

# Gold Card (Life Member) - 2007

## Frank Lane

### Presented by Jon Jones

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CALLERLAB has a very special membership category. It was created to recognize members who have served CALLERLAB in an outstanding way. When it was created it included a requirement that the recipient also have, for whatever reason, retired from active calling. That requirement was rescinded at one point but it is still an important consideration. The number of individuals that have been recognized in this way over the last 35 years is still quite small - only ELEVEN. The list includes names that nearly all will recognize, Bob Osgood, Herb Egender, Bill Peters, Arnie Kronenberger, Bill Davis, Cal Golden, Gloria Rios Roth, Lee Helsel, Bob Van Antwerp, Jim Mayo, and Martin Mallard. It is truly a select group whose contributions, although varied, all include contributions and dedication to this organization that have gone way beyond the usual.

Tonight it is my pleasure to add one more name to that list. A founding member of CALLERLAB, he started square dancing as a member of an exhibition group at Central High School in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1939. Four years of college and a military stint interrupted the dancing. He was a pilot in Italy with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WW II. By 1948 he decided that square dancing and calling was the direction for him to go and shortly thereafter, calling became his full-time occupation.

Calling six to seven nights a week, he and his wife Barbara were crisscrossing North America with calling dates taking them over 60,000 miles a year.

He was recognized as a fixture staff member at Kirkwood Lodge in Missouri and Asilomar in California.

In 1961 he and Barbara were part of a "think tank" in Glenwood Springs, Colorado set up by Bob Osgood that included Ed Gilmore, Bruce Johnson and Jim Brooks. That "think tank" led to the formation of the Blue Ribbon Committee, the Sets In Order Square Dance Hall of Fame, of which he is a member, and eventually CALLERLAB.

His recordings have set standards of excellence. In fact, the first session that Arden Hopkin had with callers was at the North Texas Callers Association and his recordings were involved. Arden was supplied with several records to listen to so he would have an idea of what we do. Arden chose one of Frank's as the best of the lot. He said it sounded like he was having fun and really enjoyed what he was doing.

When I first began to know who Frank was, I was told that if any festival in the country wanted the very best caller with lots of excitement and fun, they should hire Frank. He was one of the first original twenty-five members of the Board of Governors and served several terms. He was and still is active in committee work. He was one of the first original nine callers to become an Accredited Caller - Coach. I was fortunate to be one of those nine, as well. The Board gave us the charge to test each other in groups of three for this purpose. I have told this story before but it bears repeating. Frank, Cal Golden and I met in Mobile, Alabama to perform the testing procedure and we spent three days in a motel examining each other.

He has conducted callers schools and seminars all over North America as well as Australia and New Zealand. He received the highest honor from CALLERLAB, the Milestone, in 1981.

Their home has been in Estes Park, Colorado for many years where they owned and operated The Dance Ranch square dance hall where dancers and callers from all over the country came to visit.

Frank and Barbara now spend two to three months a year near Tucson, Arizona playing golf, square and round dancing and enjoying life and he still calls an occasional dance. He has been an active member of CALLERLAB ever since the beginning.

Please join me, on behalf of all of CALLERLAB, in presenting the Gold Card Lifetime Membership to Frank Lane.