dana and Donna with the business portion of the 57th National Convention held in Wichita, KS until she moved to Papillion, NE where she now resides.

Royce sings with a well-known choral organization in Omaha, and is very active doing volunteer work in her church and community. Her extensive nursing experience serves her well as the Credentialing Manager for a Topeka managed care health plan. She is very proud of her two sons, Brian and Billy.

“Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.” Michael McGriffy



EMERGENCY CALL FOR MEDICAL AID (ECMA)

Many of you are already familiar with the Emergency Call for Medical Aid (ECMA). CALLERLAB is promoting this very effective method of alerting callers, club officers and dancers to an immediate need for medical attention.

A copy of the official ECMA poster is included with this issue of *DIRECTION*. The poster explains the procedure to be followed in case of a medical emergency during a dance. Everyone involved in the square dance activity should be familiar with this procedure.

Please make copies of the poster and display them at your dances. You should also teach and workshop these procedures at your dances. Let's be prepared when emergencies occur.

SEVEN QUALITIES OF A HEALTHY GROUP

Submitted by **Tom Gray**, Alberta, Canada
Adapted from an article by **Leith Anderson**

1) A HEALTHY GROUP HAS A SENSE OF FUN AND ENTHUSIASM. You walk in the room and you can feel it. People are happy to be there. People are there to dance, the floor fills quickly, the caller doesn't have to plead to fill a square. Things are happening. There is an ambience of warmth and excitement.

2) A HEALTHY GROUP IS "OTHERS CENTERED". A healthy group is immediately interested in new people, what they need, and how their needs can be met through the club. It is sensitive to peoples' feelings. Are singles, especially ladies, welcome and given opportunities to dance? Since my wife doesn't dance, I often visit as a single. Some clubs have greeters to welcome everyone; others leave the visitor to wander in and fend for himself. The worst club ignored me completely. The best club introduced me to an angel who took me around, pointed out the bathrooms and coffee table, introduced me to other single dancers as well as club exec, and danced the first set with me. Now *that* sure made me feel welcome! In one club, during my first year, I danced as part of a "new dancers class" where everyone was a beginner, and I politely (if somewhat impatiently!) stood and watched for 30 minutes while Square Thru 4 was taught, from what I later learned, was an unusual position. Excruciating! In another club, the beginners were divided up among experienced dancers and the same move was learned well in 10 minutes. Sure made a difference! And what about those clubs where you are called to square up, then made to stand around during 20 minutes of announcements that really could have been posted on a bulletin board in the first place?

3) A HEALTHY GROUP IS UNDERSTANDABLE. Healthy clubs tend to speak in terms everyone can understand, rather than repeat jargon that constantly reminds outsiders they are not 'in'. Since square dancing uses a highly technical language, this requires both sensitivity and effort. Although a large part of this falls to the caller/teacher, there is much that can be done. A written list of common terms, handouts of the steps taught that night, angels who say, 'face me' rather than 'quarter right' will all help newcomers learn the language and feel part of the group.

4) A HEALTHY GROUP ACCEPTS PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE ME. I quote directly from Anderson: "Our level of comfort can be high or low, depending on how quickly we find someone else who looks like us. In a room full of women, a man thinks 'I'm in the wrong place!'... In a gathering where everyone is young and casually dressed, the older person in a business suit feels out of place." Draw your own conclusions.

5) A HEALTHY GROUP HANDLES PROBLEMS WITH GRACE. What happens when the sound system squeals or drops into embarrassing silence? When the club is behind budget or attendance is dropping, is there a denunciation for lack of support, or a challenge toward increasing attendance and building membership? What makes a healthy club is not the absence of problems. It's how the problems are handled.

6) A HEALTHY GROUP IS ACCESSIBLE. We're not talking wheelchair ramps. Is there clear and easy access to getting questions answered, meeting new people, joining in, and becoming part of the group? Do you allow new dancers to visit other clubs, join banner raids, or attend club dances? Or do you make it hard to join by insisting on graduating from lengthy lessons to qualify for membership? By having entry point lessons only once a year? By insisting that people have to have a certain level of expertise to join or participate in club activities? All these things discourage people from joining. When I missed a night at square dancing during my first year, I came back and felt lost. How do you accommodate people who miss a night or two? Are they phoned and invited to catch up classes, given tutorials during breaks, or simply told to come back next year when lessons start again?

7) A HEALTHY GROUP HAS A SENSE OF EXPECTANCY. Listen to hallway conversations over a few weeks and decide if the primary verb tense is past, present, or future; if the tone is positive or negative. I'm sure there'll always be some who grouch, but if you're also hearing, "That was fun!" or "I'm sure looking forward to the dance next week", you're on track. A healthy group has both present fun and reminiscences of past enjoyment. Most healthy groups are hopeful groups. They are full of plans as well as happy memories. They "expect" future fun. They "expect" to grow, and they have plans in place to produce and handle that growth.



OZZIE UPDATE

Wade Driver, Chairman Record Producers Committee

It is almost time to tabulate the nominations for the Bob Osgood "Ozzie" Square Dance Music Awards. I hope you and your dancers have taken the time to nominate your favorites. On October 1 our Committee will begin to count the votes and determine the final nominations for each award. These nominations will be listed in the November issue of *DIRECTION*, and they will also be listed on the official website, www.musicforcallers.com. Please choose your favorites from the categories and make your selections.

The Awards banquet is coming along quite nicely and many are already registered for the evening's festivities. The dress code for the banquet is "dressy casual". According to Wikipedia, that means a sport coat for the guys and a cocktail dress or formal pantsuit (slacks and blouse or jacket) for the ladies at a minimum. Square dance attire can be worn to the banquet since a dance follows.

"Roasters" for the Marshall Flippo Roast are now being selected. If you are not chosen, please remember that many hundreds of people have a story to tell about "Flip" and time is limited.

Presenters for the awards are also being determined. Please let the committee know at this e-mail address: (ozzie@musicforcallers.com) if you definitely plan to attend so that you can be considered for this honor.

Tickets for the evening's events can only be purchased as a "package" and will not be sold separately. Everyone is encouraged to come and laugh, cry, cheer, or poke fun (your choice) with "Flip" and the winners. There will be no losers, since all profits will be donated to the CALLERLAB Foundation for something vital to our activity - the education of new callers. Remember, hotel rooms are available at the Riviera for the CALLERLAB rate of \$69.00.

We hope everyone is as excited as we are about this event and are really looking forward to a fun-filled evening!

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 240 people are already registered for the 2011 Convention in Las Vegas.

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.



NEW CALLERS

By Daryl Clendenin

In order to increase our number of dancers we need to increase the number of callers that we have teaching people to dance. We need lots of enthusiastic new "caller/dance teachers" on the microphone willing to give their time and energy to replenish our dancer population.

If your area is like most, it used to host at least half-again as many clubs as it does now. And probably, each of those clubs had its own caller/dance teacher. With the actual populations of towns and cities increasing around the country, why is it that our dancer population continues to drop? I believe it's due to a shortage of these caller/dance teachers.

Why do we have this shortage? We don't have any actual statistics to prove it, but for those of us who were there, you'll remember the drop began in the early nineties.

The decline is due to a variety of reasons, but the biggest hit can probably be traced back to at least one major change for callers in our activity. That change was BMI/ASCAP licenses (1991). Everything seemed to be going along very nicely. Then our average caller was hit with the added expense of a license. It wasn't a matter of a couple of dollars a dance; it was a lump sum that many weren't willing to add to what it was already costing them to be a caller. Many of our callers decided to quit rather than buy the license. Unfortunately, these callers (in too many

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

cases) were the ones teaching new dancers in their areas and keeping the clubs alive and active. Even more unfortunately, they quit without securing or training their replacements. The teachers left, the clubs died, and the activity continues to suffer. Add to this the number of callers who retire, move out of an area, or pass on, and the situation gets worse. Clubs without callers don't usually last very long.

Within every area we need competent teachers of callers (Caller Coaches). We need callers that are willing to give of themselves and their hard-earned knowledge to get more folks started in calling. It's not necessary to be an "Accredited" Caller Coach to help mentor a new caller. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

Don't fall prey to the excuses that offer no solution. If you have a club, **YOU CAN DO IT!** Look for and find within your groups, those individuals that might be able to fill the need and lead them into calling and teaching. Without replenishing our caller/teacher base, we have no hope of ever restoring growth within the activity. Do it now!



MASARU WADA SENDS THANKS

Hi Dana-san,

Yumiko and I consider it the greatest honor of our couple's square dance life to have been allowed to receive the Milestone Award at the CALLERLAB Convention in 2010. I understand that not only I but also many other Japanese square dance leaders and callers who are persevering with their efforts to promote the spread and growth of square dance activities every day have received this Award.

We wish to express our heart-felt thanks to all of the CALLERLAB Members and to those who had input in awarding me the CALLERLAB Milestone Award. To the best of our ability, we will continue to aim at spreading the growth of our square dance activity. Again, thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Masaru and Yumiko Wada



MELTON LUTTRELL SENDS THANKS!

Dear John, Executive Committee Members, and Dana Schirmer;

Please accept my extreme gratitude for the Gold Card Award that you so graciously awarded me at our 2010 CALLERLAB Convention. I am not aware of the criteria that are reviewed for the award, but I doubt that I am worthy. However, that being said, I accept it with great humility. God willing, and if Sue and my health hold together, we look forward to attending many more CALLERLAB Conventions.

If there were others involved in the decision regarding the award, please pass on my thanks.

I deeply respect all of you, and aside from the gratitude for the honor, am very appreciative of the work you continually do for our wonderful square dance activity.

Sincerely,
Melton Luttrell



ERNIE KINNEY SAYS "THANK YOU"!

Dear Board of Governors and Executive Committee,

Thank you for the honor of being awarded the CALLERLAB Gold Card. It was a true surprise. I am grateful for the recognition and humbled to be joining the ranks of those callers who were previously awarded the Gold Card.

Square dance calling is a reward in itself. I have enjoyed the appreciation and loyalty of my dancers for 50 years. I thank God for giving me the ability to be a caller and to bring enjoyment to so many dancers over the years. Now, the Gold Card just makes it all the more special. Thank you all.

This year's CALLERLAB was one of the best. The feelings of cooperation and inspiration were in evidence everywhere, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

Sincerely,
Ernie Kinney



MUSIC FOR YOUTH



Some callers are interested in ideas for music that is attractive when working with youth. The CALLERLAB Calling In Schools Committee suggests the following music.

Square Dance Label Patter

(Some of these are Singing Calls)
Hash Heart (Unicorn 401)
Popcorn (Royal 413)
Sunny (Chaparral 511)
Sweet Dreams (Global Productions 500)
Sailing (Ocean Records OR-43)
Round and Round (Blue Star 1608)
Near Bear (Mountain Records)
Hoe-Down (ESP)
Cross-Eyed Fiddler (Silver Sounds)
Root Beer Rag (Silver Sounds)
Kokomo (TNT Records)
Music Box Dancer (Blue Star)
Lady In Black (BVR Records)
Penny Dancer (Chaparral)
Believe (Rambling Rose Records)
Catweazle (Snow Records)
Golden Ring (Sting Records)
Whoop, Square It Is (Lou Mac Records)

Alternative Music Patter

Chaka Chaka
Crazy Frog (The Hit Crew)
Kiss Him Goodbye (Crazy Frog)
Levantando (Las Manos)
Hampster (Dance Song)
Let's Hear It For The Boy (Denise Williams)
Funky Cowboy (Club Mix)
Dueling Banjos (Club Mix)
Kung-Fu Fighting (Club Mix)
Macarena (Groove Grass Mix)
Theme from Star Wars (Force Galactica)
Around the World (Daft Punk)
Bubble Beat (Papaya)
Cry For You (September)
Two Times (Ann Lee)
Funky Town Chaparell
Swingtown (Steve Miller Band)

Traditional Singing Calls

Waltzing Matilda (Royal)
Old Ball Game (Dance Ranch 1010 CD)
Tie A Yellow Ribbon Hi-Hat 5272
Oscar Meyer Weiner (Square Tunes 1056)
Mares Eat Oates Royal 518
Yankee Doodle Dandy (Blue Star 2123)
Lucky Son of a Gun (JK 0111)
Grandma's Feather Bed (JK 6011)
Shindig in the Barn (JPEP 0809)
Hey Good Lookin' (Royal)
Pink Cadillac (Red Boot)
Disney Medley (Global Records)
YMCA (Lou Mac Records)

Contemporary Singing Calls

All You Wanna Do Is Dance (Silver Sounds)
Play Something Country (ESP)
The Love Boat (Square Tunes)
I Saw Her Standing There (GMP 935)
Achey Breaky Heart (ESP)
American Pie (Royal)
Boot Scootin' Boogie (ESP)
Get Down Tonight (Royal)
New Attitude (Rhythm Records 198)
This Train (Royal 0809)
Free Ride (Royal)
Proud Mary (Rhythm Records)

LINE DANCES: Cha Cha Slide; Cupid Shuffle; Electric Slide; Cotton Eyed Joe; Macarena; Chicken Dance; Hokey Pokey; YMCA.

**IT IS TIME TO NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE CALLERS AND SINGING CALLS
FOR THE FIRST EVER**

“ OZZIE ”

INTERNATIONAL SQUARE DANCE MUSIC AWARDS

Best Female and Male Caller * Best Patter Callers * Caller of the Year * Singing Call of the Year And Many More.....

To Nominate Your Favorites Go To:

www.musicforcallers.com

The selection process will be as follows: From now until October 1, 2010 dancers and callers around the world may write in the songs, labels, and callers of their choice. All callers and songs are eligible. Between Oct 1 and Oct 15, the write-ins will be tabulated and the top eight vote getters will receive the official nomination in each category. From October 15, 2010 until March 15, 2011 you may vote for the nomination (s) of your choice. The winners will remain a secret until the night of the award presentations.

T H E N.....

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

APRIL 16, 2011

5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY – LIMITED SPACE

THE RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**\$75.00 pp
for all
events
No Partial**



Endorsed by CALLERLAB - All proceeds from this event will be donated to the CALLERLAB Foundation to be used for Caller School scholarships around the world.

**Special Hotel
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Go to

www.callerlab.org

**and click on Riviera
Hotel Link**

Master of Ceremonies: Mike Seastrom

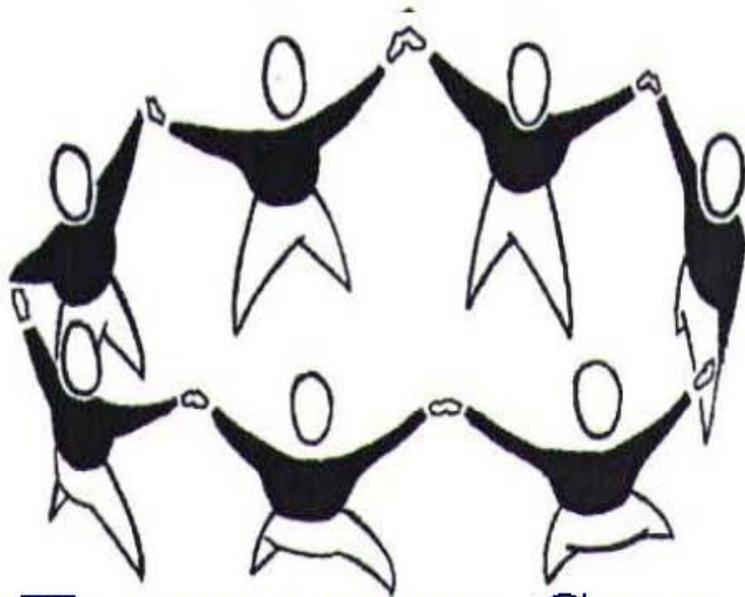
THE VERY FIRST SQUARE DANCE CALLER AWARDS RECEPTION, PRIME RIB BANQUET,

MARSHALL FLIPPO ROAST, AWARDS PRESENTATIONS AND DANCE

***THIS IS GOING TO BE AN AMAZING NIGHT AND YOU, THE DANCERS, GET TO CHOOSE WHO RECEIVES THE VERY
FIRST OZZIE***

**FOR INFO & TICKETS CONTACT: Gail Swindle, Executive Administrator
ozziegail@musicforcallers.com**

E C M A



EMERGENCY CALL for MEDICAL AID

- 1** When a dancer goes down, a second dancer attends to him/her

The remaining couples join hands and take a step backward.
- 2** This will allow the injured person and the attendant air and room
- 3** Raise joined hands as high as possible in the form of an arched circle

On seeing this signal, the caller or hall monitor will immediately respond and place an Emergency Call for Medical Aid if required.
- 4** Caller and Dancers should continue as usual while aid is administered.