



This newsletter provides promotion and marketing ideas, shines a light on people in our dance community, provides history and general information about our much loved activity, and highlights provincial and national events. If you wish to contribute an article, or see an event, topic, person, or club featured, contact the editor.



USING QR CODES ON POSTERS

- by Claudia Littlefair, Editor

The other day my daughter saw our dance poster and commented that using a QR Code was smart. She said that they're popular again because of they're often utilized for restaurant food delivery services like UberEats and DoorDash.

QR (Quick Response) Codes allow you to go directly to a website without having to type the web address. Using a QR Code is easy. Open the camera app on your mobile phone or tablet which has a built-in QR Reader. (If your device doesn't have one built-in, then download a free QR Reader app.) Hold your camera in front of the QR Code. Click the link that appears on the screen, and presto! you're in that website.

Even easier, is creating a QR Code to use on your posters that is linked to your club's website or FB page. There are several internet sites that will generate codes for free such as: <https://www.qr-code-generator.com/> or <https://www.qrcode-monkey.com>. To see how it works, click this QR Code which will take you to our club's website, www.StrathmoreSquareDance.com.



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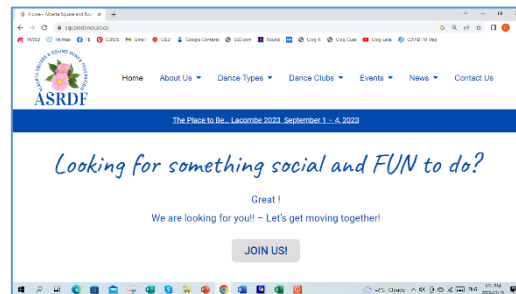
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KUDOS TO ASRDF!! (Alberta Square & Round Dance Federation)

- by Claudia Littlefair, Editor

Earlier this year Bud Sedman, President of ASRDF (Alberta Square & Round Dance Federation) and Brenda Ryder, Treasurer held a zoom meeting with about 20 people from the three active zones (Edmonton, Central Alberta, Calgary) to discuss how to promote our dance forms in Alberta. Subsequently, ASRDF webmasters, Nancy & Brent Daignault from Calgary, contacted several website design companies for proposals to redesign the existing website. The priority of the new website would be on promoting our activity to the general public.

It was agreed to hire **Effortless Marketing** to do the redesign which was completed this fall. The website's objective to attract potential new dancers is met by explaining our different dance forms (square, round and clogging), providing links to provincial clubs and organizations through an interactive map, including information on the benefits of dancing and answers to frequently asked questions. As well, the website contains information on special and province-wide events and about ASRDF (eg. list of executive members, dance leaders, Alberta Rose recipients.)



With the completion of the website, the next step is to create a social media campaign using Facebook and Google advertising platforms. These ads would send the reader to the ASRDF website where information about specific clubs and events can be accessed.

The cost of the new website and social media campaign is being split between Alberta Federation, Edmonton, Central Alberta and Calgary zones. Click here to have a look at the new website: <https://squaredance.ab.ca/>

On December 14th, webmaster Nancy advised that traffic to the new website has increased ten fold (compared to this time last year). There have been 24 posts to Instagram, and there are 112 followers and just about 1100 following. There have been 25 posts on Facebook and 3 videos posted. That's all good news! Look for social media ads regarding new dancer parties in January.

KEEP THOSE NEW DANCERS

Source: Caller & Leader, Mike Seastrom, California

When new dancers walk into the door of your hall to join you for the first time, what do you think is running through their minds? Think back, if possible, to the first time you walked into a hall to learn to square dance. If a friend, relative, co-worker, or neighbor brought you and introduced you to others in attendance, you were lucky. If you were courageous enough to walk in by yourself, how you were treated and received probably made a big difference in your decision to stay or leave and never come back.

They say that we only get one chance to make a first impression, so let's take a good look at not only what it takes to make that first impression a positive one, but what it takes to keep our new dancers coming back week after week and becoming new friends and members of our club.



There are a few things that already need to be in place when you open the doors for the first time to your new dancer program. When there are more than a few members of your club helping and attending your new dancer dances, it's extremely important to make assignments ahead of time. If no one is asked specifically to do a job, it probably won't get done so make sure to have a written list of those members helping out.

Surely a person or couple will be taking names, money, and personal information of those attending as they come in the door, but what about the other important things going on? At least a couple of people, (ideally as many as four to six members) need to be assigned to act as host and hostess positioned around the entrance and inside after your new dancers sign in. **These folks are not only verbally welcoming everyone coming in the door, they are introducing themselves, exchanging and learning names, and introducing people to one another.**

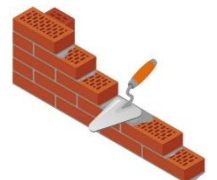
Get to know your new dancers a little as individuals. Knowing some personal information about new acquaintances helps you remember their names, because you can associate a visual or mental image about them. It also gives you the opportunity to share some of that personal information with others as you introduce them, and it will in turn help those folks who have like experiences or hobbies, to more easily converse with each other. This "social tuning" can really get a good verbal buzz going before people even start to dance and it can make the evening even more fun. Successful clubs have done this at their regular dances for years, as a way of welcoming and getting to know their guests while getting their dance nights started.



That brings me to another point. Try to make each 'new dancer dance' or 'new dancer evening' a party. It may sound like more work, but everyone likes going to a party and it will give your new dancers another reason to come back week after week. Celebrate Square Dance Month in September, celebrate the first day of fall, celebrate Columbus Day, Halloween and on and on. Put up some simple decorations and you'll find it really makes it seem like a party is going on. These are simple things that can be delegated to members of your club. Be sure to involve your new dancers later on down the line.

Always have food available and when possible have the food you serve go along with the theme of the party for the evening. Food and square dancing go together and it always seems like more of a party when there is food. You can also use the food you serve for your theme. Have a Fruit Night, Pie Night, Men's Cake Bake and so on. Use your imagination, have fun with the food and themes you choose, but keep it simple so that no one feels burdened or inconvenienced.

Bob Osgood, the long time editor of Sets In Order, Square Dance Magazine, and the caller leader that started CALLERLAB, said long ago that the **'dance is the bricks that our club and our dance nights are built with, but the social fun is the mortar that holds all the bricks together'**. Pay some real attention to the detail that makes up the social part of your club and dance events and the extra effort will really pay off in the long run.



Many leaders in our activity have been very careful in the last ten to twenty years to eliminate certain words from our vocabulary that might be offensive or sound like too much work for your members and new dancers. I used to think we were just being too picky, but I have seen this change really have an impact on my own new dancers and I now believe that it really makes a difference.

The first one is calling a new dancer a 'class member', 'student', 'greeny' or something like that. They are new dancers, because they're dancing the first time the music starts and should be recognized for that. Although this may sound like a small thing, it subconsciously recognizes their accomplishment and unlike some of the other terms above, is much more positive.

I also found that by welcoming new dancers the first night to the "(Your Club's Name) New Dancer Dance", that I had a much more positive impact then when I previously welcomed them to the "(Your Club's Name) New Dancer Class". It's much more motivating to your new dancers to come back week after week to a dance than (yawn) another class. **Think about it, would you rather go to a party every week to dance or go to class?**

Make each night a dance and not a close order drill or rigid event, and it will add so much to the fun. It's really easy to do singing calls right away, get the new dancers singing with you, shouting back at you with various calls, and just plain enjoying themselves. It's all about the FUN every night and every tip!



Lose phrases like, "When you learn to really dance", or "When you get good enough to dance with our club". They're dancing from the first night and it's much more positive to be encouraging. Say things like, "You are doing so well", and "Isn't this dance of ours good fun?"

Try to be encouraging with comments like, "Don't worry, we were all new dancers before and we can really understand what you're going through". I know these things sound so picky, but just making the attempt to be positive and encouraging can go a long way in making your new dancers feel more comfortable. It's important for them to know that their feelings are normal and understood by the experienced dancers and club members.

Offer some additional learning opportunities to those that need it. Sometimes just another walk through of a call between tips is enough. Occasionally it really helps to schedule a separate time, in a fun and social setting (with food) at someone's house, to dance and practice what has been taught. These efforts can make the difference in keeping new dancers coming back instead of becoming frustrated and dropping out.

Have someone assigned to personally call those new dancers who miss a new dancer dance. It lets them know they were missed and that someone was thinking about them. New dancers will be absent less if they know, in the back of their minds, that people miss them and know when they are not in attendance.



If you have someone good enough with email and you have email addresses for your new dancers and members, an email can be sent out a day or two after your new dancer dance to thank everyone for coming and list what was taught. You can also remind them about the next event, mention the theme, and any changes in time or venue. I've seen some groups make up fun questions about what was taught in these emails. This short email can go a long way in connecting with your new dancers and club angels and is another opportunity for your new dancers to learn and remember what they were dancing.

Include your new dancers in as many club events as possible. Make them honorary members of your club right away and send them the club newsletter. Put your new dancers' names in the newsletter under the section for birthdays, anniversaries and accomplishments as often as possible. These little steps can go a long way in keeping your new dancers with your program and eventually becoming regular members in your club. Treating them like royalty is a great way to make them feel good about themselves and their achievements as new dancers and a terrific way to keep them coming back. That's really what it's all about. Have some great new dancer dances and have a great new dancer program!

About the Writer: Mike Seastrom has been dancing since 1960, and calling since 1963. He started dancing after losing a bet to his mother and calling when he tried to show his 6th grade teacher what "square dancing was really like". He taught his first class in 1963 after borrowing money from his folks to buy a small sound system and was able to pay them back before the class was over.

After receiving his doctorate in 1976, Mike joined CALLERLAB in 1977, and has been Chairman of several committees, as well as an annual presenter for interest sessions and seminars at CALLERLAB conventions. Mike served on the Board of Governors from 1984 to 2003 and completed a two-year term as the CALLERLAB Chairman of the Board in 1994. He was also awarded the Milestone Award in 2001 by two of his mentors, Bob Van Antwerp and Bob Osgood. He submits the monthly CALLERLAB Viewpoint articles to "American Square Dance" magazine and his articles have appeared in various publications around the world.



Mike teaches, calls Basic through C-1, prompts contras, and also enjoys doing dance party events when his schedule allows. He is a strong advocate for the Multi-Cycle Method of teaching new dancers and enjoyed a very successful program with the Valley Trailers Square Dance club in California. Mike currently teaches for the Buckles & Bows.

Mike records for Rhythm Records, regularly does Caller Clinics, and helped produce an Introduction to Contra Dancing package for R & R Video, with the California Contra Callers Association.

Calling has given Mike the opportunity to travel extensively in the United States, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. Mike enjoys dancing as well as calling and still feels that "dancing as a team of eight" is the best recreation in the world. As a practicing dentist, calling is an avocation for "Dr. Mike." He feels so fortunate to receive such tremendous support from his wonderful and understanding family and staff.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF DARKNESS - by Dee Jackins



Dee is an avid square and round dancer and enjoys writing. She shares the lighter side of some of her experiences, challenges and near disasters as a sight impaired person. See issue #2015-6 for her complete story under "Chatter Close-up".

Back in the mid 80's, when my vision was deteriorating at a steady pace, I managed to adjust as time went by and did whatever I could to accomplish my next task. We had a motor home at that time and whenever I cleaned up after each camping trip, I would leave the door open and get at my normal cleaning routine. When it came to the final cleanup in the fall, everything was put away and doubled checked carefully from one end to the other. All seemed to be in good order and ready for storage. I stepped out, locked it up and walked into my home. It had to be close to the supper hour when the doorbell rang and my neighbor asked me if I had a cat. With a puzzling look, my response was, "No I don't have a cat, why do you ask?"

"Well, there's a cat up on the dash of your motor home looking around very satisfied." Thank goodness he noticed that something was unusual. The friendly cat across the street always came over to visit and he must have sneaked into the open door and made himself at home in some cozy corner when I was cleaning up. Thank goodness our neighbor spotted him - the final result could have been very unpleasant. I unlocked the door and he came out with a friendly greeting, circling around my ankles, purring like a well oiled motor and with his tail waving in the air, he headed for home. Just another day in a cat's life, they are so independent. I can't help but give them a good scratch behind the ear.

Reminiscing about friendly family pets, we had a wonderful dog when I was trying to adjust to all the side effects of my prescription drugs. Without realizing that one of these drugs was the cause of my insomnia, if I had three hours of sleep - it was a blessing. Laying back on the couch during the day whenever it was possible, I would try to sneak in a half hour nap. My dog would jump up onto the couch to curl up into my arm with her head resting on my shoulder. She knew something was not right and she would look up at me with these big sad eyes as if to say "I'm here." Family pets are certainly a source of comfort and if I ever decided to get another dog it would definitely be a guide dog. What remarkable animals they are. According to some of the news articles, certain senior homes have taken in cats or dogs to visit with our seniors and give them some well deserved friendship. What a wonderful concept, they are such a comfort to humanity with unconditional love for all. Our pets over the years were certainly part of the family. Maybe again, down the road...

May you have a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. - Dee

FREE! SQUARE DANCE ARTWORK

Source: <https://squaredancetech.com/artwork/>

Square Dance art work for flyers, brochures, etc., has been stuck in the 70s and 80s. Old graphics someone may have scribbled out and word processor graphics have been passed along for decades.

On the next few pages you'll find nearly 60 galleries of Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated artwork. There are over ~~300~~ 500 images in the galleries.

Every single image is original art. It was created by describing a scene, in plain English, to a computer program. The computer then analyzed thousands, if not millions of images from around the planet, then combined and mixed those images with its style instructions, to create art which did not previously exist.

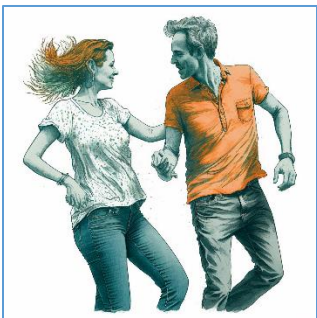
With an eye towards general marketing pieces for flyers, brochures, avatars, and websites, most images contain a man and a woman. (There are a few "same sex" galleries.) Most styles are western themed. (You wind up with a lot of cowboy hat wearing gentlemen.)

Some of the galleries are whimsical. (Blueprints of square dancers? Ice carvings? Marble statues? Origami? Plastic figurines? Huh.) These galleries are interesting and amazing to look at . . . but they may have limited chances to be used in marketing campaigns. (On the other hand, they're just quirky enough to be useful.)

The gallery names are horizontal across the thumbnails. Click on the thumbnail to open up the image at full size. You may right click on the image and save it to your device. (If you're on a desktop computer. There's a zillion ways if you're on a tablet / mobile device. Check your device operating instructions.)

You may use as many of these images as you wish at no cost. You may manipulate them any way you wish. You may use them in any media you wish, in any marketing campaign. You do not have to provide credit to Square Dance Tech. Bottom line: you are free to use any image in any way you wish.

Hopefully these images will help make our marketing materials more attractive and modern looking.



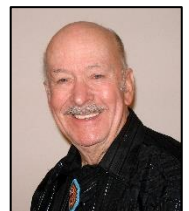
THANK YOU FROM DARYL CLENDENIN

Source: Oregon Federation Square & Round Dance Clubs Newsletter

Editor's Note: Daryl Clendenin has helped numerous callers over the years, and has made a lasting impression on our square dance activity. He will be missed.

Yes, retiring. After over a half century looking for, and most of the time finding the corner, I think it's time to pack it in.

I've always said, "I have no intention of ever quitting calling, but it might quit me." I can't help but feel that's what's happening. Over two and a half years sitting on my butt waiting for the pandemic to end, having a wife that needed constant care and supervision, and turning 81 years of age, I'm finding it hard to commit, not just to myself, but just to meeting the challenges of taking care of life.



Life? Let's talk about it. My life has been blessed and filled with things that most people, especially callers, only dream about.

Yvonne and I celebrated 60 years of being partners in life. Some of you might have been there with us when we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary, ten years ago.

We were blessed with three children that grew and prospered. We also have grandkids and great-grandkids that I am going to enjoy as much as possible (darned pandemic).

Calling? When I picked up a microphone for the first time, I had absolutely no idea of where calling square dances was about to take me. After a 10-week, 2 hours a week course, I graduated and got myself a badge that said "Caller." I started by teaching a square and a half of friends how to dance, and with very little experience, was hired by two other clubs. Within just a few years I was traveling out of state for weekends and festivals. During that happy and exciting time, I was asked to do a vocal recording. My first record was "Country Mind, Country Heart" On Greenwood Square Dance Records. Produced by one of our own, Les Roberts. What an honor.

I was privileged in 1975 to be invited to attend the second annual CALLERLAB Convention and have served on the board of governors and Executive Committee. Today, I am a "Gold Card Member."

I also founded my own two record labels in which I produced hundreds of square and round dance records.

During those first twelve or so years of calling, I also worked the pipe trades while calling dances, classes, and workshops three or four nights a week. Add to that, traveling out for far too many weekends.

In 1987 I was invited to be the resident winter-time caller for a resort in Arizona. I spent the next sixteen winters calling up to three times a day, and six days a week, for the snowbirds. When I decided to retire from that marathon calling in 2003, I had programs in five different Resorts. Those sixteen years exposed me to dancers and callers from all over the world. You can't buy advertising like that. Everything just "snowballed."

Winters in Arizona and Summers on the road. In 1989 on my summer road trip returning from the East Coast, I had a heart issue in Rapid City, SD. I recovered from that and went south for the winter. I made it through that winter season in time to fly home for by-pass surgery. I guess it went well because I'm still here 32 years later.

I ended my Snowbird winters at the seasons' end in 2003. That also pretty much ended my road-work as well. It was time to settle back home in Portland and once again be a "Club Caller."

I am also proud of the fact that I am one of the earliest CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coaches and have been involved in caller training for all but a few years of being a caller.

It has been my privilege to call and conduct caller training in most of the U.S. States and Canadian Provinces. Along with, The Yukon Territory, Puerto Rico, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, England, Norway, Denmark, and many others. I can't prove it, but I believe that I was the first to actually call a dance on the Great Wall of China.

What a life. So many wonderful experiences. I have had the pleasure of working with some of the real legends of the Modern Western Square Dance Activity. Some of them are still living and I try to stay in touch with them.

The dancers? That's what I'm going to miss most. Some of my greatest moments have been with people that have become extended family through the dancing. Not just here in Oregon, but all over the world.

It seems funny to say but some of my most memorable moments, good and bad, have been Square Dance related. Callers and dancers that I have taught, played, and worked with through the years have made what I call "my Life."

I will not sell all my equipment. I will remain available to help any caller or dancer that needs my help. In an emergency I will be ready to fill-in where needed.

Thank you Portland. Thank you Oregon. Thank you All the States and Foreign Countries. Thank you all the Dancers, Callers and Round Dance Cuers, local and international, that have treated me so well. Thank you Mom and Dad for all of your early influence. Thank you to my family that has supported me for all these years and think I should keep going. I wish I could.

I apologize to anyone that I may have offended along the way. I love you all, and this old used-up Caller says, "thank you and farewell." - Daryl Clendenin Nov. 2, 2022

NEW & IMPROVED - CALLERLAB'S "KNOWLEDGEBase"

Source: CALLERLAB Committee News, by Barry Clasper, KnowledgeBase Chair

If you haven't visited the KnowledgeBase lately, go and check us out: (<https://knowledge.callerlab.org>). We have a new look, improved performance, and some new features. For instance,

A new Social Connections category houses material on promoting sociability and bonding between club members, between the club and its members, and between clubs. We're especially looking for new material for this category. Is your club putting a special emphasis on social elements and connections? How are you doing it? How is it working for you? Please let us know at knowledgebase@callerlab.org.



A new Statistics page documents activity in the KnowledgeBase. It has charts showing visitors and views as well as tables of the 50 most viewed articles over a number of 90-day periods going back to March 20, 2021. You can view it at:

<https://knowledge.callerlab.org/statistics>. There is also a link to it at the bottom of the "most viewed" list on the sidebar on every KnowledgeBase page. So far in 2022, traffic has been making or meeting record highs. Over the past year SSD items have by far attracted the most interest, with the "Teaching Guide" and Alphabetical Call List vying for top spot in every 90-day reporting period since March 2021. If you'd like to see what's going on and get an idea what's in the KnowledgeBase, visit our statistics page.

As always, we're always looking for new items to add to the KnowledgeBase. If you see, hear, or do something you believe might be useful to someone else, please let us know. You don't have to write an article, just give us the information and we'll take it from there. You can contact us at: knowledgebase@callerlab.org. If you'd tell a friend—tell US too!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS BY CORY

Source: Breaking Records by Corben Geis FaceBook Page <https://www.facebook.com/BreakRecASD>

Cory has been calling since 1985 and has been a member of CALLERLAB since 1994. He is Vice-Chairman of Callers in the Schools committee. He has been recording for Silver Sounds Records with Jack O' Leary since 1996. Cory also illustrates the cartoons for THE AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE MAGAZINE. He calls Basic thru A2 and instructs line dancing. His favorite square dance groups are his wheelchair square dancers and his handicapable club called THE HAKUNA MATATAS. On his FaceBook page "Breaking Records by Corben Geis", Cory is posting answers to 100 questions that he has received from dancers over the years. Here's some of those questions and answers.



QUESTIONS #55: HELPER WORDS FOR ONE AND FOR ALL

QUESTION: Cory, I'm almost embarrassed to ask this question at my club, but I know you won't let me down. **What exactly are 'helper words' on calls?** I overheard an experienced dancer say that 'newer dancers need them, but graduate dancers do not.' I would think something called helper words would be used for class and graduate dancers, but now I'm wondering if it means something different. Have a great day and I can't wait to read your response! – Grace

ANSWER: Hi Grace. I'll get right to it for you. You are correct, helper words are used from Basic- Challenge. **Helper words are any kind of words that help the dancers execute the call(s).** Helper words on calls are like (SIDES FACE) GRAND SQUARE. Sides Face are helper words. The actual call is GRAND SQUARE, but rarely do we ever hear just Grand Square being called because some peeps might just stare at one another. I think we over-killed those kind of helper words there.

Other ones you'll hear are in parenthesis:

- (HEAD LADIES CENTER) TEACUP CHAIN
- (TAKE A PEAK) TRADE THE WAVE
- (LADIES LEAD/GENTS LEAD) DIXIE STYLE TO A WAVE



Those are ones you probably hear a lot, but we callers like to use helper words a lot when calling DBD (Dance By Definition) for instance. BOYS ONLY, CENTERS ONLY, END GIRL PREFERRED, OUT FACING DANCERS, LEADERS, TRAILERS, ONLY THE BOX, IF YOU ARE FACING THE SIDE WALL. **Stuff like those are helper words also because they are identifiers and a great navigational system in the square.**

Advanced and Challenge dancers get a lot of helper words because there are so many calls and so many positions and formations and concepts that little cues and phrases help tremendously with dancer success! A good caller knows where and when to use them.

Callers also use helper words (which are not calls, just basic English) to tell who is active and who is not. When the caller says, JUST THE BOYS...you know the girls can take a break while he sticks it to the boys. HA HA HA. Or THE VERY CENTER DIAMOND or THE OUTSIDE DIAMOND, commands like these tell the inactive dancers to stay put, while we work the actives. Other helper words you may start to hear, especially if you start dancing workshops could be EACH SIDE OF 4, OUT-FACING DANCERS, IN-FACING DANCERS, THOSE IN THE MINI-WAVE, OUT AND AROUND, STAY CLOSE, THOSE CLOSEST & THOSE FURTHEREST. When you get into Advanced dancing, you'll really start hearing helper words more like BEAU & BELL, AS COUPLES, ALL FOUR COUPLES, and ALL 8.

It's a great question, Grace, and you shouldn't be embarrassed to ask these kind of questions. You may have just helped others to discover what 'helper words' are and when we should be using them. **HELPER WORDS ARE WONDERFUL!!!** (and quite helpful) 😊 I hope I pulled through for you 🙌🙏🙌🙏. - Thanks, CG

QUESTION #47: FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, NATIONAL etc.

QUESTION: Corben, **What makes a caller a National Caller?** I've often wondered about that kind of title for many years. - Ed

ANSWER: Hi there Ed. **Some of my National Caller colleagues agree that the DANCERS are the ones who give them that title. Other callers give themselves that title and just put it on their business cards to make it look good.** And, when approached, they will say 'I've called in 15 different states, so I am a National Caller.' Technically, they are not wrong. They are calling within our nation. But are they YOUR definition of a National Caller? See what I mean? There's been all kinds of titles over the past half-century for callers;



- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • National Caller | • Professional Caller | • Newbie/ Caller-in-Training |
| • International Caller | • Amateur/Hobbyist Caller | • Travelling Caller |
| • Full Time Caller | • Veteran Caller | • Recording Artist Caller |
| • Part Time Caller | | |

There's 10 right there, and I bet you've heard a few more interpretations. **Bottom line, Ed, we are all Square Dance Callers.** If you really want to get technical, the minute you are paid to call a gig, you have gone from amateur to professional. I have personally always liked Full Time and Part Time Caller. Why? Because some guys and gals do it for a living, so they are a little bit of all 10 titles. Really? You don't believe me? I want to let you in on a little something, even the big-time, full-time, professional, international callers still call some dances for free. Fundraisers, fun nights, etc. You can also bet

your bippy that some amateur callers will get a monetary donation for calling somewhere just out of the kindness of their hearts. Most of us callers are part-time callers. I know many wish they could be full-time callers but because of the economy, lack of health benefits, and low-attendance numbers at dances, it's very difficult. Do you see how some of these titles overlap other titles? Which one are you? Are you more than just one? 😊😊😊😊😊

I really look up to the full-time callers because they have to really get creative nowadays to make a living in this business. I also admire the dancers who are aware of what these callers are doing, what they must be going through, what they believe in, and their love for square dancing...because many dancers haven't a clue how hard it is to be a full-time caller in this day and age. Those clubs and festivals who are fortunate enough to have a little extra money and, let's use a square dance term, TIP our callers...well, you are my heroes. Just remember, folks, prices are going up everywhere, and some callers have to raise their prices to stay alive and keep up with the competition.

I'm going off on another road here, but many of us just see callers come in to a dance and call the dance and that's all we witness. Go behind the scenes sometime. Callers spend money (and lots of it) on equipment, music, clothing (gotta look good for our dancers), gasoline, vehicles, speeding tickets (trying to get to the dance on time because the club gave them the wrong directions) lodging, eating, festivals, weekends, conventions, seminars, callers schools, recording studio fees...I need a bag to breathe into...whew!...I am out of breath!

Also, if you are a dancer reading this article, many callers have spouses and families to feed as well. I know lots of callers who get back from making \$1500 at a weekend fly-in and turn around and only make \$50 on Monday night, but work twice as hard there because there's a class or two to teach. Callers are contortionists!

Can you imagine what Covid did to all of our full-time travelling callers? Think about that for a full minute. Better take 5 minutes. It's insane how much they lost and some had to take on odd jobs just to make ends meet.

In closing, Ed, there's a lot of titles we give ourselves and others dub onto us. I mean I called in Russia once, so does that make me an international caller? Da or Nyet? A very good question about entitlement, my friend. This entire article is a thinker. - Thank you, Cory

QUESTION #42: I BELIEVE THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE, TEACH THEM WELL AND LET THEM LEAD THE WAY

QUESTION: Good day, Corben. **One of the most-asked questions I constantly hear at our club, state convention and nationals is "HOW DO WE GET MORE YOUTH DANCERS?"** I would love to hear your input. - Thank you, Marie

ANSWER: Hello there, Marie! This is the question of all questions...the dilemma of all dilemmas...and perhaps the light at the end of the tunnel of all tunnels, depending on who is reading this article and how they go about tackling an idea or issue.

If I could wave a magic wand, Marie, I'd make would make this happen. **Where the young people of the world would be breaking down the doors to learn square dancing.** I'm going to quote my hero Fred Rogers again ATTITUDES ARE CAUGHT, RATHER THAN TAUGHT. **Do we have the right attitude in square dancing?** That's heavy if you meditate on that last line for a bit.



What are we doing wrong? What are we doing right? Do we really know? Do we all agree? Heck no!

I've written this line a bunch of times '*many different people learn many different things in many different ways.*' Also, some folks think they are doing something totally correct, but from another's viewpoint...they are doing it totally wrong! How do we all get on the same page?

Here's an example (remember the line about different people see different things in different ways). A square dance club was out promoting their club and trying to drum up new class members. These dancers dressed up in their finest square dance duds at this demo dance and were yellow rocking (hugging everyone in sight). To them, they were

showcasing the best of square dancing by their appearance and their hospitality through hugging. Another group of people saw their actions and were totally TOTALLY turned-off by their appearance and their embracing. These graduate square dancers thought, in all honesty, that they were doing the right thing. Maybe they were. But apparently, to some others (who haven't a clue about what we do in square dancing) it was totally wrong in the eyes of other onlookers.

We all have to remember what first attracted us to square dancing. This might be different for some of us who grew up with square dancing.

I've written many articles over the years, but this one entitled 'IN THE LONG RUN' has gotten so many hits, likes, comments and reviews in both the square dance community and non-square dance world as well. Here's the link, please check it out <https://www.callerlab.org/download/in-the-long-run/> Editor's Note: This article was published in the last issue of AB Chatter #2022-5, October 14, 2022.

Dance leaders have tried many different approaches over the decades with using current music, dressing more casual, going into schools, working with the church youth groups and summer camps, and some of had a lot of success while others had a great big belly flop. **You never know what the public is going to buy.**

I've worked with some homeschooler groups that have really enjoyed my presentation and the parents just ate it up because the kids put down their electronics and were being social for the first time in a long time and they were team building.

I've also done some homeschool programs where I thought I showcased some of my best stuff, music and choreography both, and the kids were just not into it, so instead of giving up I taught a version or two of square dancing like trios or Sicilian circles and made it into a contest competition and a game (which those teenagers seem to really like) I always do some type of line dancing to show them how they need to learn things in life on their own and to work by themselves on certain things but then getting them together in a group of eight and how each person or dancer has to have the other's back and when one starts to wander, how the others need to let that person back up.

The light at the end of the tunnel for me is really in that article that I am including in my answer. IN THE LONG RUN. Fantastic question... if this doesn't get the wheels turning for you check out the other article and answer I tried tackling the other day on calling in the school systems. Good luck! Remember in our small square dance world we have a nice big outlet of Resources. To be continued... 🙌👉👉 - Cory G.

NEW YEAR'S WISH

American Squaredance, December 1995

May you dance as long as you want to
And want to as long as you can,
May your toes never stop tapping
To the beat of a square dance band.

I wish you a smile on your career
And a partner that really can swing,
And each a handclasp of friendship
As you right and left grand the ring.

May you never forget the struggle
When your lessons finally were through,
May you always reach back with a helping
Hand, that someone extended to you.

May you never become a dancer
That knows all and there's no more to
learn,
In the midst of the muddle come out of
your huddle
Could be you that made the wrong turn.

As long as you're dancing - enjoy it
And the friends that you'll make 'fore
you're done,
With a smile and a song, promenade along
'cause you square dance, my friend, for
fun.

