

Newsletter
for Members of

CALLERLAB
The International Association
of Square Dance Callers



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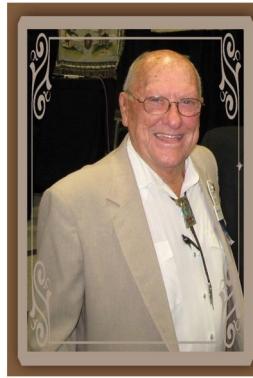
FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

APR 15 - 17, 2019	Richmond, VA
APR 6 - 8, 2020	Sparks, NV
MAR 29 - 31. 2021	Central Region

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MARSHALL FLIPPO

**MILESTONE
AWARD WINNER
1981
GOLD CARD
RECIPIENT 2011
LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT 2016**

Marshall Doyle "Flip" Flippo, 91, passed away November 4, 2018 at Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach, Missouri. "Flip" was born September 2, 1927 in Tuscola, Texas. He was the son of Roy and Gertrude Flippo. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Helen June Moore and Onita Shelton.

"Flip" attended school in Wylie Texas where he was class president and played football and baseball. After school he joined the Navy during World War II where he served on the USS Piedmont, USS Lander, and USS Dixie, and played baseball for the them after the War was over.

After serving, he returned to Abilene in 1949 and married Neeca Lee Redus. They started taking square dance lessons in 1951 and he started calling dances in 1952. After vacationing at Kirkwood Lodge in 1959, he was hired in 1962 as Entertainment Director, leading to a 40-year history at the Lodge, including being a part owner. In 1963 he and Neeca gave birth to their only son, John. "Flip" would work six months at the Lodge when it was open and spend the other six months touring the world calling square dances in the U.S., Japan and Germany.

He recorded for Blue Star and Chaparral as well as guest recordings for several other companies. He

sold over a million square dance records, receiving gold records for "The Auctioneer" and "Every Street's A Boulevard". He has received just about every award there is in square dancing including the prestigious Milestone Award in 1981, Gold Card Life Membership in 2011, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. "Flip" was also a founding Member of CALLERLAB, the International Association of Square Dance Callers.

In 2000, "Flip" moved to Tucson, Arizona to be the resident caller at the Rincon West RV Park where he stayed until 2018. when he moved back to Osage Beach to live with his son, Jon, and daughter-in-law, Shelly.

"Flip" was an avid golfer and water skier and loved to watch the Dallas Cowboys play. He was world famous for his sense of humor and love for people. He is survived by his son, John, and daughter-in-law, Shelly.

As a "founding Member" of CALLERLAB, Flippo could well be the most consistent traveler in the history of the activity. For several decades, between early fall and mid-spring he averaged five nights of calling per week throughout North America doing "one-nighters" and occasionally serving as staff caller for week-end and week-long square dance vacation institutes.



**FRANK LANE
MILESTONE
AWARD WINNER 1981
GOLD CARD
RECIPIENT 2007**

October 25, 2018

Frank Drury Lane, 94, was born in Atchison, KS on June 2, 1924 to Ann (Drury) and Frank C. Lane. The family moved to St. Joseph, MO when he was two. He grew up there, graduated from Central High School there, and was active in sports. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941, but finished one semester of college at Maryville,

MO before being called to active service. While in the Air Corps, he attended Texas A&M University for a few semesters and then became a pilot in the Air Corps. He served in the 15th Air Force, 460th Bomb Group, 55th Wing in Italy as a Bomber Pilot. After discharge, he attended Kansas University and graduated from the William Allen White School of Journalism in 1948. Frank worked in advertising for the Harris Newspapers in Hutchinson, KS and Chanute, KS where he was the advertising manager. He was a professional square dance caller. He continued that profession until retirement in about 2000. He married Barbara DuBois on March 25, 1955 (married 63 years). Together they traveled to all 50 states and 6 foreign countries pursuing that career.

By 1950 Frank was calling and teaching classes six and seven nights a week. The Lanes' annual tours took them over 60,000 miles each year, running their own institutes at Asilomar in California and serving as staff members at Kirkwood Lodge and other sessions around the country. In 1961, Frank and Barbara were part of a square dance "think tank" in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and in 1970 Frank became a member of the Square Dance Hall of Fame.

He was a founding Member of CALLERLAB, received the Milestone Award and was also a Gold Card Life Member of CALLERLAB. Additionally, he served on several Executive Committees.

Frank's hobbies were golf, hiking, dancing, travel, and reading. Frank and Barbara lived in Lawrence, KS until they moved to Estes Park, CO in 1967 where they built a house and spent the rest of their lives. They built a square dance hall there called The Dance Ranch, which they operated for 32 years. Previously they operated a square dance hall in the Big Thompson Canyon for 11 years.

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

Oscar Wilde



LEE KOPMAN
MILESTONE
AWARD WINNER
1992
November 13, 2018

Lee Kopman graduated from Adelphi University with a degree in Physical Education and Health. He received a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Hofstra University. Lee was a member of *Who's Who in American Universities* and president of his class three of four years at the University. He played varsity lacrosse and squash and was a member of *Flambeau*, the senior men's honorary society. Lee was the physical education instructor in the Bethpage School System of Long Island for 25 years.

He met his wife, Lilith, at college and they were married three days after graduating. They have two children, Steve and Phyllis, and several grandchildren. Lee and Lilith started square dancing in their home state of New York in 1956. Lee, a school physical education teacher, started calling Eastern Style Square Dancing, as Western Style Square Dancing did not begin to take hold in the square dancing community until early the following year. He attended a callers school in 1960, specifically to learn the skill of sight calling.

Lee became so active that he was calling at least 325 dances per year, calling all levels from beginners to Challenge level 4. His calling dates allowed him to travel most of the United States, Germany, Sweden, England and Japan. He recorded on at least four different labels and produced his own instructional tapes that he has designated to help dancers learn to dance various levels. He also conducted callers clinics and taught many sessions at CALLERLAB Conventions. He attended the very first CALLERLAB Convention in 1974 and was one of the founders of the National Challenge Convention.

Over the years Lee made outstanding and unique contributions in original square dance choreography. His contributions have stood the test of time

and presented a broad influence on the square dance activity. Lee noted that he had authored more than 500 square dance calls with many being accepted as part of CALLERLAB programs. Some of these are: Scoot Back; Recycle; Linear Cycle; Chase Right; Chain Reaction; and Transfer the Column.

A really exhilarating experience for Lee was when he was featured on the Phil Donahue show; one hour of western square dancing with dancers from Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, and Chicago performing.



FROM THE CHAIR

**By Patty Greene,
Chairman**

My heart is heavy. Just no two ways around it. And I am sure that many of you are feeling the same way. The square dance world has lost three legends in the past couple of weeks. One day they were here laughing with us and the next they weren't. **Frank Lane, Marshall Flippo, Lee Kopman;** what a deep sense of loss! You may know all three, or you may not have met any of them. For some, they were dear close friends; for others, they are just names you've heard bantered around the hall of our history. I am blessed to have known two out of the three.

All three were movers and shakers in our activity. Their list of accomplishments are long and impressive. Their infectious joy and generous spirits touched all who came into contact with them. And none of us can call a dance without using a call that Lee wrote and introduced to us (what a challenge THAT would be!). All three of them are truly legends who paved the way for each and every one of us. Their individual legacies are timeless and will live on long after you and I have departed from this earth.

Lots of things are swirling around in my head. I'd like to share two thoughts with you that keep bouncing around.

Time marches on. We just can't stop it. Each of us is getting older, and tomorrow isn't promised to anyone. Are you doing anything to help the next generation (s) of callers? By all accounts, Frank, "Flip" and Lee were always willing to share their knowledge with new and experienced callers alike. Judging by the numbers attending caller schools, we've got a bumper crop of new callers coming up through the ranks. Concluding by some of my conversations with some of them, many are frustrated with the lack of support that they are receiving. It is VERY difficult to get started as a caller these days, unless someone passes away, gets ill, or retires and their club wants to continue on. What can we do we help our new peers gain confidence and become ready for the big leagues? Mentor them kindly. Provide an opportunity to do a singing call, perhaps share a tip with them, or invite them to do a full tip when they are ready. Invite them to shadow you as you teach your classes. Maybe give them 30 minutes and 8 dancers before a workshop and let them call a bit. Invite them to tag along for a fun night so they can see you "do what you do". Be humble and share your knowledge. What should we not do? Shut them out because we are threatened. Put them in situations they aren't quite ready for. Share a tip and prove how good you are. Ignore them. Ignore their questions. I have heard story after story about Frank, "Flip", and Lee with new (and experienced) callers asking them questions and them responding by taking the time to share and help. If you've got new callers in your area, what are you doing to encourage and help them prepare?

Whenever someone close to us passes away, it is natural to think about your own mortality and how you will be remembered. I sure hope that when I pass away my absence will be felt. Don't we all? I hope that when the FB posts (or however we are communicating) start flying and the news gets out, people will tell stories about how I helped them become a better version of themselves, or how the dancers enjoyed dancing to me, or how I made a difference in someone's life. I hope that when they think of me it brings a smile to their face, and not a sigh of relief that they don't have to interact with me. I hope that somehow I will have made a difference in the square dance world by contributing

something – even if it's just in my local groups. I will certainly never be anywhere close to the legends that these three are, but I can strive to be the best that I can be in my own little corner of the world. What's your legacy going to be within this activity?

I am sure that each of them heard the following: "Well done, my good and faithful servants, well done!"

Rest in peace Frank, "Flip", and Lee. You will be missed!

HISTORY OF CALLERLAB

*With the passing of the last of the 11 Founding Fathers, **Frank Lane and Marshall Flippo**, the Home Office is submitting the following condensed history of CALLERLAB.*

CALLERLAB began when a founding committee of four Hall of Fame callers made up of **Bob Osgood**, **Lee Helsel**, **Arnie Kronenberger** and **Bob VanAntwerp** planned a meeting in 1971. Fifteen callers from the Sets In Order Hall of Fame were invited to attend because their backgrounds and accomplishments formed the most impressive foundation of square dance caller leadership at that time. By working together, these Hall of Fame callers presented a "body of knowledge" that the greatest percentage of callers could respect and follow. Summaries from past regional meetings were studied and, following a long preparation period, major discussion topics regarding the nature and needs of the activity were prepared as a partial charter framework for the potential organization.

Eleven of the invitees were able to attend: **Marshall Flippo**; **Ed Gilmore**; **Lee Helsel**; **Bruce Johnson**; **Arnie Kronenberger**; **Frank Lane**; **Joe Lewis**; **Bob Osgood**; **Bob Page**; **Dave Taylor**; and **Bob VanAntwerp**. Those invited but unable to attend were **Don Armstrong**; **Al Brundage**; **Earl Johnston**; and **Johnny LeClair**. Johnny is the only living

individual of the original invitees. When the meeting (held at Asilomar Conference Grounds in California) concluded, the group enthusiastically and unanimously signed the charter and began planning for the future. It was decided that the initial growth of the organization would be on a gradual basis, and that each person selected for membership would be personally invited to attend. A second meeting was held in July of that same year. Don Armstrong and **Earl Johnson** were included as new Members and the total membership was now at 13. **Arnie Kronenberger** served the early sessions as chairman pro-temp. It was decided that during these early stages, CALLERLAB would conduct business under the wing of The Sets In Order American Square Dance Society, and that its Home Office and staff would also be provided by this organization, without cost to CALLERLAB.

Meeting number three was held in February of 1972, with **Jerry Haag**, **Jerry Helt** and **Jim Mayo** present as new Members. The fourth Asilomar meeting was held in July of 1972, and **Al Brundage** and **Manning Smith** became Members. In February of 1973, the meeting included seven new members: **Stan Burdick**; **Cal Golden**; **C.O. Guest**; **Jack Lasry**; **Johnny LeClair**; **Melton Luttrell**; and **Bill Peters**. This session concentrated on plans for the first CALLERLAB Convention in 1974. By this time, the total "founding" and "charter" membership had reached 25 and this body was designated the CALLERLAB Board of Governors. **Jim Mayo** was elected the first Chairman of the Board.

Bob Osgood served as Executive Secretary during the critical formation years from 1971 thru 1974, while **Stan Burdick** served in the same position from 1974 to 1975. In 1976 CALLERLAB hired **John Kaltenthaler** as their first full-time, paid Executive Secretary, and in 1980 they added **Herb Egender** as an Assistant Executive Secretary. **George White** served as Executive Secretary during the 1990s with a full staff in Rochester, Minnesota. **Jerry Reed** became the Executive Director of CALLERLAB in 1999 with the office located in Cocoa, Florida. **Dana Schirmer** became the Executive Director in 2009 and now leads a new Home Office staff in Topeka, Kansas.

CALLERLAB has accomplished a great deal in the years since its inception. One of its first tasks was to try to control the large number of new movements being written and forced on the dancers each month. The result was a Quarterly Selection Program which limited how many new moves dancers would be exposed to. Definitions and standardization of calls for the various programs from Basic through Challenge 2, were also finalized in written form. The styling for all definitions was undertaken by a Styling Committee and the Timing Committee worked on the number of steps it takes to dance each movement comfortably in time with the music. For the first time, square dance programs were identified and standardized for use throughout the world. CALLERLAB continues to monitor the evolution of these standardized square dance programs by evaluating each one every two years.

CALLERLAB continues to hold annual Conventions with emphasis on quality education. The callers who attend strive to improve their technical skills, teaching abilities, and leadership styles, as well as share ideas and seek solutions. CALLERLAB has a Curriculum Guidelines document for the training of callers, and has established accreditation programs for caller coaches, teachers, and general callers. Mini-Lab conventions are also held to reach out to Members around the world.

One of the most significant projects which CALLERLAB completed was the formation of a Foundation for the Preservation and Promotion of Square Dancing. The Foundation is currently working on a long-range plan to professionally market square dancing for the physical, mental, and social benefits it brings to those who participate. With the support of other organizations, associations, dancers, and callers, this plan will carry out market research, develop advertising and public relations campaigns, and align our activity with appropriate corporate sponsors, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. This plan has incredible potential to preserve and promote the joys of square dancing to many more people for generations to come. Contributions may be made to the CALLERLAB Foundation, 200 SW 30th Street, Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611.

CALLERLAB has joined with several other national square dance organizations in a joint effort to help improve the activity. These organizations have formed an alliance known as the Alliance for Round, Traditional, and Square (ARTS) dance. The stated mission of the ARTS is: "To generate public awareness and promote growth and acceptance of contemporary Square, Round, and Traditional Folk Dance by encouraging and assisting a coalition of allied dance groups. The ARTS will provide leadership and resources necessary to create an achievable marketing program. The Arts will encourage, promote and support healthy lifestyles through dance programs and events that provide fun and effective exercise for both mind and body, all within a unique system of social interactions."

CALLERLAB is committed to unifying the dancer and caller leadership of the activity to promote the fun and fellowship that square dancing and all its associated dance forms can bring to its participants. Through professional leadership, educational materials, conventions, seminars, and a full-time Home Office staff, its Members support the effort to bring this recreational art form, with all its wholesome benefits, to as many people as possible. **Bob Osgood**, the Founding Father of CALLERLAB, once wrote, "There's nothing facing the activity that cannot be handled by dedicated effort. The past has been good – the future can be even better".

CALLERLAB? WHAT'S THAT?

By Dr. Karl Edwards

History 1976

Published in the Kansas Square Dance Association publication, *Travel On*, July 1976.

It's easy to form one opinion about something by hearing or reading a little about it and quite a different one by experiencing it. Such was our case with CALLERLAB. We knew that the organization existed and that somehow some recommendations about new basics, levels of dancing, etc. came from it, but somehow we viewed it as a kind of closed club of "high hat" callers who were trying to tell the

rest of us what to do.

Then we went to the CALLERLAB Convention in Chicago on April 12 - 14, 1976. What a revelation! I know I have neither the space, time, nor ability to convey to readers what CALLERLAB really is, but I feel an obligation to try to do something to clarify misconceptions about it and increase understanding of its true nature, purposes, accomplishments and aspirations.

I can only touch lightly on major points through this means, but I feel so strongly about the organization that I would welcome the opportunity to visit with interested groups and discuss it in detail.

First, let me say that it is very evident that the leadership of the organization is a group of highly competent and dedicated people who have worked and are continuing to work very hard on many matters that are extremely important to all of us; callers, leaders, and dancers who are interested in keeping square dancing thriving. They are not a closed group in terms of ideas. They seek and heed input from a broad base of opinions.

Next, I think it is important for you to know something of the quality and the nature of the Convention. In connection with my profession I have attended hundreds of conventions over the years. I can say in complete honesty that I have never attended one that was better organized or that dealt with the issues in a more constructive way than did the CALLERLAB Convention. Meetings started on time, program participants were well prepared, and feedback from the group was sought and considered. It was a business-centered convention. Over 500 callers and 300 spouses were present representing all 50 states, all the provinces of Canada, England, Germany, the Netherlands, and the Canal Zone. The Convention program centered around two major topics: 1. Caller Accreditation; 2. Mainstream Basics; and four lesser major topics: 1. National Convention Liaison; 2. Ways and Means (Finance); 3. Dance Level Identification; and 4. Quarterly Movements.

It is impossible here to point out specific accomplishments, but I think it is important to say that decisions were reached that are bound to make square dancing better for all of us. The Organization will accomplish more and greater things.

My plea to readers is this. Take a positive attitude towards CALLERLAB. Find out more about it. Support it. It can do great good for square dancing.

NEW ENGLAND MINI-LAB

September 1997

(Last three paragraphs of **Jim Mayo's speech**)

Square dancing is a unique recreation. It is one of the few activities that can allow couples to make friends and engage in healthy exercise for mind and body at any level of involvement that they wish. We modern square dance callers have carved out a small part of that "level of involvement" pie. We serve only those customers willing to be involved in the first year at least 60 evenings and then willing to tolerate a high level of frustration for another year or two.

I would like to see us expand that market. I would love to find callers who believe that square dancing can be fun with 50 calls (or even less.) They would have to be willing to learn a new range of skills and they would have to put aside their own interest in "challenging" choreography. They would have to believe that dancing can be fun without always stretching the dancers to the edge of their ability. They would have to remember that the most valuable aspect of square dancing is the friends we make; friendships that last a lifetime.

With a core of callers like that we could replace the base of the pyramid that we destroyed over the last quarter century. We have made square dancing a very demanding activity. We say we can teach it in one season but we all know better. I can teach new dancers to dance reasonably comfortably to me at my club in one season, because I can control what I call to them. Those same new dancers will not be successful at your club, or even at my club with you calling, no matter how good a caller you are. If we are to rebuild the cadre of first-year-dancers and enthusiastic recruiters that once filled our classes, we must make square dancing easier and more fun.

Only you can make that happen!

SOCIABILITY

By Deborah Carroll-Jones

As a lover of language, I went immediately to my Thesaurus to get more pieces to the idea of what it is sociability consists. Here's some of what I found: Friendliness, Pleasantness, Amiability, Geniality, Cordiality, Openness Civility, Warmth, Conviviality, Hospitality, Kindness, Care, Helpfulness, Consideration, Cooperation ...

A club that lacks the "People Touch" is like a brick wall without the metal brick ties and mortar that stabilizes and supports the bricks. To me, the bricks are the calls. The rest of the stabilization is the sociability. Without it, the bricks may stand for a while, but any shift in the surrounding environment can send them tumbling into a useless heap.

I have been a club caller now for 5½ years. My club, the Texas Reelers, works so hard to keep the "People Touch" in our dances, visitations and classes. It is a learning process! And it can wax and wane with the comings and goings of members and officers. My own role as one of the social directors carries more weight now than when I was purely a guest caller.

Here's some of the factors that have made our club successful:

- * Monthly Dinner Night Out
- * Visitations, Including Carpooling
- * Angeling Lessons; getting to know the new dancers and new angels
- * Weekly Activities Report; e-mailed to all members; Newsletters (monthly)
- * Demonstrations Followed by Dinner; After Christmas parties
- * Musicals and Theatrical Performances
- * Refreshment Committee Folks Working together; Anniversary Party Committees
- * Golf Games & Luncheons; (form because of Reeler relationships); Bridge Groups and Other Card Groups (form because of Reeler relationships)
- * After Dance Parties at Various Restaurants
- * Parties such as Betsy's New Year's Day Open House
- * Various Committees Working Together; (Club Banners, Anniversary Dance, etc.)
- * Plus Weekends at Various Locations
- * Welcome Couples at the Door for Every Dance

-
- * Stickers Given at Certain Dances; (being sure everyone gets one)

One thing we are going to try with our Spring 2019 Beginner Class is to “attach” one angel couple/single to each new couple/single who enrolls in the class. These angel couples/singles will be their mentors. The job of the mentor is to meet them at class every week, dance with them and introduce them to other mentors and their students. The mentors are also to keep in contact, invite them to any club function and suggest carpooling. The club is actively recruiting members who will volunteer to be angels as well as coming up with a list of suggestions for how to be an effective mentor. I am excited about this newest method to bring our newbies into the club.

The Texas Reelers are a Friday night club that dances twice a month and we average 11 squares. They pour their blood, love, sweat and energies into our club, which is why they were the North Texas Square and Round Dance Association’s 2016-2017 Club of the Year. And it’s the “People Touch” that makes and keeps this club magical.

SAMENA SQUARES

Kirkland, Washington

By Susan Morris

At the CALLERLAB Convention in 2008, I heard a couple of suggestions that I took home and implemented with the Mainstream club I teach for, the Samena Squares in Kirkland, WA.

The first was the idea of giving new student dancers a club badge from the beginning of lessons. The way it works is that once a new dancer pays their lesson fee, or at least the first deposit, the next week they have a club badge with their name on it and a Student bar. They proudly wear them to lessons and new dancer dances with other clubs. The new dancers are also included in all club activities from the first night. The Samena Squares were the first club in our council to do this. Happily, many of the other clubs joined us and are

also doing this.

The second idea was a class newsletter. I began writing these to the class the following fall. My newsletters included bits of square dance history, reminders of styling (example: in a Courtesy Turn your left hands are parallel to the floor), dates, times and places of upcoming New Dancer Dances, and a brief reminder definition of the calls that we learned in class. The first years these newsletters were sent to the class members and club officers only. The last couple of years they have been sent to the class members and the whole club. I also post them on my website. The club also links to them from their website. This provides multiple ways to get information. I do this for my Mainstream class and my Plus class. It takes a bit of work but the benefits are that information is out there in multiple places if dancers choose to read it and, secondly, I have everyone’s e-mail address.

The willingness of the club to adopt these ideas is due in large part to the club leadership. The president couple had heard rumors a year or two earlier that the club had a reputation in square dance land of being unfriendly. They had a serious talk with the club members about how to change that. Everyone makes a point of greeting every guest. New dancers are included right from the beginning. The club has several social events during the year. They have fun with each other and are there for each other. The club has doubled in size in the last 10 years.

Another example...

In 2010, I was teaching Mainstream lessons for a different club. There was a couple in the class that was really nice. They were learning well and enjoying square dancing, as they had been country western dancers for several years. But on breaks, the club members were sitting back in the corner by the sign in desk. The class members were on the other side of the hall. The club members were not talking to the class members. I didn’t know what was going to happen to this particular couple. The following fall, they showed up at the Samena Squares class. I went and greeted them. They said

they didn't want to dance. They were only there to observe. Well, every single Samena member there that night went up and talked to them. The next week they joined the class and have been dancing ever since. They are now assuming leadership rolls in both the club and the local square dance council.

DONATIONS TO THE CALLERLAB FOUNDATION

In Memory of Frank Lane

Jon & Deborah Carroll-Jones
Jerry & Sharon Junck
Dana & Donna Schirmer
Ron Black
Dorothy Hewitt
John & Virginia Cole
Dale & Joan Cochran

In Memory of Marshall Flippo

Jon & Deborah Carroll-Jones
Jerry & Sharon Junck
Dana & Donna Schirmer
Stan & Melba Jeffus
Ron Black

In Memory of Lee Kopman

Jerry & Sharon Junck
Dana & Donna Schirmer

“I am in charge of how I feel and today I am choosing happiness”.

Anonymous



NEW CALLER-COACH CONGRATULATIONS!

The Caller-Coach Committee proudly announces **Bill Harrison**, as CALLERLAB's newest Accredited Caller-Coach. Please join CALLERLAB in recognizing Bill's attainment of this outstanding and inspiring achievement. Congratulations, Bill!

CALLERLAB CONVENTION BRAINSTORMING FACEBOOK

Have some thoughts about promoting the CALLERLAB Convention? Join the CALLERLAB Convention Brainstorming Facebook Group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1675713419333229>.

Help CALLERLAB find better ways to promote our Convention. Invite callers and dancers to attend. This will be a brainstorming group so all ideas are welcome!

CALLERLAB'S ANNUAL CONVENTION!
Spread the word; let's get folks to Richmond, VA.
Many of us are already registered...
Are you?

The Home Office will be closed on December 23, 2018 - January 2, 2019 observing the U.S.A. Holiday Season!

Happy Holidays!

**“Don't cry because it's over,
smile because it happened.”**

Dr. Seuss

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.

MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS EARLY!

The 46th CALLERLAB Convention will be **April 15-17, 2019** in Richmond, VA. Attendees are able to make reservations by dialing 1-800-THE-OMNI or by visiting the group's customized website:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/richmond/meetings/international-association-of-square-dance-callers-callerlab>. Please advise the Home Office if you have problems registering with the hotel. Convention registration forms can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.callerlab.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Bg8zd6YPMew%3d&portalid=1>.

Please Register Early!

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.

In Memory

Marshall Flippo - Missouri
Lee Kopman - New York
Frank Lane - Colorado

CONVENTION ROOM SHARING

If you are interested in sharing a room with another attendee at the 2019 CALLERLAB Convention in Richmond, VA, please contact the Home Office and ask that your name be added to our list of other attendees who would like to share a room. The Home Office offers this service only to help those who would like to share the expense of a room. All arrangements must be made between individuals who will be sharing. If you are attending the Convention as a single individual and would like to defray some of the costs, please contact the Home Office. The staff will be glad to help.

ADVANCED COMMITTEE TRIENNIAL REVIEW COMPLETE

Bill Harrison, Chairman of the Advanced Committee, and **Skip Cleland**, Vice Chairman has announced that the Advanced Committee has completed the 2018 Triennial Review. The vote indicated that no changes will be made to the current Advanced Program. Our thanks to the members of the Advanced Committee for their work on this project.

WOMEN IN CALLING

Susan Morris, Chair

Kris Jensen, Vice Chair

We look forward to seeing you at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA in April. Make plans now to attend the Women In Calling Committee meeting. Bring your ideas. Let's help each other become better callers.

25 and 50 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Will 2019 be the year you reach 25 or 50 years as a caller? If so, below is the established policy and procedure regarding this very important and historic milestone in any caller's career. The following is the policy for presenting the 25 and 50 Year Certificates:

- 1) During the CALLERLAB Convention, the 25 and 50 Year Certificate will be presented to each

Member who becomes eligible during that year and who is attending the Convention.

2) Certificates will be mailed to the Members who become eligible in that year but do not attend the Convention.

3) Members who became eligible in previous years and are attending the Convention will be acknowledged.

If you believe you will be eligible in 2019 (started calling in 1994 (25) or 1969 (50), please contact the Home Office to verify we have the correct information within our files.

CALLERLAB ONLINE SHIRTS, JACKETS, CAPS, AND “STUFF”

Looking for a Christmas present for a fellow caller or partner? The Home Office has negotiated an online system to order various polo shirts, Tees, sweatshirts, jackets, caps, etc. at:

<https://www.companycasuals.com/callerlab/start.jsp>

We are very hopeful that this will allow Members to purchase products in preferred colors and styles with a wider variety of options. For those ordering the CALLERLAB long sleeve dress shirts, they can be found by searching S608 (Port Authority Shirts) (L608 for ladies) and then choosing the color you want. Orders will be shipped to you directly.

The Home Office will still provide products and service if you do not wish to order online or do not see what you are wanting. We hope you enjoy the convenience of shopping on this website.

You can also order through the Home Office or purchase a gift certificate as a holiday present to be used for products or membership fees.

**“Learn from yesterday, Live for today,
Hope for tomorrow.”**

Albert Einstein



NEW BEGINNINGS

By Teresa Berger, AED

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all the CALLERLAB Members who have been so welcoming to me as I begin my new role as the Assistant Executive Director of CALLERLAB.

I am currently serving CALLERLAB part-time, focusing on Marketing and Outreach as well as providing operational support for the Home Office.

Square dancing is a huge part of my life and more than just a hobby to me. It is really a part of my identity. I truly believe in the activity and even more so in CALLERLAB. I continue to find the greatest joy in sharing square dancing with others. I cannot speak enough of the impact that the activity and CALLERLAB specifically have made for me.

I want to thank the Executive Committee for taking a chance on me. I have a lot to learn, but I am absolutely up for the challenge! I am incredibly excited to work with all of YOU to further the mission of CALLERLAB and continue the legacy of this organization for years to come.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. My e-mail address is: aed.clab@aol.com.

CALLERLAB FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

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

**Mary Jane Clewell and Jason Rorex
Congratulations!**

LESSON GRANTS AWARDED

**Frederick County Promenaders
Congratulations!**

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.

SQUARE DANCE FOR BLIND & DEAF DANCERS

By Kenneth Rowe

We've been sharing with square dancers all over the world the vision of bringing square dancing to the masses of the blind/deaf communities. We've been receiving many well wishes and encouragements. We want to hear the testimonies of those who are blind or deaf and currently square dancing. Tell of your difficulties and your successes. The DVD planned for release in early 2019 will have 12 choreographed dances. A figure has been chosen from each of the 12-week lesson plans. There will be a walk through, a slow, and a fast song for each dance.

We are working toward the obtainable goal of giving each blind or deaf high school graduate a copy of this DVD in 2019 and in years to come. Each of these graduates will need to find others to dance with upon returning home. It will be mentioned in the DVD that these 12 dances are just the tip of the iceberg in square dancing. Many may wish to achieve higher levels. Square dance angels; please make yourself available for learning and dancing with these folks.

To give a brief description of the DVD; this is its basic workings. There will be at least one screen in the room. Only the calls will be on the screen. Dots will count the beats just like a karaoke song. There may be a long intro to each song. The deaf could hear or feel the music begin. Each dance will start with an eight dot beat prior to the first call given. Many calls come back to back. There will be no dots between those calls. Many calls and needed dot placement will be on the screen at the same time. Dots will disappear with each beat and calls will change color at the time of execution. They will then roll off the screen like a player piano. Like everyone learning from repetition, the blind

student and others could learn each of these dances by memory. The DVD suggests one blind dancer per square. The whole square could be deaf or hearing impaired.

My parents started square dancing when I was 12. I started at 19 in 1976. I met my wife to be when she came in for lessons 3 years later. Three years later Mazie and I became partners for life. Jessie Shackleford was my parents' and our caller. When the Goochland club folded, I tried to re-establish it and was going to call. Not even a square came out to learn. We later joined Tuckahoe Squares. Dr. Bill Bailey also was going to help me in trying to re-establish the Goochland Club. Again, no luck in getting folks out. We later joined the Fluvanna Flutterwheels as dancers. We have been away from dancing for awhile. The desire to call rekindled and I went to Ken Ritucci's caller school in 2017. I also went to Mike Sikorsky's school this year. I flew out to Oklahoma a few years back to address the ARTS on the goals of reaching out to deaf/blind folks in square dancing. I thank Roy Gotta for his interest in getting this established. I thank **Gene Chamberlain**, a local caller, and Connie Cox, a local cuer, for their help and interest in getting me established. We have rejoined the Tuckahoe Squares as dancers.

This DVD could be an outreach to so many! Clubs could use this as a recruitment tool for beginning lessons. Beginners could use this to keep up learning skills until graduating a class. The slower paced songs could bring back those that have lost pep in their step. Many may also want this pace that have never danced. It would be a great source of exercise and entertainment for assisted living homes and for others. Non-English speaking folks could learn the calls by hearing and seeing the screen. This could be used for just one night of fun in any gathering. These routines could be learned and danced to live music. In doing so, it could peak the interest of others wishing to learn square dance.

In closing I ask; please keep up with our progress in these and other endeavors. Visit my personal Facebook page (Kenny Rowe from Goochland Virginia). You will find links to two other pages there. "On A Mission" will have updates on this outreach and "K. Rowe's Tumbleweed Music" will have songs I have written. I hope to get one of these songs established as a festival opener and/or closer.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(DECEMBER 2018)**



***** * S T A R T * *****

**CALLERLAB CONVENTION
FOR CALLERS, PARTNERS AND DANCE LEADERS**

Have you ever wondered what goes on at a CALLERLAB Convention? Plenty!

During Monday and Tuesday there are: more than 30 educational interests sessions taking place; 20 committee meetings held; two banquets; two lunches; two sessions where attendees can meet with members of the Board of Governors, express ideas, and ask questions of the CALLERLAB Board. In addition, many opportunities to speak with legends of the square dance activities are available. There are also many visiting VIPs of other dance organizations such as Roundalab, United Square Dancers of America, The ARTS, USA West, the National Executive Committee, and many of the upcoming National Square Dance Conventions. International representatives are also eager to meet you.

Yes, several of the educational sessions are directed to callers; however, there are also many sessions that are of interest to dancers.

Contact the CALLERLAB Home Office (800-331-2577) about how to register for the upcoming Convention at the beautiful Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The staff will be glad to provide you more information.

***** * 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



Save the Date!

46th CALLERLAB Convention Richmond, Virginia April 15-17, 2019

We will be staying at the beautiful
Omni Hotel

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

Caller First & Last Name

Partner's First & Last Name (If attending)

Address _____

City: _____ State : _____ Zip: _____ Country_____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Callers (\$220.00 each) \$ _____

Partners (210.00 each) \$ _____

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

Minimum deposit is \$100.00 per person

Total \$ _____

Deposit Amount \$ _____

Balance Due \$ _____

Payment in full due by March 30, 2019

MasterCard, Discover, American Express, Visa or PayPal—callerlab@aol.com

Expiration Date : _____ (CID#) _____

Signature: _____

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

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