

## WHAT IS CALLERLAB?

CALLERLAB is the International Association of Square Dance Callers. It is truly international in scope. In addition to callers from every state in the United States, membership includes such countries as Canada, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, England, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Czech Republic. It is a professional organization of square dance callers that subscribe to the CALLERLAB code of ethics.

### BENEFITS OF CALLERLAB MEMBERSHIP

- A full-time professional Home Office staff , available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Central Time), Monday through Friday.
- An address on the internet for orders and answers: CALLERLAB@aol.com.
- A website (www.CALLERLAB.org) with a wealth of useful information
- A bi-monthly newsletter: DIRECTION.
- Availability of the most widely used program lists.
  - Mainstream Program
  - Plus Program
  - Advanced Program
  - Challenge Programs (C1, C2, C3A)
- An insurance program for US callers geared toward square dance calling activities:
  - Group liability insurance coverage of up to \$3,000,000.
  - Accidental death or dismemberment insurance coverage.
  - Accidental medical coverage over and above primary coverage.
  - Optional low-cost equipment insurance.
- Recognition as a member of the only world-wide professional, callers' organization.
- Standing committees working on various aspects of the square dance activity.
- Representation by 25 highly respected Board of Governors.
- Optional, no cost membership roster.
- Availability of an annual Convention that provides several interest sessions geared toward caller education.
- Availability of caller training seminars at both National and USA West conventions.
- Availability of mini-conventions in Europe, The Pacific Rim, Canada and the United States.
- Availability of caller training documents published by CALLERLAB.
  - Standard Basic and mainstream Applications
  - Standard Plus Applications
  - Starter Kit For New Callers
  - CDP (Community Dance Program) Manual
  - Square Dance Building Guidelines
  - CALLERLAB Curriculum for Caller Training
  - CALLERLAB Technical Supplement to the Caller Training manual
  - Choreographic Guidelines
- Availability of up-to-date call definitions:
  - Mainstream Definitions
  - Plus Definitions
  - Advanced Definitions
  - Challenge Definitions (C1, C2, C3A)
- Availability of scholarships to help pay for caller education

- Representation at ROUNDALAB, CONTRALAB and ACA Conventions.
- Representation at the National Square Dance Convention.
- Representation at the USA West Square Dance Convention.
- Option to purchase a license to teach Country Western Dancers outside the square dance activity, at a very reduced rate.
- The CALLERLAB Foundation For The Preservation and Promotion of Square Dancing.
  - A New Song and Dance Routine. A 4-color brochure for dancer recruitment.
  - Availability of grants and loans to support the preservation and promotion of square dancing.
- BMI/ASCAP license to perform copyrighted music.
- An optional BMI/ASCAP license for a partner that calls or cues.

The twenty-five member Board of Governors is responsible for the long range planning of the organization. They meet once a year at the annual convention. The Board is kept informed of the business concerns of the membership through the Home Office. The Executive Committee is a five member Board, elected from the twenty-five member Board of Governors. Their responsibility is to take care of the day-to-day business of the organization. They meet twice a year outside of the annual convention.

Is CALLERLAB a perfect organization? Certainly not. Is it a great organization? Absolutely! Apathy of the membership is one of the main concerns. We constantly hear from members about lack of voting privileges and yet, when there are voting issues and ballots to be decided, only a small percentage of the voting membership returns the ballot.

How can you make a difference? By asking to serve on a committee. We have over 25 standing committees in CALLERLAB. These committees are where the work gets done. They are responsible for the accomplishments of the organization. If you wish to make a difference, join a committee and be active on that committee. It is a very rewarding experience.

Finally, in CALLERLAB, majority rules. Your Board of Governors cannot dictate. It can only recommend to the membership. **YOU** are CALLERLAB, and **YOU** decide what the organization should represent. **YOU**, the membership, decide the role the organization has in the square dance activity. Be proud of being a square dance caller. Be proud of being a CALLERLAB member. Be proud of the fact that you are part of the leadership of this great activity we all enjoy.

Thanks to Jerry Junck for compiling this list and reminding us all of the benefits of CALLERLAB membership.