

NEWSLETTER
for Members of
CALLERLAB

Direction



Volume One - Number Five

November 30, 1973

CONVENTION REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION REVIEW

Please check over this Confirmation Review and let us know if any of the information is incorrect

_____, as a delegate to the CALLERLAB sponsored First International (invitational) Callers' Convention, we have you listed as attending () with your wife _____; () by yourself in a private room; () sharing a private room with another caller-delegate. We have received your registration deposit of \$ _____. We're delighted that you will be a part of this first CONVENTION!

INFORMATION - The First International Callers' Convention

This pre-Convention Newsletter is especially designed to fill you in on the latest info regarding our April meeting and to tell you a bit about the Convention, what it is all about and what we hope to accomplish.

As one of the more than 20 callers working on this initial Convention expressed recently, ... "the very fact that 124 callers from the United States, Canada, New Zealand and possibly from Australia and Great Britain, will be gathered together for a period of three days in St. Louis is a giant step in the right direction...". We agree. Never before has anything of this magnitude been attempted. Never has there been, on an international or even a national basis, a gathering of just callers and their wives (incidentally, 80 wives will be attending with their husbands). If nothing else were accomplished but to provide a setting for a nose-to-nose communicating session among many of the top caller/teacher professionals, the session would have to go down as an historical first. However, much is planned for the Convention. When we depart from St. Louis on Wednesday, April 10, 1974, we will have decided upon definite directions that we may take in helping to establish the future stability of the square dance activity.

For more than a year the prime concerns of square dance leaders have been studied and as a result the Convention will tackle the most urgent problems, discuss many more, and begin to lay the groundwork for the future of CALLERLAB. In our planning we have determined that some of the major subjects to be covered include:

- (1) The need for an objective, effective, cooperative, friendly form of international caller society.
- (2) The urgent need for some way of evaluating new "experimental movements" and the feasibility of some form of clearing house.
- (3) The possibility of forming some system of caller accreditation.

(4) The establishment of some workable form of communications between the annual National Square Dance Convention and the callers.

(5) A thorough study of a possible program of uniformity of square dance styling.

Also included will be progress reports on a program of benefits for callers, (insurance, retirement, car purchase plan, etc.), a standard curriculum for callers' schools, a public relations program for callers.

As an "assignment" for all who will be attending the CONVENTION: Do some thinking about these subjects and come to the CONVENTION prepared with ideas and suggestions so we can all look forward to a free exchange of ideas and, as a result, come up with positive resolutions.

CALLERLAB: What Is It and What Are Its Goals?

As you may know, CALLERLAB started out as an affiliation of a number of established caller-leaders. The group laid its initial groundwork in Colorado as long ago as Summer, 1961. However, not until February, 1971, when 14 members of the Caller's Hall of Fame gathered in California for a meeting, did the group realistically get into action.

It was the feeling of those who attended this session that the direction square dancing was taking appeared to be loaded with "detours." A lack of standardization, and an uncontrolled flood of non-descriptive, frequently awkward experimental movements was one source of confusion. It appeared that instead of working together for the common interest of the activity, callers were, for the most part, endeavoring to lick the problems on an individual basis. It was also apparent that the square dance activity needed the benefit of coordinated caller leadership direction.

In forming a group to be known as CALLERLAB, the objectives were to determine ways to solve these various problems and to accomplish, by working closely together, the many projects that simply could not be accomplished by the individual caller working alone.

Rather than immediately "opening the doors" to all callers everywhere, it was decided that expansion of CALLERLAB membership would be on a gradual, personal invitational basis and that in this way a firm foundation could be built and maintained.

The following is a list of those who are members at the present time. Those marked with an * constitute the CALLERLAB Board of Governors: Ken Anderson, *Don Armstrong, Charlie Baldwin, *Al Brundage, *Stan Burdick, *Marshall Flippo, *Cal Golden, *C.O. Guest, *Jerry Haag, *Lee Helsel, *Jerry Helt, *Bruce Johnson, *Earl Johnston, Jay King, *Arnie Kronenberger, *Frank Lane, *Jack Lasry, *Johnny LeClair, *Joe Lewis, *Melton Luttrell, *Jim Mayo, *Bob Osgood, *Bob Page, Earle Park, Vaughn Parrish, *Bill Peters, Ron Schneider, Manning Smith, *Dave Taylor, *Bob Van Antwerp, and Bob Yerington. All of these members will be attending the CONVENTION. Ken Bower and Bob Ruff are also dues paid members but are unable to attend the CONVENTION.

At the CALLERLAB annual meeting held earlier this year, it was decided that all future invitations to membership in this group would be made in the form of personal invitations to attend the annual CALLERLAB CONVENTION. Each member of CALLERLAB was given the opportunity to personally nominate a limited number

of caller-leaders to attend the 1974 inaugural CONVENTION and to be invited at that time to become members of CALLERLAB. Those of you who received personal invitations to this first CONVENTION have been selected by your own peers. You will be interested to know that, with very few exceptions, those invited will all be attending the meeting in April.

YOU CAN HELP US IN OUR PLANNING

In preparing for the CONVENTION, several of the members, serving on regular committees, need certain information for their reports. One group, for example, needs by January 1, samples of Caller's Codes of Ethics. If you have such a "code" available we would appreciate having a copy sent to us. If you have any thoughts relative to what you feel should be included on a code, fine, send them along. Also, another committee is putting the final touches on a Caller's Contract or Letter of Agreement. If you have such a form or if your local callers' group supplies these, it would be most helpful if you would forward a copy to us. THANK YOU in advance.

We Need to Know More About You

Any group such as this, building on a person-to-person basis, is counting heavily on the strength of its membership. The fact that you have been invited to be a part of this project indicates that, in the minds of CALLERLAB members, you are a leader. From the standpoint of determining our own potential, we would like to know several things about you. For that reason we have enclosed a questionnaire which we would appreciate having you fill out and return to us as quickly as possible. We would also like to have a biography of you and a recent glossy photo. If possible, we would like to have a solo picture (of you alone) as well as one of you and your wife (or husband as the case may be). NOTE: This questionnaire is needed from all present members as well as those being invited to the CONVENTION.

Some Helpful Information Relative to the First CONVENTION

In our several on-the-scene meetings with the management of the St. Louis Marriott Hotel, we have come to realize that we indeed have an outstanding facility for the "kick off" CONVENTION. Its location is as near the center of caller population as we could hope to have it. The facility is within walking distance of the St. Louis Lambert Field Airport. However, walking won't be necessary, as a number of the hotel's shuttle buses are available to pick up those of you coming by air and deliver you to the door of the Marriott. From our personal experience we know that the living accommodations are extremely comfortable (not that you will be in them too long). The Hotel Marriott offers the very latest in convention facilities. Our meeting rooms, banquet facilities, registration area, etc., have all been constructed with professional meetings of this type in view.

For those of you traveling by car, the Marriott is located just off the intersection of Highways 70 and 244.

What to Wear:

For our banquet meeting we are requesting civilian type suits and ties for the men and cocktail or long (civilian type) dresses for the ladies. The balance of the daytime work meetings will be more informal; slacks and sport shirts for the men, dresses or pant suits for the ladies. No square dancing is programmed during our three days of meetings, so, unless square dance clothes are the only items in your wardrobe, no need to bring the "work clothes" with you.

On the first page of this Newsletter we are confirming whether we have you listed as coming (1) with your wife - or husband, (2) alone and wish a room all to yourself, or (3) coming alone and would like to share a room with another caller-delegate. You can inform us of any changes when you send in your copy of the questionnaire.

Times of the CONVENTION:

The registration desk in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel will open at 10:00 a. m. on Monday, April 8, 1974. We would like to have registration completed prior to the 2:00 p. m. opening of the CONVENTION. Because hotel checkout time is not until 12:00 noon, it is possible that some of us may not be able to get into our rooms until after the noon hour. Those arriving by 1:00 p. m. should be able to get right into their rooms and be set for the "kick off" at 2:00. Upon checkin at the registration desk, you will be given your delegate's packet and your hotel checkin form. Monies due for the CONVENTION fees will be payable at that time. Your hotel room bill and any additional hotel charges will be payable directly to the Marriott Hotel upon checkout at noon Wednesday, April 10, 1974.

Plan to bring with you any writing materials you may need. Because of the nature of the meetings, and due to the fact that much of the material will be of a semi-confidential nature, tape recorders are not advised at this time. Plans call for a resume' and transcripts of the various sessions to be sent to all delegates.

We'll Look Forward to Seeing You in April

A tremendous amount of work and planning is being put into this first CONVENTION and we have great confidence that it will be an overwhelming success. To be successful, however, we need the combined optimism and cooperation of all delegates. Remember, nothing of this nature in square dance caller leadership annals has ever before been attempted. The success of this first meeting will do much to insure the future effectiveness of caller leadership in the square dance activity. We're looking forward to meeting all of you personally and we depend heavily, not only upon your optimism, but on your positive attitude toward the success of this giant step forward.

Your Convention Planning Committee:

Arnie Kronenberger
Bob Osgood (Executive Secretary)
Bob Van Antwerp