



Dick Leger
Milestone, 1985

It was entirely appropriate that, when searching for a theme for the 1985 CALLERLAB Convention, the Executive Committee selected "Music - Our Greatest Ally", suggested by Dick Leger. A favorite expression of Dick's is, "The common denominator between the caller and the dancer is the music". Music, friendship, fun, and fellowship are, and always have been, an essential part of Dick's philosophy when calling for a club, teaching a class, or when working with callers.

Dick worked his way into the square dance world via his wife, Sue, who played the piano in her mother's square dance orchestra. Because Sue did not drive, Dick did the chauffeuring from one end of Rhode Island to the other, and while attending these dances, he began learning some of the routines. Before long he had carved out an avocation of his own. This was back in the early 1950s and within the next decade Dick Leger became known in the area as "The Man With the Guitar."

Endowed with a good musical background, Dick is a self-taught caller. With the introduction of western square dancing into New England, Dick set the course he believed necessary for the perpetuation of present-day square dancing -- a blending of the intricacies of the western figures with the time-tested fun philosophy of the eastern dancing.

A specialist on timing, Leger is frequently called upon to conduct clinics on the subject at conventions, festivals, and institutes. He served as president of the Narragansett Callers Association and was chairman of the CALLERLAB Timing Committee. He has recorded for Grenn and TNT. Two of his best known releases were "Mary Ann" on Folkraft, and "Marina" on the Top label and he has been featured on the Documentaries In Sound for the American Square Dance Society. A man of multi-talents, he calls quadrilles, contra, traditional and modern square dances, and also cues rounds.

Dick Leger became a member of the Square Dance Hall of Fame in 1978.