

HANDICAPABLE NEWS

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

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Hello Everyone!!

Hello! Welcome to our second Handicapable Newsletter! I'd like to thank everyone who gave me some news to put in it to make this possible! I'd like to encourage all of you to send your news, pictures, etc. this way as it happens. All of you are doing wonderful things and we'd like everyone to hear about them!

Please check out the information about the Handicapable Square Dance Halls at the National Square Dance Conventions in Long Beach, CA in 2009 and Louisville, KY in 2010. The 12th USH Convention will be held in Gatlinburg, TN in August 2010. There is more information on all of these in the following pages.

Yellow Rocks to everyone!
Michelle Mabie (McCarty), Editor

11th USH Convention a Huge Success!

The 11th US Handicapable Convention was a wonderful time enjoyed by all! It was held in Mobile, Alabama on July 24-26, 2008. The hotel and convention center were beautiful. A celebration was held during the convention celebrating 20 years of the US Handicapable Association and 11 Conventions! Each of the groups that attended did a wonderful exhibition! Everyone was proud of themselves and the audience was very enthusiastic! On Saturday night, a very big "Thank You" was given to Dean and Kitty Emery for their 20 years of love and devotion to the US Handicapable Association and its dancers. There were many happy tears and Yellow Rocks given to both Dean and Kitty. Dean and Kitty have become Past Presidents of the Association and have passed the reigns to Michelle Mabie (McCarty) and the new Board of Governors.



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Long Beach National Square Dance Convention June 2009

The 2009 National Convention in Long Beach California had a very successful, well attended and fun filled Handicapable Dancers Hall. Seventeen callers from throughout the United States and several other countries provided an excellent program of dancing over Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Fun badges were provided to all dancers for a Lights Out Dance, Venus Dance and the Neutron Blitz tip. The Hall was one of the best attended with as many as fifteen (15) squares dancing.

The Hunterdon Stars & Mercer Arc Angels of New Jersey and the Guys and Dolls of Sacramento California performed exhibitions in the Arena to the delight of many spectators who attended. The Guys and Dolls wore hand-made costumes depicting all the characters from Alice in Wonderland. Exhibitions were also held within the Handicapable Hall to give other attending groups the opportunity to showcase their dancers. The Foothill Stompers of West Covina, California

showed up in force Saturday and gave their dancers the chance to strut their stuff during their exhibition.

Jerry Yerby of Auburn, California acted as chairman and coordinator for the hall and was assisted by Michelle Mabie (McCarty) and many other helpers in monitoring and providing a varied program. An array of door prizes was provided by Fred and Susan Lockard who also assisted with coordinating the Southern California dancers and callers who attended.

Submitted by Jerry Yerby

Meet the Happy Squares of Chillicothe, OH

Even though our group has only been in existence since August of 2007, we have given three performances. In February, we performed at the Snow Ball Dance CALLERLAB in Columbus, OH. In March, it was the Awards Program for the Board of MRDD and in April it was for the Health Fair at Ohio University Chillicothe. With the help of parents we usually have two squares but we are growing. Some of the dancers have no other social activity and their parents are surprised to learn how much their adult children can do and how much they are enjoying themselves. For example, Andy's shoes have been known to "smoke", according to our caller Ed. We all smiled when we saw Andy look down at his shoes. Then there is Hugh, who adds his special flair to the end with a dramatic dip and fling of the arm. Ed Laudenschlager and his wife Faye, their son Ted and a good friend, Martha Gearhart, generously travels a long distance to teach us each week. Anyone who watches the Happy Squares perform can see the bonding that has developed.

Lots' of good natured teasing flies around the hall. Ed dishes it out and the dancers love it.

Submitted by:

Kathy Jalbuena

Frieda Barnhart

Margaret Harrison



Did you know??

Did you know that the National Square Dance Convention will be having a Handicapable Hall in 2010- Louisville, KY www.59thnsdc.com
Make sure you come and dance with all of us in Louisville!!

Updating the Handicapable Directory

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

The Miami Ocean Waves

Miami is the largest city in Florida and yet is the home of the smallest existing handicapable square dance group in Florida. Miami Ocean Waves was formed 16 years ago as the Al-Amand Leftovers. The name was changed to Miami Ocean Waves in 2000. The present caller is Steve Ackerman and the dancers and their parents meet each Friday to enjoy square dancing. The group is more like a family than just square dancing as we have dinner together during our weekly practice. Other social events are also held. We are actively recruiting for additional members and hope to increase our membership to be able to have two full squares.

Parents are encouraged to be involved with dancing as well as fund raising for the conventions. The first convention attended was in 1994 at English Mountain, followed by New Orleans, 1996; Daytona Beach, 1998; Louisville, 2002; St. Petersburg, 2004; Las Vegas 2005; Baton Rouge 2006; and Mobile, 2008. We are planning to head to Gatlinburg in 2010.

If you are in the southwest area of Miami and are interested in joining the group, please contact: Steve Ackerman at 305-385-5705 or cpacaller@juno.com or Peggy Vaughn at 305-301-1904 or pvaughn@swcc.org



Recruiting New Dancers??

What do you do??

How do you recruit new dancers for your club?? We'd 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 Email your thoughts to Michelle at mmichbritt@aol.com

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

12th US Handicapable Convention

to be held in
Gatlinburg, TN

Where: Park Vista Hotel and Convention Center
705 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

When: August 5-7, 2010

Rooms: Single: \$110.00 per night One Bedroom Suite: \$250.00 per night
Double: \$110.00 per night Two Bedroom Suite: \$350.00 per night
Triple: \$110.00 per night
Quad: \$110.00 per night

Reservations: 800/421-7275 (Please indicate you are with the U.S. Handicapable Square Dancers).

Local Airport: Knoxville, TN (approximately 1 hour away)

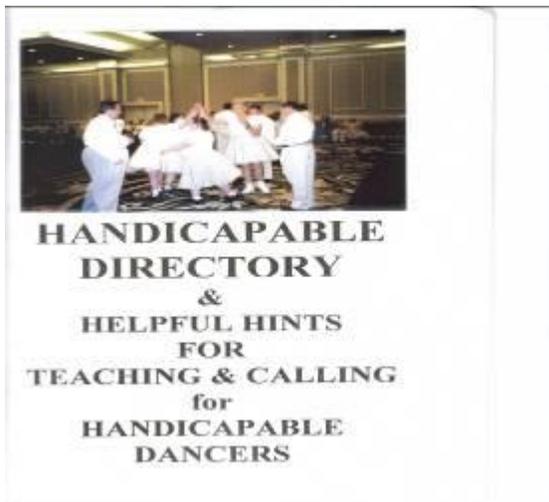
Questions: Michelle Mabie (McCarty)
mmichbritt@aol.com
518/636-5976

Hope to see ya'll there!

United Square Dancers of America (USDA)
National Convention Registration Fee Reimbursement Program
By Tom and Miriam James

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 Louisville, KY.

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), 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, 2010. 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 Louisville, be sure to submit your application for reimbursement.



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. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of this helpful book, or you know someone who would benefit from this book, please contact the CALLERLAB Home Office at 785-783-3665. There is a nominal fee for shipping.

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

