

# HANDICAPABLE NEWS

A publication of The Handicapable Committee of CALLERLAB  
The International Association of Square Dance Callers

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## 1<sup>st</sup> NEWSLETTER MAKES IT OUT ON THE PRESSES!

Hello! Welcome to the first newsletter to all Handicapable Clubs! The purpose of this newsletter is to get the communication going with this wonderful group of dancers. There are so many wonderful things going on that we need to share ideas, tell others about the specials occasions we have, and get the word out to help other clubs. This newsletter will be published 3-4 times a year with all of the input coming from YOU!! An e-mail will be sent letting you know when to send me some information for the newsletter. Yellow Rocks to everyone!

Michelle McCarty, Editor  
[michbrit@optonline.net](mailto:michbrit@optonline.net)

## USH HOLDS 11<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION

JULY

There will be a Handicapable Convention this summer in Mobile, AL! Get ready for a great time! It will be held at The Riverview Renaissance Plaza Hotel on July 24-26, 2008. It is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Handicapable Association. The Square Dealers are planning a party for everyone to enjoy! The very first Handicapable Convention was held in Mobile and it has returned to the city where it all started. If you are interested in attending, please contact Michael Feore or Dean Emery at 9354 Johnson Rd. Mobile, AL 36695 (251)633-8212 or [dean2@ushandicapable.org](mailto:dean2@ushandicapable.org). Hope to see you there!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 USH Convention
- 3 The Square Dealers and Southern Stars
- 4 USDA National Convention Fee Reimbursement Program
- 4 Handicapable Directory and Helpful Hints

## Charlotte National Square Dance Convention June 2007

The Hunterdon Stars and Mercer ArcAngels from Central New Jersey attended the Handicapable Hall at the National Square Dance Convention this past summer in Charlotte, NC. The large hall was a happening place! There were callers from all over calling for the groups. Some of the callers were new to calling for handicapable groups and did a wonderful job and had a terrific time. We ended the convention with a big circle and a big "Thank You"! The Charlotte National Committee was wonderful and was very happy to sponsor a handicapable hall. They would like to encourage everyone to come to the upcoming Nationals in Wichita, KS, Long Beach, CA, and Louisville, KY.

**New groups in Pennsylvania!**  
The Hakuna Matatas have been dancing for 2 years. Thanks to their very first exhibition at the PA State Convention, a possible 3 new clubs are in the process of forming! A BIG thanks goes out to them, their angels and their caller, Cory Geis.



### Did you know??

Did you know that the National Square Dance Convention will be having a Handicapable Hall in:  
2008- Wichita, Kansas [www.57nsdc.com](http://www.57nsdc.com)  
2009- Long Beach, California [www.58nsdc.org](http://www.58nsdc.org)  
2010- Louisville, KY [www.59thnsdc.com](http://www.59thnsdc.com)  
And hopefully more in the future! Check out their websites for more information.

### Recruiting New Dancers??

#### What do you do??

How do you recruit new dancers for your club?? We would like to know. Do you have an open house? Do you constantly have an "open door" policy throughout the year? Here's your opportunity to share what you do. Please e-mail you thoughts to Michelle at [michbrit@optonline.net](mailto:michbrit@optonline.net)

**[WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!](#)**

### **UPDATING THE HANDICAPABLE DIRECTORY**

We are constantly updating the directory with everyone's e-mail addresses, street addresses, contacts, callers, etc. If you have a change in your information, please e-mail us your new information!

Hello!

I would like to send greetings to every Handicapable Square Dance Club everywhere. We are a small community of likeminded people. We are all brought together by our love of Square Dancing. I have participated in the Handicapable Square Dance World for over 25 years now.

I am the Caller/Instructor for two such clubs, the Square Dealers, Inc., and the Southern Stars.

I founded the Square Dealers in the spring of 1982, originally in Saraland, Alabama. The Square Dealers changed locations after a couple of years. Since 1985 they have danced on every Tuesday night at the Chickasaw Civic Center in Chickasaw, Alabama. Both Saraland and Chickasaw are smaller towns close to my home in Mobile, AL. The Dealers dance from 7:00 to 8:45 PM each Tuesday evening. We dance both of the US Handicapable Square Dance Association's Call Lists, the Basic and the Advanced. On a poor night we dance three squares, and on a very good night we dance seven squares.

The Square Dealers celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past April at the Handicapable Spring Fling in Theodore, AL. The Dealers sponsor a Handicapable Spring Fling on the first Saturday of April each year. The First Handicapable Spring Fling was in 1985, at the Mobile Square Dance Association's Azalea Trail Square and Round Dance Festival. This is an annual event now, bringing together Handicapable Square Dancers and their families from not only the Mobile area, but also from Pensacola, Florida and Gulfport, Mississippi as well! Attendance is usually around one hundred fifty persons.

The Square Dealers have been a traveling club almost from the very beginning. We have traveled to many states and areas of our great country representing the Mobile Area. We have wondered as far West as Houston, Texas and as far North East as Williamsburg, Virginia, and several times to Central Florida, to dance in Orlando, Daytona and on to St Petersburg, Florida.

Not all of the Square Dealers dancers travel away from home, but most do. It is one of the perks being a full fledged member of the Square Dealers. I have felt from the very beginning that to travel with such fine people was a privilege for me and Kitty. We enjoy our trips with them immensely.

In 1995 I established the Southern Stars Handicapable Square Dance Club in Baldwin County, across Mobile Bay to our East. We started then in Loxley, Alabama but shortly moved to Foley, AL, down near the Gulf. This is a very different character kind of club. Primarily, a club of group home residents, the Southern Stars are not a traveling club. These dancers have a lot of fun also. Attendance can change very radically each night, from one square up to three squares. But that is OK also, as long as they have fun and enjoy the social aspects of dancing and meeting together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Next time I will tell you all how the US Handicapable Square Dance Association came into being, and also how I became a Square Dance Caller in the first place. But at this point I will leave you waiting to hear more next time.

Thanks to all of you for helping to enrich mine and Kitty's life with your presence.

Thank You!

Dean Emery  
Square Dance Caller/Instructor  
President of US Handicapable  
Square Dance Association

**United Square Dancers of America (USDA)**  
**National Convention Registration Fee Reimbursement Program**  
**By Al and Portia Bruning**

The USDA Handicapable Registration Fee Reimbursement Program reimburses all (or a part of the registration fees) for any eligible Handicapable dancer who attends a National Square Dance Convention. The next National Square Dance Convention is in Wichita, KS June 25 – 28, 2008.

To be eligible, a Handicapable dancer must be a dancer in a Handicapable club. Any Handicapable club in the United States may apply for these funds. Since it is difficult for a Handicapable club to know exactly how many of their members will be attending a convention, the application deadline has been set for after the Convention. In order to apply for these funds, a club representative must fill out an application form, obtainable from USDA's website ([www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org)), and submit it along with a list of dancers and their registration numbers to the Chairman of the USDA's Handicapable Committee by July 31, 2008. The amount of reimbursement that a club will receive is based upon the number of requests received by USDA and the funds available. If you have dancers that attend the National Convention in Wichita, be sure to submit your application for reimbursement.



**HANDICAPABLE DIRECTORY  
&  
HELPFUL HINTS  
FOR  
CALLING AND TEACHING  
HANDICAPABLE DANCERS**

**Handicapable Directory Available**

There is now a Handicapable Directory that is available to anyone. The directory was a group effort from CALLERLAB, The US Handicapable Association and the Handicapable Committee from USDA. It is also a book of helpful hints about handicapable dancing as well as a directory of the clubs that we are aware of currently. This was developed with the help of Callers, Leaders and others who are involved in the world of Handicapable Square Dancing. Anyone interested in getting a copy of this helpful book, or you know someone who would benefit from this book, please contact the CALLERLAB Home Office at 1-321-639-0039. There is a nominal fee for shipping.

This newsletter has been put together with the love and support of members of the following organizations:

