

CONFIDENTIAL
NEWSLETTER
for Members of
CALLERLAB
(wing of A.S.D.S.)

direction



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FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 1972 - A PROGRESS REPORT

Not much room for idle chatter in this one. Seems as though everything is popping at once. A lot of concerned people writing in about things they're worried about; endless new terminology, lack of standardization, costumes tending to go bloeey, etc. For this particular issue we'll have to temporarily by-pass a good deal of this and anticipate that much of it will come up in our discussions at Asilomar, next February. Incidentally, please forgive us for the "CONFIDENTIAL" stamp on the envelope but some of you mentioned that you had overlooked your copy of DIRECTION when it arrived, thinking it was just more "junk mail." We wanted to make sure that this issue received immediate attention.

A MESSAGE from the CHAIRMAN of CALLERLAB '73 - ARNIE KRONENBERGER

"Our coming meeting, scheduled to start the first Sunday in February, is going to be the most important one yet. You've given your working committee certain assignments that are now either completed and ready for your approval or are in the works. You've taken on for yourselves certain obligations - which will also be reported. There's the First Caller's Convention (Jerry, we'll be anxious for your findings), the sub-committee meeting on a 'Uniform Curriculum for Caller's Schools' (we have a report on that from the Committee but we hope that Jim Mayo will be on hand to fill us in on the details of how your findings should be implemented), and Frank Lane will have a progress report on the booklet 'A Contemporary History of American Square Dancing.' This is to mention just a few. If you have a task assignment please come with your report.

"We've all agreed that CALLERLAB is the direction that we want to go. Actually it's about the only direction we can go if we want to work together and pool our knowledge and resources in putting Caller Leadership back on the track where it belongs. We've given Osgood certain things to accomplish and in meeting with him several times over the past year I feel that he's interpreted what you've wanted and is doing a first rate job. The point now is whether we're all doing the job that is necessary to support him.

"For one thing, you asked him to issue a CALLERLAB Bulletin with the idea that you would supply him with information, dance material (I think it was you who suggested that, Flip), and committee progress reports. Are you doing this? I know that some of you are, but we need communications (no matter how brief) from all of you.

"We put together a questionnaire relative to the fees you charge while on the road so that you could have a better idea of what the other fellows are charging and included information questions on other important material. This was sent out to all of you several months ago. Some are back - but not all. The results are bound to be helpfully informative but we need 100% return. Don't worry

about going into detail, just fill out what you can, off the top of your head in five minutes or so and fire the questionnaire back so that you'll have the results in your hands at the meeting.

"From indications we have on hand this will be a well attended 'stag' session. Bob needs your definite YES or NO relative to attendance just as soon as possible so that he can make final housing arrangements. If you've already given us a definite OK, fine. If you indicated a MAYBE on your previous answer we need a definite reply now. If you haven't replied as yet, please get to it! And, if you said NO before and find now that you can come - we'd very much like to hear that too! By all means - one way or the other - REPLY BY JANUARY 5, 1973. (Unless we hear otherwise, reservations will be from Sunday Afternoon, February 6 through Tuesday lunch, February 8, 1973, OKAY?)

"Finally, as many of you know, after calling for twenty-five years, I'm hanging up the microphone as of the end of this month. I've just become too involved in my work here in the advertising specialties field and it was a case of either it or calling, and this appeared to be the right direction. I must admit that part of my decision was based on the state of the square dance activity today. Just between all of us, I've always said that when calling stopped being 'fun' I was going to get out. And that's what I'm doing. But I'm not leaving the activity altogether. I'm confident that something can and should be done to re-direct it and after this many years in an activity that has been mighty good to me I would like to do what I can to help get it aimed in the right direction.

"I believe that CALLERLAB is off to a fine start. I think that's what all forty of us feel. But so many of us are involved with our own obligations that it's not possible for all of us to get as involved as we would be if we weren't on the road calling every night. Now that I'm clear I want to continue to attend the meetings and I'm sure I'll have more opportunities to help Bob with the correspondence, with this Newsletter and with implementing some of the tasks the group has taken on. I'm sure that as any of you have time to take on added responsibilities for CALLERLAB, Osgood will be more than happy to share some of the chores with you. So just let him know. There's going to be plenty for all of us to do.

"What I've been getting at is that I think it's time now for all of us to stop procrastinating. We have a terrific opportunity, by working TOGETHER, to show the whole square dance activity that the callers are willing and able to develop their own Caller/Leadership program and that they can work together as professionals. Out of the several thousand who call, only forty of us at this time are involved in setting the direction, through CALLERLAB, for the future. Let's all (1) try our best to be at that meeting at Asilomar this February, (2) do our committee assignments or at least communicate with Os and let him know what we're thinking and, (3) let's spend some time between now and February 6 to think of practical ways for CALLERLAB influence to be felt."

Sincerely, Arnie

FUTURE MEMBERS OF CALLERLAB Remember, one of our original goals is that CALLERLAB should be "inclusive", not "exclusive" where caller-members are concerned. By starting small and growing slowly our hope is to build strength and confidence. We are now 40 members. Our next step is 100. Enclosed is a list of names, including many that you have sent in, to be voted upon for membership at our meeting in February. This is only a "think list." None of these people know that they're being considered and perhaps we should keep it that way. Suggest all present members go over the list, crossing out any and adding any that you would like to take action on at the meeting. BRING THIS LIST WITH YOU TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING.

DANCE MATERIAL - As suggested at the past meetings, while CALLERLAB has no intention of getting into the caller note service (or for that matter to compete in any activities now in existence) several members voiced their desire for an interchange among the members of (1) usable gimmicks, (2) re-working singing call lyrics where the tune is well recorded but the existing call is poorly structured or out of date, and (3) proven material to go along with the 50 Basics Program. Here, as a start, are some simple and short gimmick combinations. If this sort of thing is helpful, how about your contributions?

VERY BASIC - (But Tricky!)

First and third forward and back
Forward again and box the gnat
Pass thru and around one
Right hand star in the middle
Once around - pick up corner with an arm around
Back out and make a ring
Four ladies pass thru and around one
Pass thru and around one
Trail thru and star by the right with the one you meet
Four two hand, right hand stars
Once and a half around
On to the corner - star by the left
Once around - on to the corner
Box the gnat - eight to the middle
Star by the right
Girls roll out and pass one man
Allemande left, etc.

FROM A PROMENADE

One and three wheel around
Right and left thru
Same two trail thru, then star thru with corner
Circle eight and then
Ladies roll a half sashay
Allemande left, etc.

GIMMICK WITHIN THE BASIC 50

Two and four right and left thru
Head ladies chain
Heads promenade three quarters
Sides star thru, pass thru
Promenade three quarters
Others star thru, pass thru
Promenade three quarters
Others star thru, pass thru
Promenade halfway
Others star thru, pass thru
Allemande left, etc.

NOT TOUGH - JUST EASY CHALLENGE

Head gents and corner girl
Forward and back
Then star thru
Split two, round one line up four
Star thru, cloverleaf
Centers turn thru
Outsides California twirl
(or partner trade)
Everybody cloverleaf
Allemande left, etc.

TOUGHEST MOVEMENT IS CIRCULATE

Four ladies chain three quarters
New head ladies chain
One and three square thru
Swing thru
Ends (girls) run
Centers (girls) trade
Couples circulate
Ends (men) run
Centers (men) trade
Men circulate
Girls circulate
Allemande left, etc.

COMPLETE ZERO FROM
A STATIC SQUARE

One and three square thru
Swing thru
Boys run
All eight California twirl
(or partner trade)
Men trade
Men circulate
Cast off three quarters
Circle eight or allemande left

BENEFITS - We've had two more recent examples of callers injured and hospitalized with all income cut off. Health insurance, loss of pay insurance and car

insurance can all fit into certain "group" plans that are lenient on eligibility requirements but are available to members of "qualified groups" meeting certain conditions. We plan to have a pretty concise report for you in February at the meeting. There are other advantages such as automobile fleet purchase plans, etc., that will be discussed.

THE TAX PICTURE - Each year Uncle Sam manages to change some of the tax laws and it takes an expert or group of experts to keep up. Suggestion: Because lawyers and tax accountants manage to cover different bits and pieces of the laws governing taxes, why not pool what information we can get and pass the findings among the membership? Maybe there are new deductions or tax benefits that your lawyer is not aware of. Maybe there are others he's come up with. Pass them along as soon as possible and we'll try to get them into the next issue of DIRECTION, in time, we hope, for your April tax deadline.

A NEW ROLE FOR CALLER/LEADERS - Looking for security, good paying jobs, a future in the calling and teaching field? Member Don Armstrong will give a meeting report on a wide open field for qualified, experienced callers. He's experimenting with the project on the campus of the University of New Mexico and has quite an intriguing story to tell.

The FIRST (completely caller-organized) INTERNATIONAL CALLERS CONVENTION - Where will it be? Location committee report by Jerry Helt at the February '73 meeting. When will it be? That's up to the membership. Hope to decide on this at the meeting. What's the program? Who will come? Who will Staff? What's our goal? All of that is on the agenda for CALLERLAB '73. A progress report will be given.

LEGACY - If you haven't a copy of the November '72 issue of SQUARE DANCING magazine (Sets in Order) let us know so that we can send you a copy. Please all read the first section on "WHY" and see how the square dance picture today appears after a rather intensive study. CALLERLAB has its place as one of twelve parts that make up the activity as a whole. Because it appears that some of these parts are unaware of what each of the others are doing, the square dance movement has become fragmented, split up, uncooperative, uncommunicative. Three members of CALLERLAB (Stan Burdick, editor of American Square Dance Magazine; Charlie Baldwin, editor of The New England Caller and Bob Osgood, editor of SQUARE DANCING) have set up a "SUMMIT MEETING" of sorts to which a limited number of representatives of each of the divisions of square dancing have been invited. The purpose: To take a good close look at the activity and all its parts and to see how it might work more closely together. This seems like a very important meeting for CALLERLAB's voice to be heard. It has been suggested that Bob Van Antwerp (from the West) and Jim Mayo (from the East) be asked to attend. In addition, your chairman, Arnie K. has been invited and according to present plans, will attend. More about this at the meeting.

A SERVICE TO THE ACTIVITY - (Here's an assignment for each one of us to think over prior to our 1973 meeting.) Consider the service that CALLERLAB could offer, first to caller associations around the world, and second, to the National Convention and perhaps to other conventions and groups, if we were to make available a list of those members of CALLERLAB who are qualified and experienced to speak on certain subjects at meetings, conventions, etc. Here in CALLERLAB we have something of great value to offer the activity in general and callers in particular. Caller associations in many areas are literally dying out simply because of the fact that they have been "rehashing the same old subjects" year after year and the inbreeding has left little in the way of stability. If

these groups could schedule, on a lecture circuit, top calibre leaders, such as you, to speak on subjects you feel particularly qualified to speak on, CALLERLAB would be in a position of not only justifying its existence but of helping caller groups throughout the land to become stronger and more useful. Perhaps this sort of project could be partially underwritten in the future by CALLERLAB. For the time being financing such a project would have to fall on either the individual caller associations and their members or, as in the case of some areas, dancer associations might split the income from festivals and conventions with the caller groups, giving them adequate funds for projects of this type.

This same "Speaker Availability List" could be handed to the folks running the annual National Square Dance Convention and because of it perhaps the quality of leadership, panel speakers, callers, etc., could be greatly improved. Please give this particular project serious consideration. It might be something that we can implement during the coming year.

PARTING SHOTS - We accomplished much at our last big meeting but up to now we've been loaded with 101 minor tasks of "simply getting off the ground." Now, it appears, we're ready to fly! With this next meeting coming up in February we will take steps to bring our membership up to the ONE HUNDRED mark. From there, our increase to eventually involve all callers as members of CALLERLAB, is just a matter of several decisions - and time.

- Your Newsletter, DIRECTION, has been properly launched.
- A uniform curriculum for callers schools is being devised.
- A Callers' Convention is well on its way to becoming a reality.
- The first CALLERLAB communications questionnaire has been distributed.
- A Benefits Program is nearing completion.
- Representation at the LEGACY meeting has been suggested.
- The two basic programs for American Square Dancing, endorsed by CALLERLAB, have met with overwhelming acceptance.

There's more, of course, and it will all be covered when we see you in February. In the meantime, from all of us to all of you, A Most Happy and Prosperous New Year.

P. S. We're enclosing the current issue of GAVEL and KEY which is going out to all dancer association presidents and area square dance publication editors. Just thought you'd like a copy for your files.