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FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

- MAR 30 - APR 1, 2015 Springfield, MO
- MAR 21-23, 2016 Lansdowne, VA
- APR 10-12, 2017 Mesa, AZ
- MAR 26-28, 2018 Central Region

CALLERLAB OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time,
Monday - Friday
Phone: 1-785-783-3665



FROM THE CHAIR By Barry Clasper, Chairman

At our Convention in Reno this past April, I gave a speech which has now been transcribed in several places, including a previous *DIRECTION* and *American Square Dance Magazine*. As is frequently my custom, I blathered on at such length that the editors of these estimable publications were compelled to delete a large section of my remarks in the interests of saving the rain forests. Unfortunately, that section (dubbed my “Future Fantasy” by its deletors) is what I want to talk about today. So to avoid having to include it here and risk having it deleted again, I have loaded the text of my speech up to the “cloud” where you can view it at <http://tinyurl.com/clasper-speech-cl2014>. You will find my fantastical imaginings on pages 3 and 4. I'll give you a moment to go and read it. Shoo!

Now that you're back (you did go and read it, right?) we can begin. I know that many who journeyed with me through pages 3 and 4 think the “cloud” is where it belongs—and where it should stay. It's not a dream, it's a nightmare. Sure, my speculative future includes millions of dancers, TV shows, and even professional square dancing, which sounds cool. But many will feel the path to get there requires us to sacrifice too much. This article is for you guys. I want to change your minds.

Fear not, I'm not going to reproduce my fantasy here (because you all went to the cloud and read it—right?). But I am going to dissect it down to its basic elements so we can examine them closely.

First Step: We acknowledge how complicated MWSD (as we practice it today) actually is. You may think I'm talking about Advanced and Challenge; Au contraire. I'm talking about Mainstream. In fact, I'm talking about the “B” side of the Basic list. Now, I could spend a lot of time articulating all the tiny but essential skills a dancer has to master (notice I said skills, not calls, they are in addition). But there is one completely obvious fact that makes it

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

unnecessary. It requires LESSONS—WEEKS of lessons! We often debate amongst ourselves as to how many weeks of lessons are ideal. We're missing the point. It takes WEEKS OF LESSONS.

For a goodly proportion of the general public, ANY lessons are a non-starter. They want to come and go on an infrequent and irregular basis and dance without having to remember anything from one time to the next. These are party-night people. We should have regular dances for people like that. There are lots of those people, but we offer them little. We don't consider them to be actual square dancers—or at least not Modern Western Square Dancers. But hidden among them are a lot of potential Modern Western Square Dancers; people who will in time become interested enough to take LESSONS, at least for a while. Those are our peeps.

Well, not quite. Because, of those people who become interested enough to commit to lessons, not all can really cut it. There are those who never figure out the fundamentals; Runs, Trades, Circulates, and the like. Let's be honest; not everybody gets it. We're not very good at detecting these people. We assume everyone will get it eventually if we just drill them long enough. Some of these eventually decide it's not fun and seek more enjoyable pursuits. Others with a higher pain threshold stay on and continue to bumble their way through sequences. This is not fair, either to them or to other dancers who must compensate for them. So, what do we do?

Second Step: In most other recreations, the answer is obvious: we test them. But this is a notion that has so far been strangely absent in MWSD. We have a series of progressive programs; each builds upon what was previously taught. And yet we have no measurement or certification indicating someone has mastered a particular program. In the “good old days” callers and club officers often provided such a function by advising dancers when they were ready for something new. Not so much anymore. We really don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, and we don't want to see

any bodies walk out the door. In any case, having that awkward conversation often accomplishes nothing more than the dancers going to another club, who are happy to have them because we really need those bodies on the floor.

I submit that this is short-sighted thinking. People who work and pass a test feel they have ACHIEVED something. People who enjoy MWSD generally like achievement. It can't be denied that people who fail a test generally don't feel great. However, don't you think they feel better than somebody in the “good old days” who was effectively told they were not wanted in a club? Failing an objective test and seeing what skills you need to improve in order to pass is much less stigmatizing. And people who eventually pass a test after failing it on earlier attempts feel an even bigger sense of achievement. So there is Square Dance Taboo #1: Testing. I can think of no other activity involving a progression of learning and successive stages of mastery that has no way to measure that mastery.

Third Step: That leads naturally to the ultimate form of testing: Competition. Testing involves measuring your skills against a standard. Competition is measuring your skills against somebody else's skills. That is Square Dance Taboo #2. For many, this thought is anathema condemnation. Square dancing is “Friendship Set To Music”. There is no place for competition or rivalries. I used to be one of those people. I've changed my mind.

We tend to automatically associate “competition” with what we see in sports: activities that are expressly designed to pit people one against the other to see who will prevail. Not the gestalt image we want for square dancing. We want it to be cooperative and just for fun; eight people moving together and enjoying the feeling of the movement and the mental challenge of decoding the calls. Wouldn't the existence of square dance competitions degrade that?

I don't believe so. First of all, the existence of competition within an activity does not mean that is

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

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

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

(Continued from page 2)

the only reason people do it. The fact that there is Olympic figure skating does not mean people don't enjoy skating around with their friends on a backyard rink. The fact that the Boston Marathon exists does not prevent people from enjoying a morning run to get a little exercise. The fact that there are marching band competitions doesn't stop people from jamming together in a garage just for the fun of it.

There are many activities that most participants do just for fun, but which have elements of competition somewhere in their world. And those activities are better for having that visible element of competition. Why? Because seeing a competitive level performance lets people calibrate their own achievements. It provides an example of how proficient "good" is and how much work is needed to achieve it. Not least, that competitive aspect serves to attract attention. An article in *Time* from August 2013 cites a statistic from *Chorus America* that 32.5 million adults sing in choirs—up 10 million in the past 6 years. That's more than a 40% increase. How much do you suppose "American Idol", "The Voice", and "Glee" had to do with that? They all showcase competition.

This is why I believe the growing interest in competitive square dancing is a positive trend. I recently had the privilege of being the "mystery caller" for the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival. The mystery caller pre-records a series of tips for the kids to dance. As the word "mystery" implies, the dancers don't know who the caller will be ahead of time so they can't practice dancing to that caller. Dancing to recorded tips means the caller won't unconsciously adapt their delivery to what the dancers are doing. Part of the scoring scheme involves timing how much of the material the kids successfully dance, so it is necessary for the material to be difficult enough to stump them, at least some of the time. Let me tell you, that is a tall order. These kids are REALLY good. If you want to see what it looks like just 'Google' "PNTSDF 2014 Senior Final".

But to me, the revelation isn't that they danced very hard Plus choreography, although even the simplest stuff on the recording would have stymied the average Plus floor. Look at their styling. Look at how they move to the music. Look at how tight their formations are. Look at how they all move together. Look how they add flourishes to some movements. Look at how fast they recover

from mistakes. Look at how much FUN they're having—even when they struggle. Any square dancer can look at that and think, "So that's what it looks like when you're really, really good."

And that's what competition gives us. Think about ten million new chorus members in 6 years—what if they had been square dancers?

BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION

The 2015 BOG election is in process. All voting Members will receive their ballot via U.S. mail. Members eligible to vote will be electing nine members to be seated on the Board following the 2015 CALLERLAB Convention in Springfield, Missouri. Board Members serve a term of three years. If you are a voting Member, please vote!

Calvin Campbell, Barry Clasper, Larry Cole, Wade Driver, Tim Marriner, John Marshall, Jim Mayo and Jerry Reed will complete their current terms on the Board at the 2015 convention. **Tom Rudebock** has submitted his resignation from the Board

Valid petitions have been received from the following: **Bob Asp; Scott Bennett; Scot Byars; Mike Callahan; Barry Clasper; Skip Cleland; John Marshall; Jim Mayo; Tom Mohney; Mike Olivieri; Jeff Palmer; Chris Pinkham; Jerry Reed; Bob Riggs; and Justin Russell.** **Calvin Campbell, Larry Cole, Wade Driver and Tim Marriner** have chosen not to seek reelection to the Board this year.

The results of this important election will be announced in the next issue of *DIRECTION*.

INSURANCE NOTIFICATION

As information, CALLERLAB's general liability insurance covers our Members only. Clubs and officers *are not* covered by CALLERLAB's policy. United Square Dancers of America (USDA) can provide general liability insurance to dancers and club leaders. Clubs are encouraged to contact USDA for insurance liability coverage. Their website is: <http://www.usda.org/insuranc.htm> .

Forget all the reasons why it won't work
and believe the one reason why it will!

BOG VOTING RESPONSE LOG

The Board of Governors (BOG) has established a policy that a report of the BOG and Executive Committee (EC) voting record responding to issues (LOGs) which require a response be sent to the Membership at least once a year. The following is a report of the voting actions taken by the 2013/2014 (BOG) and the 2013/2014(EC).

| BOG Response Log | Total Logs | Total Votes | Voting % |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Clark Baker | 12 | 11 | 91% |
| Bill Boyd | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Walt Burr | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Calvin Campbell | 12 | 11 | 91% |
| Deborah Carroll-Jones | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Barry Clasper | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Larry Cole | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Wade Driver | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Betsy Gotta | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Patty Greene | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Bill Harrison | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Eric Henerlau | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Mike Hogan | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Jerry Jestin | 12 | 11 | 91% |
| Vernon Jones | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Tim Marriner | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| John Marshall | 12 | 11 | 91% |
| Jim Mayo | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Bear Miller | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Tom Miller | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Bob Poyner | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Jerry Reed | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Ken Ritucci | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| Tom Rudebock | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| John Swindle | 12 | 11 | 91% |
| TOTAL | 300 | 295 | 98% |

The following is a report of the voting actions taken by the 2013/2014 CALLERLAB Executive Committee (EC)

| EC Response Log | Tot Logs | Tot Votes | Voting % |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Barry Clasper | 15 | 15 | 100% |
| Deborah Carroll-Jones | 15 | 15 | 100% |
| Eric Henerlau | 15 | 15 | 100% |
| Tim Marriner | 15 | 15 | 100% |
| John Marshall | 15 | 15 | 100% |
| TOTAL | 75 | 75 | 100% |

BOG ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Executive Committee has established a policy that a report of the BOG attendance at meetings be sent to the Membership at least once a year. The following is an attendance report of the 2013/2014 (BOG).

F= Attended Full Meeting

P=Absent Partial Meeting

P*= Absent Partial Meeting (due to emergency)

A=Absent Entire Meeting

Press releases announcing the results will be mailed to publications and callers' associations.

| Name | 2014 | 2013 |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| Clark Baker | F | F |
| Bill Boyd | P* | F |
| Walt Burr | F | F |
| Calvin Campbell | F | F |
| Deborah Carroll-Jones | F | F |
| Barry Clasper | F | F |
| Larry Cole | A | A |
| Wade Driver | F | F |
| Betsy Gotta | F | F |
| Patty Greene | F | F |
| Bill Harrison | P | P |
| Eric Henerlau | F | F |
| Mike Hogan | F | F |
| Jerry Jestin | F | F |
| Vernon Jones | F | A |
| Tim Marriner | P | F |
| John Marshall | F | F |
| Jim Mayo | F | F |
| Bear Miller | F | F |
| Tom Miller | F | P |
| Bob Poyner | F | F |
| Jerry Reed | F | F |
| Ken Ritucci | F | F |
| Tom Rudebock | A | F |
| John Swindle | A | F |

Ballots are in the Mail

Voting Members should be receiving BOG election ballots in the mail soon. Ballots need to be returned before September 15, 2014.

If you do not receive a ballot and you believe you qualify to be a voting Member, contact the Home Office to verify your membership status.

CALLERLAB AT THE 63rd NSDC

CALLERLAB made its annual appearance at the 63rd National Square Dance Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. CALLERLAB also participated in the Showcase of Ideas. The CALLERLAB booth provided a positive presence before the dancing public and elicited a great response from everyone who stopped by to visit.

Thanks to the following CALLERLAB Members who volunteered to help staff the booth: **Walt Burr; Bob Rollins; Bob Worley; Bob Poyner; Brian and Debbie Freed; Doug Davis; Patty Greene; Henry Grissett and Sharon Golden; Tom and Cindy Hollinberger; Lawrence Johnstone; Scot and Erin Byars; Mike Huddleson; Dottie Welch; Ken Ritucci; Betsy and Roy Gotta; Royce Dent and Donna Schirmer.**

ALTERNATE INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENT PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND:

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

DEFINITION:

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

Register for the 42nd CALLERLAB Convention before August 31st to be entered into a drawing for free room nights and other prizes!

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."
Albert Einstein

CALLERLAB AT THE CANADIAN NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION

CALLERLAB made an appearance at the Canadian National Square Dance Convention in Ottawa, Ontario in July of 2014. The Home Office Staff presented a booth to meet with current Members, prospective Members, and dancers. Thanks to those who stopped by our booth during the Convention and the hospitality presented by the Convention committee and members attending. Attending were Chairman, Barry and Pam Clasper, Vice Chairman, Betsy and Roy Gotta, and Executive Director Dana and Donna Schirmer.

GENERAL CALLER ACCREDITATION

Accredit: to give credit or authority; to bring into credit or favor; to authorize; give credentials to (*Second College Edition New World Dictionary*).

Members of many professional organizations seek accreditation so those who desire their services will have an indication as to their competence. The CALLERLAB Caller Accreditation Program provides this same measure of assurance to square dance clubs and other organizations that use our services. Accreditation by CALLERLAB recognizes the attainment of professional responsibility and competence in the calling and teaching of square dancing and related fields.

Any square dance caller may seek CALLERLAB accreditation. Membership in CALLERLAB is not a requirement. Callers must be reaccruited every six years to maintain continuous accreditation.

A caller seeking accreditation must be accredited first as a General Caller. Once qualified as a General Caller, he/she may also opt to be accredited in any or all five specialty skill categories. These categories include: 1) Square Dance Party; 2) Rounds; 3) Contra; 4) Advanced Dancing; and 5) Challenge Dancing.

Accreditation is accomplished by obtaining the signatures of three CALLERLAB Members or Associate Members in good standing. The Member or Associate Member does not have to be accredited to sign an Accreditation Application. CALLERLAB Apprentice Members or Associate Licensees may not sign as accreditors.

**42nd CALLERLAB Convention
Springfield, Missouri
March 30 - April 1, 2015
Talk It Up #SquareDancing**

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

Room Reservations may be made by internet at: <https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1266501&hotelID=17728>, or call 1-417-864-3077. **Our Group Code is CLISD.** Enter the dates and your rate will automatically load into the reservation. Select your preferred room type and then fill in your personal information. The University Plaza Hotel website is www.upspringfield.com.

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

Save the date and come to CALLERLAB’s 42nd Convention! Convention fees include two lunches, two banquet meals, and beverage breaks. A Reservation Form is attached to this issue. Register before August 31st to be entered into a drawing for prizes. Convention fees remain \$210 for callers and \$200 for partners and dance leaders.

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

Make your plans to attend the 42nd CALLERLAB Convention! Reservations before August 31, 2014 are eligible for drawings for free room nights, etc.

**64th National Square Dance
Convention ®
June 24 - 27, 2015
Springfield, Massachusetts**

Unless you live in Springfield, or possibly New England, you probably know little about the city. I know we did not at first either. One of the most impressive things we learned, of which Springfield is very proud, is that it is a city of many FIRSTS. The newest first is that it will be hosting the National Square Dance Convention in 2015, the first time it has been held in New England. One of the firsts seems to be the invention of basketball in 1891. Springfield is home to the Basketball Hall of Fame, not far from the MassMutual Center. Springfield was the first Springfield in the U.S., and the home of the first Sheraton Hotel in the U.S. in 1937.

Springfield has published a list of over 50 FIRSTS, but I also have a list that contains a lot more. Who knew that Dr. Seuss’ “Cat in the Hat” was written in Springfield? That Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel) lived in Springfield, and many things in his books relate to Springfield. Springfield has a sculpture garden with some of his characters that are well worth visiting not far from the MassMutual Center.

The first American made automobile was a Steam Carriage by Thomas Blanchard in 1825. Other firsts were a gas powered motorcycle (the Indian), the largest gun maker (Smith and Wesson), the rubber stamp, and even the dreaded windowed envelope. The first U.S. Armory was founded in Springfield in 1777, the first Revolver Club in 1886, the Springfield rifle in 1903, and metallic cartridges by Smith & Wesson in 1854.

On the lighter side, Springfield is home to the board game, the Publication of Emily Dickinson’s Poems, (“Fastened Ice Skates”), and famed storyteller of Peter Cottontail, Thornton W. Burgess. There are many more, but this short list is to whet your appetite as to what Springfield is all about.

Springfield is also home to MassMutual Insurance (one of the top ten insurance agencies in the U.S.), providing the namesake of the MassMutual Center, home of the 64th National Square Dance Convention® on June 24th – 27th, 2015. Come dance with us and enjoy the endless things to see and do in Springfield, Massachusetts in 2015.

SPRINGFIELD ???

Please Note: The 42nd CALLERLAB Convention and the 64th National Square Dance Convention ® (NSDC) are at different locations. Although both Conventions are in 2015 and both in Springfield, **CALLERLAB will be in Missouri** while **the NSDC will be in Massachusetts**. Make your plans accordingly.



Blame Makes You Weak By Denise Ryan

Blame is everywhere these days. I've seen articles blaming doctors for people's addictions to pain medicines, blaming the food industry for the obesity epidemic; blaming Congress for everything. If these doesn't cover you, you can blame genetics, your parents or an ex-lover. We've all done it; I've blamed Krispy Kreme's hot doughnuts light for my tightening jeans for years.

Blame is a waste of time that does nothing but make you weak. If you are addicted to pain meds it is up to you to get help and stop taking them. Sitting around blaming others isn't going to help you. Also, since when are you not a responsible adult? I make the decision when I see the hot doughnut light to drive my car into the Krispy Kreme parking lot. If I eat the hot doughnut, it is 100% my fault. Blaming Krispy Kreme makes me weak; it puts Krispy Kreme in charge of my life. Who are you putting in charge of your life?

In an effort to help people feel better about themselves, we have told them that nothing is their fault. They maxed out their credit cards? It's the evil businesses who ticketed them into buying things they couldn't afford. We don't tell them they need to learn about budgeting and finances. While this might make them feel better in the short term, it doesn't help them in the long run. They still have no clue about how to manage their money. I could give you a thousand examples in every aspect of our lives where we blame someone or something else for the results we have gotten.

Sure, maybe sometimes there really is blame on another's part. They outright lied to you or attacked you. Go ahead, blame away. Is it changing anything? Is it making you feel powerful back?

- 1) Start by honestly asking yourself who or what you've been blaming (the competition, your lack of time, your ex, the weather. Little Debbie's, etc.) for not having what you want in your life (health, money, love, etc.). If you say you blame no one/nothing for anything, you're not thinking hard enough, being honest enough, or you are way too enlightened for the rest of us.
- 2) Realize you have put whatever you are blaming in charge of your life. Are you good with that? Does your ex or boss or Congress control your destiny? They do if you keep blaming them.
- 3) Take responsibility. So your marriage didn't work out and your ex is a psychopath. You have two choices—you can keep blaming your ex and trying to change him/her or you can man (woman) up and ask yourself, "What can I do to make my situation better?" Who cares who is to blame? Apparently you chose to date and then marry a psychopath, so you played a part as well. But I don't even want you to blame yourself—the power lies in asking what can you do now. You are responsible for your life.
- 4) Focus on you. When you stop blaming, it puts the focus back where it needs to be – on you and what you can do. If I don't drive to Krispy Kreme I don't know the light is on. (I also can take the Hot Doughnut app off my phone.) Blaming your boss for your crappy job? Maybe you need to get better so you can find another job. Or focus on what you love about your job and stop thinking your boss is going to change.
- 5) Stop taking the easy way out. Blame is easy. You don't have to do the hard work, you can just blame others for your situation. I can blame a lack of time for not exercising, or I can admit that I chose to do other things. Every time you find yourself blaming, ask instead, "What can I do about this?" Do you want to be powerful or do you want things to be easy? Keep blaming and you'll get weaker and weaker.

- 6) Think! Use the most powerful weapon in your arsenal. Your mind should be freed from all that blaming and now you can put it to productive use. You are in control of your life and you need to think about what you should do to improve it. Do you need to ask for help? Do you need to take a class? You need a strategy that focuses solely on what you can do. Ceasing to focus on the blame and instead thinking about what you can give your enthusiasm back. You are moving forward, creating your destiny. You are powerful. Let your ex, Congress, your boss, and Krispy Kreme do whatever they want. You have a great life to live.
- 7) Learn from your mistakes. So you married a psychopath—we all make mistakes. Were there a few red flags? Did you commit too quickly? Take time to learn. Life is a great teacher if you don't just blame someone or something else and move on.
- 8) ACT! Decided you need to learn more about finances? Take a class. Study hard. You will never make a bad financial choice again! Taking considered action is what will change your situation, not blaming others.
- 9) Empower others. Next time someone is blaming (we call it venting, but it's blaming), ask them, "So what can you do about this?" Stop encouraging blaming. When I got bad grades, my parents didn't blame the teacher, they told me to study harder. What do you tell your kids? We are all much more powerful than we give ourselves credit for—but we have to stop blaming to realize it.
- 10) Every time you work this process, you will get stronger. I can blame Krispy Kreme all day, but all that will happen is I'll get fatter. Even if Katie Couric closes Krispy Kreme to save me from myself, I still haven't learned discipline and proper eating habits. But if I gather knowledge and make better choices, I get more powerful against Krispy Kreme, Little Debbie and all the minions.

It's like that old saying, "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime." You can sit around and blame the fish for your hunger or say you didn't have enough time to actually fish or you can say it was too hot for fishing. Or you can just get in your car and go to Krispy Kreme.

INVITE NON-MEMBERS AND DANCE LEADERS TO ATTEND CONVENTION

Are you aware that CALLERLAB encourages you to invite dancers and non-CALLERLAB Members to attend the annual CALLERLAB Conventions? One of the most common comments we hear from first time attendees is that they wished they had attended earlier. During our formative years we were discussing some complex programming, choreography, and styling issues. Much of this discussion would not have been of interest to many dancers. Currently, the topics available to our attendees range from some complex technical issues to marketing, recruiting, and retention discussions and other issues of interest to club and association leadership. We ask that you invite dancers and callers to attend. Contact the Home Office to arrange a special invitation to your friends.

Application Review Committee (ARC) New Committee Chair

Jon Jones has submitted his resignation as the Chairman of the ARC effective July 1, 2014. Jon has served as the Chairman of the ARC since the inception of the Committee in 1998 and has presented outstanding leadership during his tenure. CALLERLAB expresses our appreciation to Jon for his contributions to CALLERLAB by serving on this Committee.

The Executive Committee has selected **Tim Crawford** to be the new Chairman. Tim has served on this Committee in the past and has agreed to serve as Chairman. Jerry Story will remain as the Vice Chairman of the ARC.

Choreography questions may be directed to the ARC by submitting them to the Home Office.

2014 Marketing on Shoestring Budget

Videos on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRE93Pfv5VQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70f4SqkGG2U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRMI72rnqIY>

2014 Awards and Chairman's Speech

Video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NfYvPokNcE>

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS AWARDED

The following scholarships and grants were recently approved by the Foundation Executive Directors:

Music Producers Scholarship

Recipient: **LaNetta Dunn**

Lesson Grants

Bonney Lads and Lassies Square Dance Club
Scoot Back Squares
Quabbin Valley Twirlers
The Spinners Square Dance Club
Texas Reelers Square Dance Club
Buckles and Bows Square Dance Club

Grants

San Diego Square Dance Association
Square Up Square Dancers
San Juan Squares

Congratulations, Everyone!

Donations to CALLERLAB

Holly Ferreira
Paul Cote

Thanks for Your Contributions!

Donations to CALLERLAB Foundation

Scholarships:

Masaru (Doc) Hiraga

Foundation:

Roy Morgan
Masaru (Doc) Hiraga
Cindy Smith

In Memory:

Tom and Bev Rudebock in memory of
Bob Calkins and Arthur (Art) A. Rudebock

Thanks for Your Gifts!

Please Donate to the CALLERLAB FOUNDATION

**Let's Pay it Forward
to the Future!**

ROUNDALAB Office Has Moved

After 15 years as the Executive Administrator of ROUNDALAB, Al Shaw has retired. We congratulate Al and wish him well on his retirement. ROUNDALAB's new Executive Administrator is **Susan Healea**. Many of you probably met Susan at the CALLERLAB Convention in Reno last April. We know Susan will serve ROUNDALAB very well for many years to come.

ROUNDALAB has also moved its office, but the toll-free phone number, e-mail address and webpage all remain the same. Susan advises that ROUNDALAB will continue to provide services to its members as well as sell round dance manuals, DVDs, software and more to dancers, cuers and teachers. Visit the catalog at their website www.roundalab.org.

New address:

ROUNDALAB
2803 Louisiana St.
Longview, WA 98632
1-877-Y-I-DANCE (1-877-943-2623)
1-360-423-7423
roundalab@roundalab.org

RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

The Board of Governors has approved a process whereby any CALLERLAB Member (Active, Life, Associate, or Apprentice) in good standing may submit a proposal (resolution) to the Membership for consideration, discussion, and vote. The resolution must be in writing, signed by the author, and seconded by a CALLERLAB Member (Active, Life, Associate, or Apprentice) in good standing. Written resolutions must be submitted to the Executive Director at the Home Office either in person, by e-mail, by U.S. mail or fax. The resolution must include the reason that the author feels the proposal is necessary.

Resolutions must be submitted by January 1st of the Convention year in order to be listed in the "Call to Convention" and placed on the Convention Agenda. Please contact the Home Office for additional information or for a Resolution Submission Form.

YOU ARE CALLERLAB!

**Join a Committee and
Voice Your Opinions!**

POST-CONVENTION VOTE RESULT

Following the 2014 CALLERLAB Convention, 759 ballots were mailed to eligible Voting Members, asking whether or not the actions taken at the 2014 CALLERLAB Convention should be rescinded (overturned). The results of the Convention action were reported in the minutes of the Annual Meeting which were mailed to all Members with the Flash 2014 issue of *DIRECTION*.

The Bylaws specify that a minimum of one-third of the mailed ballots (this year 253) must be returned in order to constitute a quorum. Additionally, two-thirds of those responding must vote to rescind the vote or it stands as taken.

The Resolutions printed below were presented to the membership during the 2014 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. These Resolutions were approved by the membership at the meeting and submitted to the Voting Members by mail ballot. Of the 780 ballots mailed, 293 valid ballots were returned by the July 12, 2014 deadline. Returned ballots have been counted and the resolutions were approved as presented.

The following resolutions stand approved by the Voting Members at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Members and ratified by the mailed ballot.

The first resolution reads as follows:

Whereas Removal or Expulsion of any Member by the Board Of Governors (Board) is a very serious issue and

Whereas the Bylaws must be clear regarding Removal or Expulsion and Reinstatement of any Member by the Board,

MOTION: Be it Resolved That Article II, Membership, Section 4 be revised to read as follows:

Section 4. Resignation, Removal, and Reinstatement.

A) Resignation. Any Member in good standing, whose account is fully paid, may resign and his resignation shall be accepted at the next meeting of the Board of Governors and shall be effective as of the date of resignation. Notwithstanding any termination of membership, all sums due to the corporation from any Member shall be due and remain a debt in favor of the corporation and shall be enforceable against the Member or his estate.

B) Removal or Expulsion of Members.

(1) Any Member whose account is delinquent

shall be mailed a written notice of delinquency at his address as shown on the records of the corporation. If the delinquency is not cured within 60 days following the sending of the notice, the Member shall be expelled without further action being required.

(2) Any Member of the corporation may be expelled by an affirmative vote of 2/3 majority of the currently serving Board Of Governors (Board), at a meeting of the Board, for conduct the Board shall deem harmful to the best interest of the corporation. The membership of any such Member, and all rights pertaining to membership, shall terminate immediately upon expulsion.

(3) Any Member who has been expelled in accordance with Subparagraph (B) (2) above and who has been reinstated in accordance with Article II Membership, Section 4 (C) (2) may be expelled by an affirmative vote of a simple majority (51%) of the currently serving Board, at a meeting of the Board, for conduct the Board shall deem harmful to the best interest of the corporation. The membership of any such Member, and all rights pertaining to membership, shall terminate immediately upon expulsion.

(4) No Member shall be so expelled until he/she is given thirty (30) days prior notice of the proposed action for expulsion and the reasons therefore. This notice shall be sent by first class, certified, or registered mail to the last address of such Member shown on the corporation's records. The thirty (30) days notice shall begin on the date the notice is mailed.

(5) Such Member shall have the right to submit, in writing, not less than five days prior to the scheduled action (vote) by the Board reason(s) why he/she should not be expelled. Such submission shall serve as the Member's right to be heard by the body authorized to decide the proposed expulsion, termination or suspension.

(6) The decision of the Board shall be final.

(C) Reinstatement.

(1) Any Member whose membership has been terminated for non-payment of dues shall be reinstated upon paying the then current full year's dues and any applicable late fee.

2) Any Member whose Membership has been

(Continued from page 10)

terminated by the Board, as described in Article II. Membership, Section 4. (B) (2), shall not be eligible for membership nor any other benefits offered by the corporation, until the expelled or removed Member has submitted the appropriate application and such application has been approved by an affirmative vote of 2/3 majority of the currently serving Board Of Governors, at a meeting of the Board.

(3) Any Member whose Membership has been terminated by the Board, as described in Article II Membership, Section 4. (B) (3) shall not be permitted re-apply for membership and shall not be eligible for reinstatement.

The second resolution reads as follows:

Whereas CALLERLAB Retired members may wish to remain active in the business of CALLERLAB Committees and

Whereas the Bylaws currently do not allow Retired Members to serve on Committees,

MOTION: Be it Resolved That Article II, Membership, Section 1. Classes of Membership E) Retired Member be revised to read as follows:

(E) Retired Member

- (1) Definition: A person who has been an Active Member for eight (8) years, has attended a minimum of three (3) annual or special meetings for the Members, and has ceased actively calling square dances.
- (2) Privileges. Retired Members shall have all privileges of Active Members, except voting, serving on the Board of Governors, or receiving minutes and financial statements. Retired Members may serve on committees for which they meet prerequisites and vote on committee business.

A Retired Member may rejoin the organization as an Active Member at any time.

Thank You
to All Who Took
Time to Vote!

Home Office Closed
September 1, 2014
USA-Labor Day Holiday

REVISED BYLAWS

Can be downloaded from the CALLERLAB website <http://tinyurl.com/CALLERLAB-Bylaws>.

BADGES, JACKETS, SHIRTS and GIFT CERTIFICATES

The Home Office is happy to announce that we have an all weather, nylon shell, hooded jacket with a combination polyester and cotton lining.

The jacket is royal blue in color with an embroidered CALLERLAB logo on the front. It also has an interior pocket, two external hand pockets, and a waist draw string. In addition, we have a new supply of the embroidered long sleeve dress shirts, hooded sweat shirts, and polo shirts.

Need a special gift? Why not purchase a CALLERLAB gift certificate?

STARTER KIT FOR NEWER CALLERS

A "Starter Kit for Newer Callers", produced by the Caller Training Committee, is available from the Home Office. The kit contains information important to new and relatively new callers. If you are involved in the training of new callers, you should strongly encourage them to purchase their own copy of this manual. Those of you who are involved with local caller association training programs may also wish to add this informative manual to your library.

CALLERLAB CALLER-COACHES AT 63rd NSDC

CALLERLAB made its annual appearance at the 63rd National Square Dance Convention in Little Rock, AR. CALLERLAB participated in caller education by staffing six seminars dealing with caller education. CALLERLAB would like to thank those Accredited Caller-Coaches who donated their time during the Convention to staff these sessions. They were: **Walt Burr; Doug Davis; Betsy Gotta; Paul Henze; Tony Oxendine; Ken Ritucci; and Jerry Story**. Numerous other CALLERLAB Members also assisted the NSDC by serving on educational clinics, seminars and workshops as well as calling at the Nationals. **Thanks to you all!**



CALLERLAB COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

August 5, 2014

MISSION SUPPORT - Executive Committee Liaison- Tim Marriner

ADVANCED - CH Bill Harrison; VC, Skip Cleland
APPLICATIONS REVIEW - CH, Tim Crawford; VC, Jerry Story
CHALLENGE - CH, Bill Ackerman; VC, Harlan Kerr
CHOREOGRAPHIC APPLICATIONS - CH, Dottie Welch; VC, Elmer Claycomb
CHOREOGRAPHIC REVIEW COORDINATOR - Ed Foote
COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DANCE- CH, Bob Riggs; VC, Calvin Campbell
DEFINITIONS - CH, Clark Baker; VC, Michael Maltenfort
MAINSTREAM - CH, Bear Miller; VC, Stephen Cole
PLUS - CH, Ken Ritucci; VC, Eric Henerlau

PRIORITY SUPPORT - Executive Committee Liaison-Eric Henerlau

CALLER-COACH - CH, Paul Henze; VC, Tony Oxendine
CALLER TRAINING - CH, Betsy Gotta; VC, Ron Markus
HISTORY-CH, Jerry Reed; VC, Jim Mayo
MARKETING - CH, Mike Hogan; VC, Jerry Junck
NEW INITIATIVES – CH, Mike Olivieri
CALLING IN SCHOOLS Ad Hoc– CH, Ashley Parker; VC, Mike Callahan
WAYS & MEANS - CH, Gary Felton; VC, Bill Boyd

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT - Executive Committee Liaison – Ken Ritucci

CALLERS PARTNERS - CH, Erin Byars; VC, Janet Olivieri
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY - CH, Jeff Priest (Canada);
VC, Sweden, Denmark and Norway – Vacant; VC, England - Trevor Day; VC,
Australia and New Zealand - Graham Elliot - VC, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria
and Switzerland - Jeannette Staeuble; VC, Japan - Shozo Nishimura;
VC, Czech Republic - Tomas Doug Machalik; VC, Taiwan - Nancy Chen;
VC Germany - Dieter Goergner;
MUSIC PRODUCERS – CH, Wade Driver; VC, Buddy Weaver
PAST CHAIRMAN- CH, Elmer Sheffield
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT – CH, Elmer Sheffield
WOMEN IN CALLING - CH, Deborah Carroll-Jones; VC, Patty Greene
YOUTH ACTIVITIES – CH, Justin Russell, VC, Donna Schirmer

OUTREACH (LIAISON) – Executive Committee Liaison – Betsy Gotta

ARTS – Betsy Gotta
HANDICAPABLE – Charlie Wheatley
NDA – Calvin Campbell
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT- Pam Clasper
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
(August 1, 2014)

* * * * * START * * * * *



PRESS RELEASE

Plus Emphasis Call

Ken Ritucci, Chairman of the Plus Committee, has presented the following dance examples to be used as Plus Emphasis Calls for the period starting August 1, 2014.

CROSSFIRE FROM TIDAL 2 FACE LINE

Heads Pass the Ocean. Extend, Fan the Top, (Each Wave) Swing Thru, Boys Run, CROSSFIRE, All 8 Circulate, Single Hinge, Girls Trade, Recycle, Pass to the Center, Centers Square Thru ¾, LA

CROSSFIRE FROM TIDAL LINES

Heads Square Thru Four, Touch ¼, Fan the Top, Boys Run, CROSSFIRE, Couples Circulate, Ferris Wheel, Centers ½ Sashay, Zoom, New Centers Pass Thru, LA

LOAD THE BOAT FROM A TIDAL WAVE

Heads Lead to the Right, Circle to a Line, Slide Thru, Pass the Ocean, LOAD THE BOAT, Pass Thru, LA

Sides Lead Right, Swing Thru, Scoot Back, Fan the Top, LOAD THE BOAT, Swing Thru, Right & Left grand

LOAD THE BOAT FROM INVERTED LINES (CENTERS FACING IN)

Heads Square Thru 4, Centers In, Cast Off ¾, LOAD THE BOAT, Centers Cloverleaf, New Centers Pass Thru, Touch ¼, All 8 Circulate, Centers Trade, Boys Run, Slide Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By, LA

LINEAR CYCLE FROM A RIGHT-HANDED TIDAL WAVE

Sides Fan the Top, Extend, Fan the Top, LINEAR CYCLE, Square Thru ¾, LA

EXPLODE THE WAVE FROM A RIGHT HANDED TIDAL WAVE

Heads Square Thru 4, Pass the Ocean, EXPLODE THE WAVE, Centers Square Thru ¾, others Trade, LA

Heads Square Thru 2, Swing Thru, Scoot back, Fan the Top, EXPLODE THE WAVE, Trade By, Pass to the Center, Centers Square Thru ¾, LA

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

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.
THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



CALLERLAB

42nd Annual Convention

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

*Register Before
August 31, 2014
To be eligible
for door prizes*

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

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

Guest First & Last Name _____ Partner's First & Last Name (If attending) _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country _____

Email _____

Phone: _____

Callers (\$210.00 each)..... \$ _____

Partners (\$200.00 each) \$ _____

BDPLS (Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar)(\$50.00) \$ _____

Session Recordings in MP3 format (\$25.00) \$ _____

Minimum deposit is \$100.00 per person

Total \$ _____

Deposit Amount \$ _____

Balance Due \$ _____

Payment in full due by March 15th 2015

MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Visa Card#

Expiration Date _____ (CID#) _____

Signature _____

Return to: CALLERLAB, 200 SW 30th Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611

If you have special needs (ex: dietary) please write below, continue on back if needed.

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2014—2015

Please Vote !!!!

Ballots must be returned by September 15, 2014



Bob Asp: Bob started square dancing when he was eight years old and danced with his parents for several years. College, the Army, and family took him away. He returned to dancing in 1976 and started calling in 1977 in Illinois, and then in Virginia after moving there. After coming back to Illinois, he joined CALLERLAB and began calling throughout the Midwest; Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. This, being a club caller for two local clubs, and working full-time kept him busy.

Bob calls Mainstream through A-2, and runs two beginner classes, one A -1 class, one A-2 class, and a DBD workshop weekly. He and his wife dance regularly at local clubs, weekends, and conventions, which helps him keep in touch with dancers.

He is the President of the Illinois Callers Association and Vice President of the Wisconsin Southwest Callers Association. Bob and his wife are Chairs for the 2014 Illinois Convention. He records on Solid Gold Records and is co-owner of Solid Gold Sound. He also serves on CALLERLAB's ARC Committee. Bob recently retired from his full-time job and feels that he will have time to commit to CALLERLAB. He would appreciate your vote.



Scott Bennett: Scott began calling in 1984 at the age of 18. He has called festivals and special dances in his home State of Oklahoma and across the United States. Scott currently calls for beginners thru A-2. Scott takes pride in his enthusiastic presentation, choreographic creativity, musical variety, high-energy/up-beat dance delivery, sense of humor, and vocal style. He believes in caller education and enjoys teaching the many aspects of calling to newer callers.

Scott is a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller, Member of the CALLERLAB Quarter Century Club, and is involved with many local area caller associations.

Scott has recorded square dance music on Dance Ranch and Hi-Hat Records. In 2013, Scott started two of his own square dance music labels (Crest and Acme Recordings) and is happy to be producing some classic rock songs for the activity.

Scott was a nominee and finalist in the first International Square Dance Callers Awards, "The Ozzie's". He is honored to have been nominated and proud to have made the finals in four categories in a worldwide caller recognition program.

Whether it is a club dance or the National Square Dance Convention, you can find Scott doing what he loves best, entertaining!

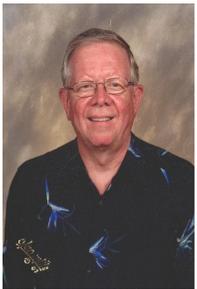


Scot Byars: I'm excited about the direction that CALLERLAB is going. There's a great need to "add to" our activity without "taking away from" our existing population. I believe that CALLERLAB is on the cutting edge.

I believe that the Foundation is vital in the support of college dance programs and newer callers. I believe that education will solve many problems we face; the education of callers, dancers, and the general public.

I know that one person—caller—can make a difference. Through my passion for this activity, I will dedicate my energy towards the promotion of square dancing, support of youth, instruction of competent and compassionate new callers, and by bringing dancers into our activity. I am never afraid to try something new. I humbly ask for your vote—to be your voice on the Board of Governors.

Accomplishments are as follows: Past BOG member; Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee; Chairman of the Competition in Schools Ad Hoc Committee; full-time traveling caller since April 2003; 44 years of calling/teaching; 49 years of dancing; over 3,000 dancers taught; over 90 callers trained; author of "Square Dance 101" square dance instruction CD series; more than 80 published articles.



Mike Callahan: I have been calling since 1960 (Full time since 1974), and a Member of CALLERLAB since 1976. I am Past Chairman of Advanced Dancing Committee and Calling in Schools Committee. I was Assistant Executive Director of CALLERLAB for 1 year, active on the Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Calling in Schools Committees, and recorded for Red Boot Start and C Bar C records.

Although I have traveled throughout 25 states and Canada and internationally in Australia for specials, weekends and festivals, my main focus has been calling in my home area (Western NY State). I have taught a beginners' class every year since 1972. Over the past 35 years, I have built a very successful "calling in schools" business and in the school year of 2011-2012, I taught square dancing to almost 12,000 students (K-12) in area Phys. Ed. programs.

I believe that new caller training in mechanics of choreography is important. but sometimes not enough emphasis is placed on music, smooth dancing, voice, delivery and caller judgment.

If elected to the BOG, I will bring my experience as a local club caller/teacher involved in successful local square dance programs and square dance parties to the CALLERLAB leadership. I would sincerely appreciate your vote.



Barry Clasper: Pam and I have been dancing since 1973 and I've been calling since 1984. Currently I have four regular groups at home, ranging from Plus to C3A. I also travel extensively throughout North America and Europe, calling all programs from Basic through C4. I began serving on the BOG in 2009 and have been an EC member since 2011. I am honored to be the currently serving Chairman Of The Board.

As Chairman, I have the privilege of writing regular articles for *DIRECTION* and making speeches at Convention. They provide a good insight into my views and where I believe we need to take both our organization and the activity in general. Over the past few years I have been pleased to witness a gathering energy in our community; a recognition that we need change combined with a growing optimism that we can make it happen. We at CALLERLAB are strategically positioned to make a valuable and influential contribution to that new future.

I would like to be part of that contribution, and respectfully ask for a chance to continue representing you on the BOG for another three years.



Skip Cleland: Skip began square dancing in 1982, started calling in 1986, and joined CALLERLAB in 1990. He is a Networking Technologies Engineer specializing in Computing Security for the Boeing Company and is a part-time caller who enjoys calling from Florida to Virginia. He calls and teaches the Mainstream through A2 Programs.

Skip currently serves as Vice Chairman for the Advanced Program Committee, is a member of the Mainstream and Plus Committees, and has been a panelist on multiple CALLERLAB Convention discussion panels. He is a Past President of the Florida Callers' Association and is currently their webmaster. Skip is also a music producer and owns the square dance recording labels, Ramblin' Rose Records and Talon SD Records.

Skip is passionate about square dance calling and the activity. He is also in the generation that understands the "baby boomer" hunger for instant gratification entertainment. He is seeking the opportunity to become a leader in the one organization he knows has the resources to evolve square dancing into the activity that will attract the current adult generations and generations to come.



John Marshall: John has been calling for 45 years. He is currently a full-time traveling caller with a home program. In addition to his home clubs, classes, workshops and party nights, he calls for weekends and festivals in parts of North America, Europe and Japan. His service to the Board reflects the views of having been both a part-time and a full-time caller.

John joined CALLERLAB in 1980 and his services include: vice chairing and chairing various committees, a panelist at many Conventions, numerous terms on the BOG, EC, Vice Chairman and two years as Chairman of the Board.

John wishes to serve on the BOG as his way of giving back to the activity. He brings to the job formal management training and experience, a valuable store of institutional memory, and his proven willingness to serve.

With our new mission statement, CALLERLAB is entering an exciting time that directs us to focus our efforts on the improvement of our calling and teaching skills. The number one action item is the creation of new dancers.

John asks for your vote so he may contribute, as directly as possible, to the success of these vital ideals.



Jim Mayo: I have been a Member of CALLERLAB since the beginning. I believe in this organization and the work that we have done to support one of society's most important recreations. Square dancing offers us sociability and both physical and mental activity. Although I retired from active calling in 2013, I continue to be active in preserving the history of the activity and in trying to find more effective ways to present square dancing in today's world. I hope you will allow me to

continue working to keep CALLERLAB effective in support of square dancing.



Tom Mohney, Oil City, Pennsylvania, has been an accredited Member of CALLERLAB since 1978 and welcomes the opportunity to serve on the Board of Governors. Tom is currently a member of the Mainstream, Plus and Advanced Committees. He started dancing in 1966 and started calling in 1972. He has introduced scores of new dancers to the activity and has conducted countless workshops. Tom has participated on the staff of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia State Conventions and numerous benefit dances. He calls regionally and maintains a home club.

Tom thinks Western Square Dancing is a wonderful family oriented activity which has many physical, social and educational benefits. He feels CALLERLAB needs to continue its marketing efforts to reach people who could enhance the activity. Tom's professional expertise in education provides him with administrative and people skills, in addition to a diverse experience with cultures.

Tom believes in the ideals of CALLERLAB and what the organization has accomplished. He knows that CALLERLAB is a key in the future of square dancing. The challenge is to develop new perspectives and directions in a changing society. Tom says, "I will work to strengthen and promote the activity that all of us so dearly love."



Mike Olivieri, Northglenn, CO: I am currently in my 18th year of calling Mainstream and Plus level dances. I love to do party dances, introducing non-dancers to our activity and traveling throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Nebraska calling for clubs. I teach lessons for several local clubs. I am a member of the Northeast Colorado Callers' and Cuers' Association and the Denver Area Callers' and Cuers' Association, holding offices in both organizations. I also mentor new callers in the area.

I joined CALLERLAB in 1998 attending my first Convention in Dallas. Since then, I have attended 16 consecutive CALLERLAB Conventions around the Nation. I am currently Chairman for the New Initiatives Committee and a member of Ways and Means, Handicapable, and Caller Coach Committees.

I feel we need to develop Basic as a destination for a new dancer rather than Mainstream or Plus. Those dancers that would like to progress on to a higher level may do so at their own pace. We need to shorten the time it takes from the start of lessons to enjoying the dance experience. I would like to help advance this move by being a member on the Board of Governors.



Jeff Palmer, Colorado Springs CO, is a 3rd generation caller. He began dancing in 1964, calling in 1980, and attended his first CALLERLAB Convention in 1985. Jeff calls and teaches MS, Plus, and A2 for three clubs and travels regionally. Jeff and Debbie's commitment to raising their family and moving to a start-up position at a local school district had prevented involvement to the degree he has desired. However; this is no longer an issue. Jeff is confident that his experience with a formal team at work dovetails nicely with the procedures employed at the BOG.

At Convention we saw quite convincingly that “Few people know what we are about or even that our activity exists.” Working with CALLERLAB, Jeff would see what we could do to inform the world what a fantastic experience we have to offer. Being data and project driven, Jeff is considered a good listener, friendly, and employs a light touch of humor to bring cohesiveness to groups of people but can be brutally honest when necessary. If elected Jeff would bring commitment, new ideas, along with a great passion for our activity, and he asks for your consideration to serve you on the CALLERLAB Board of Governors.



Chris Pinkham began calling in 1992 and joined CALLERLAB later that year. He attended his first Convention in 1995 and has attended 14 Conventions since then. He currently serves as president of the New England area Tri State Caller’s Association. Since 1995 he has taught and called for clubs throughout New England and the Northeast. He is listed as a dance party specialist through NECCA (the New England wide caller’s umbrella group) and has presented his dance party chats to other caller’s associations in the last few years. First as an attendee to the Beginner Party Leadership Seminar that kicks off each CALLERLAB Convention, he has been a presenter for the last several years and is an avid proponent of this important Convention feature. At Convention he has presented on several educational panels from multi cycle systems to dance party content. On the other side of life, Chris is a green home designer and builder currently engaged in building a fully off grid solar home for he and his wife.

Cris will bring his strong work ethic, his dedication to the activity, his opinions and ideas as well as his sense of humor to the Board. He would appreciate your vote.



Jerry Reed, Rockledge, FL. Jerry Reed and his wife, Del, live in Rockledge, located on the central east coast of Florida. Jerry began calling in 1978 and joined CALLERLAB in 1983. He is a local caller for a Plus club, an Advanced club, and a C-1 workshop group. He believes one of the most important things CALLERLAB does is provide caller training and leadership to the square dance community. He is a very strong advocate for the ideals, goals, and mission of CALLERLAB, and has a history of considering all sides of any question before making a decision. Jerry learned to call while stationed in the Philippines with the U. S. Navy. Since learning to call he has relocated five times. This has given him a deep appreciation and understanding of the square dance activity in many different areas. Jerry served as Executive Director from 1999 to 2009. He has served as Chairman of several CALLERLAB Committees, and is currently Chairman of the History Committee. He believes his experience and service to CALLERLAB give him a unique perspective as a local caller to represent you and your views on the Board Of Governors. Jerry asks for your support and your vote.



Bob Riggs, Centennial, CO began dancing in 1974 and calling in 1975. He joined CALLERLAB in 1984 and has attended 19 Conventions. As an active regional caller, he is engaged in events from one night parties, community dances, and dances from Basic through Plus. As co-director of the Colorado Dancers his leadership allows demonstration of the history and variety of our activity. For almost 30 years he has held square dance classes for clubs in the Denver area resulting in a healthy square dance community. As a member he has supported the goals of many committees. Bob has been Youth Committee (Vice Chairman) and Committee for Community and Traditional Dance (Chairman & Vice Chairman). He has co-directed the Beginner Dance Party Leader Seminar, held annually prior to the Convention for 15 years .

Our activity is in need of optimism and leadership to bring entertainment to the world. To this end, Bob believes he can contribute to the dialog and actions necessary for the organization and its Members to provide leadership to the activity. Recruiting, teaching and entertaining a variety of audiences should be our purpose, and Bob would like to contribute to that purpose through membership on the CALLERLAB Board of Governors.



Justin Russell has been in the square dance activity since 2000. He has attended 10 National Square Dance Convention and 5 CALLERLAB Conventions. To date he has called in over 20 states.

Justin calls for three weekly clubs in the Memphis area. He also shares an advanced club with Robert Townsend. For the past seven years, Justin has consistently run a beginner's series to attract new dancers to the activity.

He has shown success in recruiting by using the internet and social media.

Currently, Justin is the Chairman of the Youth Committee with a focus on training young dancers to pick up the microphone. The latest success for the committee was when the BOG approved a Youth Waiver for first-time Convention attendees.

In 2008, Tony Oxendine asked him to record for Royal Records. In 2014, Justin became president of the Memphis Caller's Workshop. As president, he worked with the Memphis dancer's association to have an area wide class.

Justin's goal is to blend the tradition of square dancing with the 21st century. He graduated from the University of Memphis in 2011 with a degree in political science. He works full-time for First Tennessee Bank and travels whenever possible.