

Newsletter
for Members of

CALLERLAB

The International Association
of Square Dance Callers, Inc.



WORKING TOGETHER

Don't Stop Believin'



CONVENTION

Greenville, SC - 2025

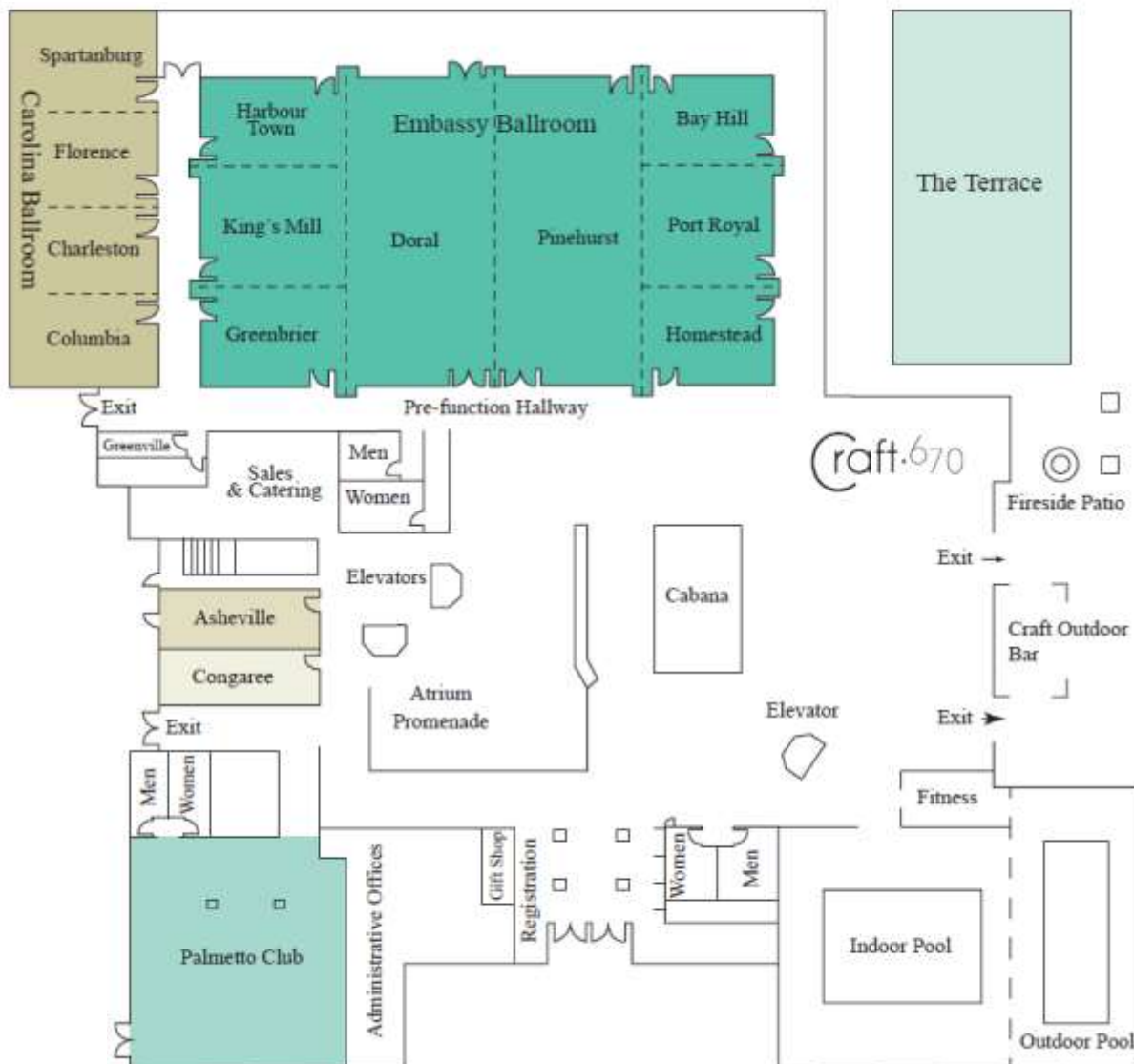


EMBASSY SUITES

by HILTON™

Embassy Suites Meeting Space Floor Plan 1st Floor

Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center



WELCOME TO CONVENTION!

From the Chair of the Board, Ted Lizotte

I can't believe it's actually time to celebrate CALLERLAB's 50th Convention!! We have been planning this gathering for over 2 years and it's almost bittersweet that it's finally here.

I know we're going to see some fresh new faces at this convention as well as some returnees that haven't been with us in a while, and to all I say, **WELCOME**.

As always, this convention is for and about our members. It has always been a gathering place to share ideas, build relationships, and celebrate an activity that has meant so much to all of us. And this year you did not disappoint! YOU have managed to make this the biggest convention in 25 years! I am so elated and humbled to see the participation!

The EC has pulled out all the stops for this one. We've brought in a Keynote Speaker from outside of the organization for a little change of pace. We've provided special collectable badges and knickknacks for you to help commemorate this once-in-a-lifetime event. You took the time to join us, and we want to make sure it's memorable!

We hope you'll participate in our auctions for the CALLERLAB Foundation, hosted by the Ways and Means committee. They have some special items planned for you to help make this the biggest year ever for our Foundation donations.

We have one resolution to vote on this convention. Our year-long discussion about "The Proposal" finally hits the finish line and we will see what the membership says.

It's a very exciting time to be here, and I'm so thankful to have you with us. None of this would be possible without you.

Many thanks to Teresa and the Home Office Staff for putting together a convention that I know will be talked about for years to come.

I look forward to seeing everyone over the coming days. As long as we're all Working Together, don't stop believing in what we can accomplish!

Thank YOU for being part of the CALLERLAB family.

-Ted

From the Home Office Staff:

We hope you enjoy the Convention! If you have any questions or issues, please be sure to stop at the Convention Home Office in Columbia and let the staff know. We want **your Convention experience to be fantastic!** If we don't know your problem, we can't fix it or even attempt to fix it. We are here to serve YOU!

You can access the Convention Portal online at callerlab.org/convention/portal or by scanning the QR code. This page is for **convention attendees only!** On the portal, you'll find a digital schedule, session handouts, maps, and more! Check your registration packet for the password.




CONVENTION MEALS WILL BE SERVED TO THOSE WEARING A BADGE!

Your Convention badge not only identifies you as an official attendee, but it is also your meal ticket for Convention meals. The wait staff have been instructed *not* to serve a meal unless you are wearing your badge.

If you requested a special diet, your Convention registration package includes cards with your name, day and meal. Please take the appropriate card to the dining room with you. Place the card on the table in front of you. The wait staff have been instructed to collect this card and bring you a meal that accommodates your dietary restrictions.

While the formal Opening Session starts on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., there are several events you will want to take advantage of during the weekend prior as well. Be sure to check out pages 5, 6, and 7 to learn more.

All interest sessions will be recorded. This icon  indicates which sessions will be recorded. The audio of the interest sessions will be available in MP3 format. CALLERLAB is offering a complete set of convention recordings via Dropbox for free to all convention attendees—make sure your name is on the list at the Home Office in Columbia. If you would like to purchase a CD or USB format, they are available for \$40. This is a great value, and one that everyone should consider to help capitalize on the information provided at this Convention. Please see the Home Office staff for more information or to fill out an order form.

You are a major part of CALLERLAB. Make the most of your attendance at this Convention and be involved. Speak up if you have something to say, and ask questions if you're not sure. We encourage you to participate. Your opinions count!

Home Office Hours

Located in Columbia

Saturday	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday	8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Home Office is your place to go for questions, documents, CALLERLAB shirts, swag, and lost & found. Our Home Office Staff and Volunteers are ready to assist you!

Vendors

Located in the Pre-function Hallway

Sunday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Be sure to visit our vendors. They have made a great commitment to be here for you, so let them know you appreciate their contributions to this Convention!

Tech Genius Bar

Located in Port Royal

Sunday	3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday	5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Much like the Apple Genius Bar, the Tech Genius Bar is staffed with experts who will be available to help attendees with one-on-one support for square dance related software.

WANTED: Candidates to run for the Board of Governors. Candidates must have a sincere interest in the future of CALLERLAB and the square dance activity. Monetary pay is non-existent, but personal rewards are priceless and you get to work as a leader for the organization. Convention is a good time to pass a petition to run for the Board. To be eligible, candidates must have been a Voting Member in good standing for the past four years and provide a Petition with 25 signatures of Voting Members. Stop by the Home Office in Columbia for more information.

Saturday – April 12, 2025

Pre-Convention Caller Clinic
(Only open to preregistered attendees)

Palmetto Club
Homestead
Port Royal

Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
	7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Home Office Columbia
Early birds may check in and pick up their convention packet. The Home Office Staff and Volunteers will be available during this time to answer questions. CALLERLAB merchandise is located in this room.

Sunday – April 13, 2025

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Pre-Convention Caller Clinic
(Only open to preregistered attendees)

Palmetto Club
Homestead
Port Royal

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Home Office

Columbia

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Vendors Pre-function Hallway
Be sure to visit our vendors. They have made a great commitment to be here for you, so let them know you appreciate their contributions to this Convention!

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Pre-Convention Clinic Dance 🎵 Doral & Pinehurst
Join us for a special dance following the brand-new Pre-Convention Caller Clinic! This exciting event will feature guest tips from participants of the clinic, who have spent the weekend refining their skills and preparing to take the mic. Don't miss this chance to cheer on these callers!

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Tech Genius Bar

Port Royal

Hosts: Amanda Skidmore, Dorothy Cook

Techs: Travis Cook, Brian Freed, Glenn Rogerson

Stop by the Tech Genius Bar for one-on-one computer support. Bring your specific questions and your laptop for assistance. Support is provided on a first come, first served basis as time allows.

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Orientation Session 🗝

Homestead

Moderator: Sherry Pladdys and Panelists: Shelly Lizotte, Charlie Petrea

This session is designed to be an informative one, especially for the first-time attendee, but it is also a good review for attendees who have not been to a Convention for some time. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the formal session is over. We encourage you to ask any questions you may have about the Convention or about CALLERLAB.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Welcome Reception

Palmetto Club

The Executive Committee will host the Reception. Look for them in the receiving line. This is also a good opportunity to chat with members of the Board of Governors (identified by a red ribbon on their badge), their partners, and various committee chairs and vice chairs (blue ribbons). The reception also provides a chance to renew acquaintances and make new friends. **Make sure to greet those wearing the “First Time Attendee” ribbon. A cash bar will be available. Hors d’oeuvres will be provided.** The Home Office Staff and Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

Dinner is on your own Sunday evening.

7:30 p.m. – Ways & Means Dance 🗝

Doral & Pinehurst

The Ways and Means Fund Raising Dance: The Ways & Means Committee will host a dance featuring the calling talents of MC John Sloper, Scott Bennett, Adam Christman, Travis Cook, Charlie Robertson, Dan Sahlstrom, Mike Seastrom, and cuer, Jan Toms. Donations accepted at the door will go to the CALLERLAB Foundation.

2025 Convention Survey

Be sure to complete the post-convention survey that will be sent to your email following the convention. The Executive Committee reads all of the feedback to help plan for next year.

50K for the 50th

Help us celebrate the 50th CALLERLAB Convention by contributing to the 50K for the 50th fundraiser! Your support will ensure the future of square dancing through scholarships, programs, and resources. Join us in making a lasting impact—donate today!

<https://callerlabfoundation.com/donations/>




Monday, April 14, 2025


8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Home Office Columbia
The Home Office will be open for late registrants and for attendees who have questions about the Convention or about their membership. CALLERLAB merchandise is located in this room.

8:30 a.m. - Moderators and Panelists Meeting Kings Mill
We will provide a brief welcome, share convention reminders, and answer any questions before the Convention begins. The Home Office will provide equipment instructions.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Vendors Pre-function Hallway
Be sure to visit our vendors. They have made a great commitment to be here for you, so let them know you appreciate their contributions to this Convention!

9:00 a.m. - Opening Session  Doral & Pinehurst
Ted Lizotte, Chair of the Board, will be presiding along with Teresa Berger, Executive Director. The Board of Governors, VIPs and representatives from various square dance organizations will be introduced. A group photo will be taken. Teresa will present an overview of the Convention and announce any changes to the schedule.

10:15 a.m. - Beverage Break Atrium Promenade

10:30 a.m. - Keynote Address  Doral & Pinehurst
To celebrate the milestone of CALLERLAB's 50th Convention, we are honored to welcome a special keynote speaker. This distinguished guest will bring a fresh perspective, offering insights and inspiration that resonate beyond our activity. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear from an engaging speaker who will challenge, motivate, and energize us as we mark this historic occasion!

11:45 a.m. - Lunch

Doral & Pinehurst

Southwest Fiesta Lunch Buffet

Be sure to wear your convention badge for all meals!

Past Chair Committee Lunch Palmetto Club
Past Chair Harlan Kerr

The Past Chair Committee will be meeting to discuss ways in which the committee can be of value to CALLERLAB. The committee members have a wealth of information as well as leadership and stand-by to assist in any way.

Theme Tip

Kings Mill

Moderator: Tom Rainer and Panelists: Eric Henerlau, Bryan Clark

By the end of this session, you'll have a thorough understanding of two calls, including how to teach, call, and extend them. You'll gain practical tips and techniques to incorporate these calls into your program and take your calling skills to the next level!

CALLERLAB: How We Started

Florence

Moderator: Ned Newberg and Panelists: Dana Schirmer, Mike Seastrom, Clark Baker

As we celebrate our 50th CALLERLAB Convention, join us for this special panel that delves into the rich history of CALLERLAB. This session will explore the origins, growth, and milestones of our organization over the past five decades, offering a reflective look at how CALLERLAB has shaped the world of square dancing.

Mechanics of Marketing

Port Royal

Moderator: Mike Olivieri and Panelists: Justin Russell, Bear Miller

Gain a comprehensive understanding of marketing from a high-level overview down to practical applications for the square dance activity. This session will explore the 4 Ps of marketing (product, price, place, and promotion), and demonstrate how to apply these concepts to effectively promote square dancing.

Singing Calls: More Than Just Singing

Homestead

Moderator: Lorne Smith and Panelists: Jim Wass, Curt Braffet

There's more to singing calls than just singing. This session will delve into the strategic use of singing calls within a dance, offering insights on choreography adaptation and effective use of music to enhance the dancing experience.

SSD Committee Meeting

Greenbrier

Buddy Weaver

SSD - Social Square Dance Committee is serving the square dance community with a program that has grown square dancing in a sustainable way. This convention we will take up the project of teach time - a much needed element. The chair will also be available to take questions and concerns.

WIC Committee Meeting

Charleston

Juli Burr, Kris Jensen

The meeting is open for all women in calling and champions of women in calling. We will review what was achieved in the last year, look at the projects we agreed on and set new goals for the upcoming year. Please join us and let your voice be heard.

2:15 p.m. - Beverage Break

Atrium Promenade

Teaching Calls

Kings Mill

Moderator: Michael Levy and Panelists: Ted Lizotte, Philipp Aff

Every teacher has a different teaching style. This panel will explain how they teach specific calls for their varying square dance classes. An effective teacher is constantly reviewing how they present each of the calls to help their dancers gain maximum success on the dance floor.

Starting New Clubs

Florence

Moderator: Sue Dellere and Panelists: Walt Burr, Shawn Brown

Join us to learn from those who have successfully built new clubs and gain the knowledge you need to start your own! By the end of this session, you'll have a clear understanding of the steps involved in starting and running a successful square dance club. You'll gain practical tips from experienced callers and learn how to navigate common challenges and opportunities.

Video Editing and Promotion

Port Royal

Moderator: Ron Giuliana and Panelist: Ray Owens

Unlock the power of video to promote square dancing! In this session, our experts will guide you through the entire process of creating and posting engaging videos. Learn how to use video as a dynamic marketing tool to attract and connect with your audience.

Mentoring New Callers

Homestead

Moderator: Mark Franks and Panelists: Jack Pladdys, Dottie Welch, Ken Ritucci

Mentoring a new Square Dance Caller is a serious business. Our future success depends on effective mentorship, which must be done correctly. Proper mentoring of new callers is just as important as teaching square dancing itself. Join us to learn tips and techniques for current callers and club leaders to foster the development of new callers. This session will present ideas and discuss resources available for mentors.

Basic and Mainstream Committee Meeting

Greenbrier

Harlan Kerr, Michael Braithwaite

The committee will review work to date. The committee will discuss and plan on the focus of this committee if the Resolution passes. There will also be a possible review of definitions of Wheel and Deal and Recycle.

Partner Committee Meeting

Charleston

Allynn Riggs, Ri-Shea Schlitter

The Partner Committee started a discussion last year to clarify the role of Partners within the CALLERLAB organization. We will continue to discuss the situation and propose a position statement.

3:45 p.m. - Break (No Beverages)

———— 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. - Breakout Sessions ————

Running a Workshop 🔑

Kings Mill

Moderator: Theresa Rutz and Panelists: Travis Cook, Buddy Weaver

In this session, you'll learn the essentials of structuring an effective workshop. We'll cover how to identify and gather resources, conduct thorough research, and design an engaging and informative workshop. This session will be specifically geared toward new callers.

How to Be an Effective Club Caller 🔑

Florence

Moderator: Bo Bierley and Panelists: Darren Gallina, Deborah Carroll-Jones, Jeremy Butler

Elevate your role as a club caller by learning how to keep your programs fresh and your dancers engaged. This session features a panel of successful club callers who will share their expertise on maintaining excitement and enthusiasm in your regular group settings. Discover valuable tips on club leadership and effective calling techniques.

Visit with Music Producers 🔑

Port Royal

Moderator: Matt Worley and Panelists: Shauna Kaaria, Tony Oxendine, Paul Bristow

Have you ever wondered what goes into producing music for square dancing? Come take a peek behind the scenes and learn about the various processes and the challenges involved.

Organizational Welcome and Planning Meeting

Homestead

Ted Lizotte

Chair of the Board, Ted Lizotte, will host this roundtable discussion with representatives of invited organizations. Join us to discuss the future of our activity and how we can work together to improve communication and collaboration.

Plus Committee Meeting

Greenbrier

Tom Davis, Hiroshi Nakagawa

To discuss any Old Business and New Business Development for The Proposal and Developing the "New Plus Program List".

Committee for Community & Traditional Dance Meeting

Charleston

Bob Riggs, Mike Preskit

The CCTD Committee will hold a meeting during the 2025 CALLERLAB convention to discuss our on-going projects and to update our membership in the preparation and execution of the survey.

If you need a room for a special meeting or just to get together, please contact the Home Office. Empty appearing rooms may be designated for other purposes.

Tech Genius Bar

Port Royal

Hosts: Amanda Skidmore, Dorothy Cook

Techs: Barry Johnson, Scott Bennett, Larry Marchese

Stop by the Tech Genius Bar for one-on-one computer support. Bring your specific questions and your laptop for assistance. Support is provided on a first come, first served basis as time allows.

Handicapable Square Dance Clubs

Greenbrier

Corben Geis

Join Corben Geis to swap notes with other dancers and dance leaders who have started handicapable square dance clubs.

BOG Informal

Charleston

Patty Greene, Jeremy Butler

Members of the Board of Governors (BOG), will be available for you to speak with on an informal basis. We would like to hear your thoughts and ideas about CALLERLAB or square dancing.



Pre-register for the 2026 Convention online or in-person. All attendees who pre-register for next year before Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE Convention Registration!



Monday Evening Activities

6:00 p.m. – Reception Begins	Atrium Promenade
6:30 p.m. - Doors Open for the Banquet	Doral & Pinehurst
7:00 p.m. - Banquet	Doral & Pinehurst

Introductions - MC Shawn Brown

Plated Dinner Served:

Fresh Baked Rolls with Butter

Garden Salad

Herbed Italian Chicken with a creamy San Marzano tomato sauce

Chef's Seasonal Vegetable and Starch Selections

Chef's Selection of Dessert

Water, Iced Tea and Coffee Service

Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Recognition

BOG Service Awards

25 Years of Calling Recognition

New Caller Coach Acknowledgement

Other Special Awards

Good Night - MC

**All award recipients—please stay for photographs immediately following the banquet.*

9:00 p.m. - Plus Dance followed by A2  Palmetto Club
Ray Brendzy will MC a dance featuring the Plus Program. Be sure to attend and enjoy an entertaining dance with callers: Craig Abercrombie, Betsy Gotta, Rick Hampton, Nick Hartley, Jon Jones, Tony Oxendine, Mike Preskitt, Don Sprosty, Doug Sprosty, and Matt Worley. There will be a half hour of A2 beginning at 10:00 p.m. with Ray Brendzy, Ed Foote and Ken Ritucci.

9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. - **Chair's Social** The Terrace
Current Chair of the Board, Ted Lizotte will host a social on The Terrace. This informal gathering is a time to chat with the Chair, relax, network and make new friends. A cash bar will be available.

Tuesday - April 15, 2025

From the Home Office Staff:

We hope you are enjoying your Convention. If you have any questions or issues, please be sure to stop at the Home Office in Columbia and let the Home Office staff know. We **want your Convention experience to be fantastic! If we don't know your problem, we can't fix it or even attempt to fix it. We are here to serve YOU!**

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Home Office Columbia
The Home Office will be open for attendees to ask questions about the Convention or about their membership. CALLERLAB merchandise is located in this room.

7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. - Tech Genius Bar Port Royal
Hosts: Amanda Skidmore, Dorothy Cook
Techs: Jack Pladdys, Jeremy Butler, Bob Riggs
Stop by the Tech Genius Bar for one-on-one computer support. Bring your specific questions and your laptop for assistance. Support is provided on a first come, first served basis as time allows.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Vendors Pre-function Hallway
Be sure to visit our vendors. They have made a great commitment to be here for you, so let them know you appreciate their contributions to this Convention!

———— 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. - Breakout Sessions ————

Proposal Recap 🔑 Kings Mill
Ted Lizotte
Are you an undecided voter? Come learn more about the Proposal. This will not replace the Wednesday morning debate or discussion. Ted will review the nuts and bolts one more time.

Relationship Calling 🔑 Florence
Moderator: Lanny Weakland and Panelists: Bear Miller, Deborah Carroll-Jones
Geared toward the more experienced caller, the panel will discuss how to utilize relationship calling as a system to have more control of your choreography.

Music: A Journey through Square Dance Music 🔑 Port Royal
Moderator: Adam Christman and Panelists: Buddy Weaver, Larry Marchese
Join us for an engaging panel discussion that traces the rich history of square dance music and examines its evolution into the digital age. This session will provide a brief overview of how square dance music has transformed over the years, from its early traditional roots to the diverse and innovative sounds we experience today. Discover how modern digital music can offer unique opportunities for today's callers.

Programming for Different Events

Homestead

Moderator: Bob Asp and Panelists: Betsy Gotta, Brad Caldwell

You program a guest tip differently than a club night or a festival. In this session, you'll learn how to tailor your square dance programming to suit various events and settings with confidence.

Definitions Committee Meeting

Greenbrier

Guy Steele, Dottie Welch

First we will summarize the recent changes to the various program definitions documents and the status of those still in progress. The major topics of discussion will be the status and current issues regarding (a) the C-1 Definitions Review effort (a collaboration with the Challenge Committee), (b) the "Additional Details" document, (c) the "Formations" document, and (d) a proposal made at last year's meeting to define a standard computer interchange format for square dance calls and sequences. Attendees are also welcome to raise items of new business during the meeting.

New Callers Committee Meeting

Charleston

Vernon Jones, Denise Carbonell

New Callers are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss issues concerning new callers.

10:15 a.m. - Beverage Break

Atrium Promenade

———— 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. - Breakout Sessions ————

Sight Resolution for Beginners

Kings Mill

Moderator: Mike Wright and Panelists: Jack Pladdys, Juli Burr


Geared for newer callers, this session delves into the art of sight calling. Sight callers must utilize a bank of knowledge to craft seamless dance experiences on the fly. The session will also cover how to monitor dancers to ensure correct formations, timing, body flow, and how to resolve sequences by moving dancers into a known FASR before using a Get-Out Module.


Self-improvement techniques

Florence

Moderator: Peggy Pingel and Panelists: Allan Hurst, Barry Johnson

Are you stuck in a rut? Many of our Members are club callers running programs, teaching classes and perhaps guest calling here and there as well. Whether you're a club caller or taking your show on the road, learn how to improve your calling to stay fresh and fun.

Solo Dancers - Are they the key to grow square dancing?  Port Royal
Moderator: Scott Pearce and Panelists: Allynn Riggs, Ri-Shea Schlitter
How can we help Solo dancers feel welcome on the dance floor? People without dance partners are often discouraged from staying in or joining our activity. Also, Partners are effectively Solo dancers when their Callers are on stage. How can or should we advocate for Solo dancers at our dances? We encourage all Partners and Callers to attend this very important session. We will discuss ways Callers, Partners, clubs, and event planners can recognize the growing number of Solo dancers (and potential dancers) in our activity and figure out how to get everyone on the floor dancing. The encouragement and inclusion of Solo dancers can very well be the key to growing our beloved activity.

Sussing the Floor  Homestead
Moderator: John Harden and Panelists: Kris Jensen, Stephen Cole, Ed Foote
In this session, you'll learn how to quickly assess the proficiency of your dancers and tailor your calling to match their abilities. You'll gain practical strategies to ensure that your calling and the dancers are successful, regardless of their experience level.

Advanced Committee Meeting Greenbrier
Ray Brendzy, Jeremy Butler
Discuss the current program and what the future may look like. Please join us and meet your fellow Advanced leaders

Music Producers Committee Meeting - *CLOSED Meeting* Charleston
Sauna Kaaria, Tony Oxendine
Annual business review.


11:45 a.m. - Lunch

Doral & Pinehurst

Soup, Salad & Baked Potato Lunch Buffet

Be sure to wear your convention badge for all meals!

———— 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. - Breakout Sessions ————

Sight Calling: Moving Dancers  Kings Mill
Moderator: Wayne Weston and Panelists: Dan Sahlstrom, Mike Hogan
So you can find your corner? Are you ready to take your sight calling to the next level? Join this panel as we dive deeper into FASR. The session will outline how to move dancers from different formations quickly and effectively as well as how to utilize all 6 arrangements regularly in your calling. Finally, the panel will discuss how you practice moving dancers on the floor.

Showmanship 🗝️

Florence

Moderator: Tim Rogers and Panelists: Patty Greene, Charlie Robertson

Step into the spotlight with confidence and charisma! In this session, you'll explore the art of showmanship, discovering how to find your unique style and presence on stage as a square dance caller. This isn't just about showing off—it's about connecting with your audience and finding your identity as a caller.

Back to Basics: Using Checkers 🗝️

Port Royal

Moderator: David Toms and Panelists: Jeremy Butler, Chuck Woods

Embark on a journey back to the fundamentals of square dance calling with this session that will introduce you to essential tools and resources available to today's callers. By the end of this session, you'll have a comprehensive understanding of the several choreographic resources available to callers, from traditional checkers to modern online resources. You'll be equipped with practical knowledge, shortcuts, and skills to enhance your calling and make your preparation more efficient.

How to Be a Better Leader 🗝️

Homestead

Moderator: Christopher Schlitter and Panelists: Eric Henerlau, Tom Davis

Being a leader is not about what title you have or how many people report to you; leadership is about how much influence you have. Come learn how you can be a better guide for your dancers and the entire square dance activity.

Accredited Caller Coach Committee Meeting - *CLOSED Meeting* 🗝️ Greenbrier

Ken Ritucci
The ACC Committee has been very busy this past year. The committee will meet to discuss the most recent past accomplishments and discuss further action items as presented by the committee members.

Ways & Means Committee Meeting

Charleston

Justin Russell, John Sloper

The Ways & Means committee tries to plan activities that will bring funds to the CALLERLAB Foundation. At our committee meeting we will discuss our three special events at this Convention: the Sunday evening Pre-Convention Dance, the Silent Auction open from Sunday evening until lunch time on Tuesday and the Tuesday Night Live Auction following the banquet. The committee will discuss the current fundraising match campaign "50k for the 50th". We invite current members as well as folks with creative ideas on fundraising to attend this committee meeting.

2:15 p.m. - Beverage Break

Atrium Promenade

Smooth Dancing and Body Flow 🔑

Kings Mill

Moderator: Dennis Farrar and Panelists: Paul Bristow, Barry Clasper

How do you keep dancers moving on the floor while calling a dynamic program? This panel will demonstrate how to keep your dancers energized and take your calling to the next level by mastering smooth dancing techniques and body flow.

Square Dance Parties 🔑

Florence

Moderator: Mike Preskitt and Panelists: Bob Riggs, Vernon Jones

Get ready to dive into the lively world of square dance parties! In this session, you'll learn how to plan for and call a fun-filled square dance event for non-dancers. From choosing the right music to engaging your dancers, we'll cover all the essentials to ensure your square dance party is a hit.

Vocal Sweet Spot 🔑

Port Royal

Moderator: Victoria Bundy and Panelists: Shauna Kaaria, Scott Bennett

Discover how to optimize your vocal performance by finding and utilizing your vocal sweet spot. The session will be spent helping callers find the sweet spot for a particular singing call where they might need assistance. (Callers who wish to participate should bring their music and microphone to the session. Names will be collected at the door and drawn randomly with the goal of completing as many as possible within the allotted time.)

Caller Training Committee Meeting

Homestead

Betsy Gotta, John Marshall

The Caller Training Committee is looking to meet the needs of new callers, existing callers and those callers who are mentoring callers. Previously, this committee has produced a Mentoring Guidelines Document and has recently updated the Starter Kit for New Callers. The committee wants to know what it can do to help newer callers and existing callers to become more skilled at their craft. Come to the Caller Training Committee Meeting with your ideas.

Public Relations Committee Meeting

Greenbrier

John Harden, Ron Giuliana

The Public Relations Committee will be focusing on how we can better spread the word about what CALLERLAB has to offer to Square Dance Callers and Leaders who may not be aware of the many things CALLERLAB has to offer to the Square Dance world. If you are interested in getting involved in raising the CALLERLAB voice, plan to come visit the committee meeting this year.

Mike Seastrom

Come join the SCC meeting. You don't have to be a member. Share your ideas for our documents on ways to increase new dancer retention and club dancer retention. Let's make classes, clubs, and dance weekends more fun.

Items left with the vendors should be picked up before they close at 5:00 p.m.!

3:45 p.m. - Break (No Beverages)

———— 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. - Breakout Sessions ————

Theme Tip 

Kings Mill

Moderator: Ray Savell and Panelists: Ray Brendzy, Dan Sahlstrom


By the end of this session, you'll have a thorough understanding of two calls, including how to teach, call, and extend them. You'll gain practical tips and techniques to incorporate these calls into your program and take your calling skills to the next level!

Modules: Designing and Usage 

Florence

Moderator: Tony Oxendine and Panelists: Lorenz Kuhlee, Charlie Robertson

This panel is specifically designed for newer square dance callers. It will provide a comprehensive guide on how to design effective modules and utilize them across various programs. Participants will learn about crucial considerations such as module length, body flow, hand availability, and more to create smooth experiences.

Building Your Brand 

Port Royal

Moderator: Michael Braithwaite and Panelists: Hunter Keller, Kristy Woods

Your brand is what sets you apart in the square dance community! Discover the essentials of personal branding and how to present yourself as a standout square dance caller. This session will cover how to develop and communicate your unique brand, including your personal appearance, online presence, and self-promotion strategies.

Dealing with Adverse Situations 

Homestead

Moderator: Joe Arnold and Panelists: Justin Russell, Amanda Skidmore

Learn effective approaches to dealing with challenging situations, concerns and complaints in a manner that will de-escalate tension, and produce positive, productive outcomes. After a brief overview of the approaches, the panel will host a group discussion.

Choreographic Applications Committee Meeting

Greenbrier

Dottie Welch, Doren McBroom

The creation of the Advanced Online Teaching Resource is about one-quarter done. We will be clarifying the future responsibilities of volunteers who are working on creating, collecting and checking choreography for this resource. Please attend if you would like to participate. If the Proposal passes, we will need to make changes in the Online Teaching Resource and the Standard Applications documents. If you are willing to help with sorting, editing, or checking choreography, please come to discuss this process.

Marketing Committee Meeting

Charleston

Jack Pladdys, Brian Freed

We will review the marketing survey completed this past year and discuss two new significant projects for 2025/26.

———— 5:15 p.m. Birds of a Feather (BOF) Sessions ————

Skills Based Teaching

Greenbrier

Glenn Rogerson

Glenn has taught many skills based activities, including: Rock Climbing, Snow Skiing, Archery and Hang Gliding. He combines this with the vocabulary skills he gained studying Japanese and Mandarin. We take a skills based approach to teaching the skills of square dancing. The students love it because they can tell they are learning at a fast pace, and nobody is getting left behind, they always feel successful. Come explore "what's possible".

ACC Informal

Charleston

Shauna Kaaria, Barry Clasper

Attend this informal session to discuss any aspect of the calling profession with Accredited Caller-Coaches. Information about accreditation and reaccreditation procedures will be available. If you are interested in coaching callers, we invite you to attend this session.



2025 Convention Survey

Be sure to complete the post-convention survey that will be sent to your email following the convention. The Executive Committee reads all of the feedback to help plan for next year.

Tuesday Evening Activities

6:00 p.m. – Reception Begins Atrium Promenade

6:30 p.m. - Doors Open for the Banquet Doral & Pinehurst

7:00 p.m. - Banquet Doral & Pinehurst

Introductions - MC Brad Caldwell

Plated Dinner Served:

Fresh Baked Rolls with Butter

Garden Salad

Classic Prime Rib served with horseradish sauce and au jus

Chef's Seasonal Vegetable and Starch Selections

Chef's Selection of Dessert

Water, Iced Tea and Coffee Service

Executive Committee & Board of Governors Recognition

Chair's Award

50 Years of Calling Certificates

Other Special Awards

Chair's Speech

Good Night - MC

**All award recipients—please stay for photographs immediately following the banquet.*

9:00 p.m. – Live Auction Doral & Pinehurst

Immediately following the banquet, there will be a live auction benefiting the CALLERLAB Foundation, hosted by the Ways & Means Committee. Auctioneers will be Vernon Jones and Hunter Keller. Pick up your auction number when you enter the banquet. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Foundation!

10:00 p.m. – Specialty Dance Hour 🗝️ Palmetto Club

Bob Riggs will MC an hour featuring specialty dances. Join Mike Hogan for Progressive Squares, Vernon Jones for Old Time Dances and Bob Riggs for Sicilian Circles. **Don't miss this fun hour!**

Wednesday – April 16, 2025

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Home Office

Columbia

The Home Office will be open for attendees to ask questions about the Convention, **about their membership, or to register for next year's Convention.**

9:00 a.m. - Annual Meeting (Closing Session)

Doral & Pinehurst

Ted Lizotte, Chair of the Board will be presiding. Teresa Berger, Executive Director, and Parliamentarian, Debbie Ceder will be seated at the front table. Ray Brendzy, Patty Greene, Barry Johnson, and Vernon Jones will serve as Sergeants-at-Arms. This is the Annual CALLERLAB Business Meeting as noted in the **“Call to Convention”**. **If there is not a quorum present, then the only matters that may be voted upon are those which were described in the “Call to Convention”** DIRECTION.

REMEMBER YOUR VOTE CARD!

Following the meeting, all Voting Members will be sent a ballot via their preferred voting method. Every decision of the Members at the meeting shall stand as final unless: A) The number of valid ballots returned is equal to at least one-third (1/3) of the number of Voting Members, AND B) A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the ballots returned favor rescinding that decision.

2025 Convention Survey

Be sure to complete the post-convention survey that will be sent to your email following the convention. The Executive Committee reads all of the feedback to help plan for next year.

Convention Recordings

All interest sessions will be recorded. The audio of the interest sessions will be available in MP3 format. CALLERLAB is offering a complete set of convention recordings via Dropbox for free to all convention attendees—make sure your name is on the list at the Home Office in Columbia. If you would like to purchase a CD or USB format, they are available for \$40. This is a great value, and one that everyone should consider to help capitalize on the information provided at this Convention. Please see the Home Office staff for more information or to fill out an order form.

Thank you for helping us make the 50th CALLERLAB Convention a BIG success!

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and Home Office Staff, **we sincerely hope this Convention has been a memorable experience for you. We've been working toward this for a long time, and we hope you're heading home with fresh ideas, renewed energy, valuable connections, and unforgettable moments from your time in Greenville, SC.**

We welcome your feedback! After the Convention, you'll receive a post-convention survey via email—please take a few moments to share your thoughts. Your input is invaluable, and next year's planning committee will carefully review all comments to help shape future Conventions. Also, be sure to take a copy of this DIRECTION to dances and meetings to share the latest updates from CALLERLAB.

A huge shoutout to the Executive Committee for the immense thought and effort they put into every detail of this event, and heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Home Office staff and volunteers who helped bring it all together.

Now, make your plans to join us for another exciting event—the 51st CALLERLAB Convention! The Beat Goes On as we head to Reno, NV, at the Grand Sierra Resort, March 29 - April 1, 2026. Be part of the next chapter in CALLERLAB history with special events, professional development, and lasting memories. You can register now at callerlab.org/convention/2026registration.

Thank you for working together, and remember, Don't Stop Believin'!

Teresa Berger, Executive Director



Convention at a Glance



Convention Portal
Link

Interest Sessions (All Sessions Audio Recorded)

Back to Basics: Using Checkers	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Port Royal
Building Your Brand	Tue	4:00 p.m.	Port Royal
CALLERLAB: How We Started	Mon	1:00 p.m.	Florence
Dealing with Adverse Situations	Tue	4:00 p.m.	Homestead
How to Be a Better Leader	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Homestead
How to Be an Effective Club Caller	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Florence
Mechanics of Marketing	Mon	1:00 p.m.	Port Royal
Mentoring New Callers	Mon	2:30 p.m.	Homestead
Modules: Designing and Usage	Tue	4:00 p.m.	Florence
Music: A Journey through Square Dance Music	Tue	9:00 a.m.	Port Royal
Programming for Different Events	Tue	9:00 a.m.	Homestead
Proposal Recap	Tue	9:00 a.m.	Kings Mill
Relationship Calling	Tue	9:00 a.m.	Florence
Running a Workshop	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Kings Mill
Self-improvement techniques	Tue	10:30 a.m.	Florence
Showmanship	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Florence
Sight Calling: Moving Dancers	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Kings Mill
Sight Resolution for Beginners	Tue	10:30 a.m.	Kings Mill
Singing Calls: More Than Just Singing	Mon	1:00 p.m.	Homestead
Smooth Dancing and Body Flow	Tue	2:30 p.m.	Kings Mill
Solo Dancers - Are they the key to grow square dancing?	Tue	10:30 a.m.	Port Royal
Square Dance Parties	Tue	2:30 p.m.	Florence
Starting New Clubs	Mon	2:30 p.m.	Florence
Sussing the Floor	Tue	10:30 a.m.	Homestead
Teaching Calls	Mon	2:30 p.m.	Kings Mill
Theme Tip - Call #1 & Call #2	Mon	1:00 p.m.	Kings Mill
Theme Tip - Call #1 & Call #2	Tue	4:00 p.m.	Kings Mill
Video Editing and Promotion	Mon	2:30 p.m.	Port Royal
Visit with Music Producers	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Port Royal
Vocal Sweet Spot	Tue	2:30 p.m.	Port Royal

Birds of a Feather (Not Recorded)

ACC Informal	Tue	5:15 p.m.	Charleston
BOG Informal	Mon	5:15 p.m.	Charleston
Handicapable Square Dance Clubs	Mon	5:15 p.m.	Greenbrier
Skills Based Teaching	Tue	5:15 p.m.	Greenbrier

Tech Genius Bar (Not Recorded)

Tech Genius Bar	Sun	3:00 p.m.	Port Royal
Tech Genius Bar	Mon	5:15 p.m.	Port Royal
Tech Genius Bar	Tue	7:45 a.m.	Port Royal

Committee Meetings (Not Recorded)

Accredited Caller Coaches	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Greenbrier
Advanced	Tue	10:30 a.m.	Greenbrier
Basic & Mainstream	Mon	2:30 p.m.	Greenbrier
Caller Training	Tue	2:30 p.m.	Homestead
Choreographic Applications	Tue	4:00 p.m.	Greenbrier
CCTD	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Charleston
Definitions	Tue	9:00 a.m.	Greenbrier
Marketing	Ton	4:00 p.m.	Charleston
Music Producers	Tue	10:30 a.m.	Charleston

New Callers	Tue	9:00 p.m.	Charleston
Organizational Welcome	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Homestead
Partner	Mon	2:30 p.m.	Charleston
Past Chair Lunch	Mon	12:00 p.m.	Congaree
Plus	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Greenbrier
Public Relations	Tue	2:30 p.m.	Greenbrier
Social Connections	Tue	2:30 p.m.	Charleston
SSD	Mon	1:00 p.m.	Greenbrier
Ways & Means	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Charleston
Women In Calling	Mon	1:00 p.m.	Charleston

Home Office Hours

Sat	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sun	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon /Tue	8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wed	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Vendors

Sun	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon /Tue	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dances

Doral & Pinehurst

Pre-Convention Clinic	Sun	2:30 p.m.
-----------------------	-----	-----------

Doral & Pinehurst

Ways & Means	Sun	7:30 p.m.
--------------	-----	-----------

Palmetto

Plus followed by A2	Mon	9:00 p.m.
Specialty Hour	Tue	10:00 p.m.

General Assembly

Palmetto

Welcome Reception	Sun	5:00 p.m.
-------------------	-----	-----------

Doral & Pinehurst

Opening Session	Mon	9:00 a.m.
Keynote	Mon	10:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting	Wed	9:00 a.m.