



CALLERLAB MEETING WITH ACA

December 6, 2012

The Following Press Release was presented with the April/May 2012 Flash DIRECTION.

Before the CALLERLAB Convention in Nashville this year, Chairman **Elmer Sheffield, Jr**. organized a meeting with several leaders of the American Callers Association (ACA). This informal two-hour session covered a wide range of topics that affect our square dance activity. Both groups agreed upon some issues while others were heavily debated.

It was agreed that our activity in the U.S.A. is downsizing and aging rapidly. A number of possible factors driving this were discussed, but there was general agreement that finding a way to shorten teach times would be in the activity's best interest. A cooperative study group was formed by the attendees to research this possibility. ACA presented their ideas, and CALLERLAB is now researching theirs. A joint meeting will be held again this year after October 15th to see if a correlation can be reached.

No new program is being developed, nor has "One Floor" been endorsed. Please be aware that any listing of calls being forwarded without our trademark or logo does not have the endorsement of CALLERLAB nor does it reflect the desires of our Membership.

Since the April 1st meeting, there has been several erroneous and misleading submissions made regarding the planned cooperative development of a shortened teach proposal. CALLERLAB has continued the process as noted above and presented our submission, before the October 15th deadline, that could be used to negotiate a joint document that both organizations could submit to our memberships for input and possible approval. As noted above, ACA presented their submission at the April 1st meeting.

Chairman Elmer Sheffield coordinated the meeting of the two organizations, having been friends with Mac Letson, Gary Shoemake and Paul Marcum for many years. All three were present at the April 1st meeting along with Henry Israel. Elmer's hopes were to begin a process of reconciliation with ACA to improve the square dance activity.

Several false and misleading statements have been made pertaining to CALLERLAB's position and personal attacks made against Elmer without cause. Never once did any ACA officers contact Elmer nor CALLERLAB regarding any of the accusations presented.

With Elmer's guidance, CALLERLAB made a genuine attempt to coordinate a joint effort for the betterment of the activity. CALLERLAB will continue to move forward with the goal of presenting to our members a proposal that will hopefully make entry to square dancing easier and more attractive to the general public.

Let's "Accentuate the Positive" and move forward!