

## **MILESTONE AWARD PRESENTED TO BARRY & PAM CLASPER**

**Presented by Harlan Kerr**

[\\*Watch the presentation on YouTube!](#)

Usually when the Milestone Award is given, the names of the recipients are kept quiet until the end. I have decided to break that tradition and name the recipients early in this presentation. It is my pleasure to present the CALLERLAB Milestone Award to an amazing team that has done an incredible amount of work for both calling and square dancing in general. When you think of all this couple has contributed to calling and dancing, they seem a natural choice for the CALLERLAB Milestone Award.

**Barry and Pam Clasper** began square dancing in 1973. Barry moved on to calling in 1984 and calls SSD and Basic and up through C4. He has taught many dancers in the Toronto area, and really loves teaching beginners. In addition, Barry has taught at numerous caller schools, some of which I was fortunate to be on staff of. In addition, Barry began writing a series of great articles on square dancing in the 1980s. Several of these have endured the test of time, and all are listed on his website. His articles “How Good is Good” and “May I Help” are outstanding articles and have been published in many places. His humorous piece, “The Ultimate Call”, still comes around occasionally and always gets both laughs and some reflection on the craft and art of calling and teaching.

Over the years Barry and Pam have become “go to” presenters at CALLERLAB Conventions, and always give great presentations with well written and informative handouts.

Barry’s service to CALLERLAB and calling includes:

- Board of Governors Chairman, (2013-2015)
- Executive Committee member 2011-2017
- Member of Board of Governors since 2009.
- Chairman of the Challenge Committee
- Chairman of Past Chairman’s Committee
- Participating member of several CALLERLAB committees
- Newest Accredited Caller-Coach
- Calls across Canada and the U.S.A. and has called in nine overseas countries.

Barry’s most historic contribution, of course, was creating and guiding the ongoing development of the CALLERLAB KnowledgeBase. In Barry’s second year as the chair, there was a Brainstorming Session at Convention where hundreds of ideas for recruitment and retention were collected. Pam and Barry brought those ideas home, put them in a spreadsheet, and that was the genesis of the KnowledgeBase. As we are all aware, it has expanded exponentially from there. Barry, often with Pam’s collaboration, continues to spend time almost every day working on it, and adding new information to it.

This is not the first time Pam and Barry have been recognized as a contributing team to square dancing and calling. In 2017, Pam and Barry were honored with the Trillium Merit Award from the Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation for their significant contribution

to Square Dancing in in Ontario. In 2018, Pam and Barry were given the Golden Boot Award for outstanding contribution to the IAGSDC.

**Pam Clasper** has contributed to CALLERLAB in many ways on her own. Most notably she is chair of the History Committee and is responsible for providing the leadership in identifying and preserving materials that represent, depict, and record the history of CALLERLAB. These include documents, pictures, and other materials regardless of media. An important additional function is the documentation of ways of making both Members and non-members aware of the history of CALLERLAB. Like Barry, Pam works almost daily on various aspects of preserving the history of CALLERLAB and square dancing in general. Pam also serves as chair of the Research and Development Committee, with a focus on performing research and development on topics important to the sustainability and promotion of CALLERLAB and square dancing. In addition, Pam manages and chairs the IAGSDC History Project that documents and archives the history of the IAGSDC. Pam also was the founder of the All Join Hands Canada Foundation which provides fund raising and support for a variety of IAGSDC projects, including caller's school scholarships and funds for new club development. Pam has served as part of the Convention orientation team for many years, presented many times at Convention sessions, and has supported CALLERLAB in numerous other ways.

The gestalt of their work and collaboration cannot be underestimated. Pam and Barry have truly changed square dancing and calling for the better in ways that will endure the test of time and make a wide scale difference for all callers and dancers well into the future. In their participation and leadership in the calling and square dance communities, both Pam and Barry are an outstanding model of professional conduct, impeccable professional leadership behavior, and thinking of the preservation and betterment of calling and square dancing first. Their day-to-day participation in our activity is a is an expression of the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics.

Their personal relationship is the epitome of what a caller and partner relationship should be. I would go as far as to say they set the "gold standard" for professionalism and leadership qualities.

Thus, it is with great pleasure that I present the CALLERLAB Milestone Award to **Pam and Barry Clasper**.