

Gold Card (Life Member) - 2006

Martin Mallard

Presented by Jim Mayo

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 That requirement was rescinded at one point but it is still an important consideration.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 thirty-five years is still quite small - only nine. 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 and Bob Van Antwerp. 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.

It is my privilege, this evening, to add a new name to that very short list. He attended the very first convention in St. Louis in 1974 and, with but one exception when his doctor absolutely forbade him to attend, he has been a full-time attendee at every convention since. He is with us today but, before I name him and let you show your appreciation I want to list some of the work he has done for us.

He has served as Chairman of the Mainstream Committee and the Caller Coach Committee. He was elected to the Board of Governors in 1984 and served twenty years on the board. For eight of those he was elected by the Board members to serve on the Executive Committee. In that capacity he was one of those who steered CALLERLAB through the first change of Executive Directors and Home Office location. He was also on the Executive Committee when BMI and ASCAP knocked on the door of the modern square dance activity with a demand that we buy licenses. I shared both of those traumas on the EC and I can assure you all that none of the decisions was easy and they involved discussions long into the night.

In another month our Gold Card recipient will retire from most active calling. The BOG has recently had a discussion about recognizing callers who have been calling for clubs for fifty years. It was an interesting discussion but I have to tell you that I know of only one caller who has called fifty years for the same club. He and Terry started the club. It has danced in their home for the last decade or so and it is still alive and succeeding. It is with great pleasure that I announce the award of a CALLERLAB Gold Card membership for Martin Mallard.