

NEWSLETTER
for Members of
CALLERLAB

direction



The International Association
of Square Dance Callers

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

VOLUME XXV NUMBER THREE - NOVEMBER 1997

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CURRENT QUARTERLY SELECTIONS:

MAINSTREAM:	None
PLUS:	Go Right/Left to a Wave (7/97) Fan the Boat (3/97)
ADVANCED:	Swing the Fractions (5/97) Follow to a Diamond (11/97)
TRADITIONAL:	Hook & Whirl (11/97)
CONTRA:	OXO (11/97)

EMPHASIS CALLS:

BASIC	Run Family (9/97)
MAINSTREAM:	Hinge Family (9/97)
PLUS:	Explode And...(Anything) (1/98)

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FROM THE CHAIR

MINILAB CONVENTION SUMMARY

The first MiniLab Convention to be held in the continental United States is now history. It was sponsored by the New England Council of Callers Associations. By all accounts, the convention was a huge success. The convention was well organized, attendance exceeded expectations, and it was an overall upbeat, positive, and motivational experience. Callers traveled from as far away as California and Arizona, in the United States, Canada, and even one couple from Germany. Truly an international representation.

The convention was staffed by Jon Jones, Mike Jacobs, George White, Tony Oxendine, and Jerry Junck. Assisting were Jim Mayo, John Kaltenthaler, Red Bates, and Bill Heyman. Educational seminars included teaching techniques, programming for the club caller, showmanship, formation management, sight resolution, timing and smoothness, music and voice, to name a few. In addition, this convention featured the first open forum for callers to discuss the Alternate Dance Program, as proposed by the ad hoc committee last spring.

There was a complete session devoted to this subject on Monday. Furthermore, the Tuesday morning wrap-up session was dedicated to this proposal. Due to the program changes the concept would entail, it was decided an open forum would offer everyone an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal and learn how it may affect their particular program. Excellent arguments were given on both sides of the issue. The discussion was orderly and conducted with the utmost restraint, courtesy, and respect. The topic is something all of us have to address in the next few months. Therefore, it is important to become familiar with the proposal and what it's passage would mean.

On behalf of CALLERLAB, I would like to thank the

New England Council of Callers Associations for sponsoring this first ever MiniLab in the United States. A special thanks to Everett and Arline Mackin, Johnny and Barbara Wedge, and Skip and Betty Ann Brown, for planning and coordinating the event. Through their efforts, this was a most enjoyable and motivational experience. This convention provides a great blueprint for future MiniLabs.

Jerry Junck
Chairman Of The Board

BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION RESULTS

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following members who have been elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Governors.

GREGG ANDERSON, Colorado Springs, Colorado
RANDY DOUGHERTY, Minneapolis, Minnesota & Mesa, Arizona
MIKE JACOBS, Herndon, Virginia
MARTIN MALLARD, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
TONY OXENDINE, Sumter, South Carolina
DEBORAH PARNELL, Rancho Cucamonga, California
JERRY STORY, Mission, Texas
JOHN SYBALSKEY, San Jose, California

We also would like to thank those candidates who, although unsuccessful in this election, took the time and initiative to run for the Board of Governors. They are:

YONA CHOCK, 'Ewa, Hawaii
LARRY DAVENPORT, Foster City, California
CHUCK HANSEN, Hurrican, Utah
DOREN MCBROOM, Manchester, Maryland
TOM MOHNEY, Oil City, Pennsylvania
BOB POYNER, DeFuniak Springs, Florida
DANA SCHIRMER, Berryton, Kansas
JIM WASS, Riverdale, Maryland
CINDY WHITAKER, Quincy, Illinois

The newly-elected board members will begin serving their terms at the conclusion of the 1998 convention in Cincinnati.

Members currently serving on the Board of Governors

are:

Cal Campbell, Daryl Clendenin, Larry Cole* - Vice Chairman, Tim Crawford, Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie, Randy Dougherty, Laural Eddy-Moseley*, Betsy Gotta, Bill Harrison, Mike Jacobs, Jerry Jestin, Jerry Junck* - Chairman, John Kaltenthaler, Martin Mallard, John Marshall, Jim Mayo*, Tom Miller, Wayne Morvent, Tony Oxendine*, Deborah Parnell, Ken Ritucci, Mike Seastrom, Nasser Shukayr, Al Stevens, John Sybalsky, George White* - Executive Director, and Jerry Reed, Assistant Executive Director.

* indicates members of the 1997-98 Executive Committee

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AT MINI-LAB

The following speech was presented by Chairman Jerry Junck at the Mini-Lab Convention in Portland, Maine, on September 21st, 1997.

Good evening. Fellow callers, partners, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Board, honored guests, and friends. On a personal note, this convention has provided me the opportunity to do two things I sincerely enjoy; traveling and meeting new people. First, I have always wanted to visit New England and, let me say, it has been a pleasure. This is a truly beautiful part of our country. Secondly, the single most enjoyable thing for me is meeting and making new friends. CALLERLAB has afforded all of us this experience. For those of you that have not had the opportunity to attend a CALLERLAB convention before this week, it is my hope that this convention has been an interesting, educational, and motivational experience. Thank you for attending and, for affording me the opportunity to share this convention with you.

The theme for this 1997 MiniLab convention has been, "See The Light." It alludes to the Portland Head Lighthouse that has guided ships off the coast of Maine since the 1800's. But, it means much more. What an appropriate theme to choose for this particular time in our square dance activity. Our activity is most certainly searching for direction and leadership. It needs a guiding light. I sincerely believe the membership of CALLERLAB is that light. Note that I did not say CALLERLAB. I said, "the membership of CALLERLAB

DIRECTION is the official newsletter of *CALLERLAB*, *The International Association of Square Dance Callers*, with offices located at 829 - 3rd Avenue SE, Suite 285, Rochester, Minnesota, 55904-7313. Telephone (507) 288-5121. *DIRECTION* is published bi-monthly and mailed first class to all members and affiliates of *CALLERLAB*. *DIRECTION* is edited by George White, Executive Director.

As *DIRECTION* is computerized, it would be most helpful to have articles, reports or letters to the editor submitted on computer diskettes whenever possible. *DIRECTION* uses WordPerfect 5.1 as its word processor, on an MS/DOS based computer. Computer diskettes (5 1/4" or 3 1/2") containing articles, reports or letters to be published should be submitted in either WordPerfect 5.1, 6.0 or 6.1 format. ASCII text files or MicroSoft Word for Windows files are also acceptable. Please enclose a printout of the article, report or letter.

The opinions expressed in articles submitted by members or affiliates do not necessarily reflect the policies of *CALLERLAB*. All articles submitted for publication must be signed by the author.

The Editors reserve the right to exercise their discretion in accepting, editing or rejecting any material submitted for publication. Articles submitted for publication that describe square dance formations or arrangements **MUST** be in accordance with *CALLERLAB* standards.

is that light." The greatest asset of any organization is its membership. Ladies and gentlemen, YOU, or more correctly, ALL OF US, is that membership. WE must provide that leadership, that light. Collectively, WE are CALLERLAB.

The letter that I received from the planning committee stated that this convention had two objectives. One, to share ideas on how to improve our craft of calling. And secondly, to share ideas on how to improve the square dance activity. Improving our craft is, perhaps, the easier of the two. Improving our craft is, to a great degree, a mechanical process. On the other hand, making intelligent decisions to improve the square dance activity is a much more subjective topic. As you know, there is most certainly, a great deal of opinion and discussion regarding what is best for this activity.

As I stated earlier, improving our craft may be the easier of the two objectives to address. Improving our craft deals with our calling skills. We can attend seminars, caller's schools, and CALLERLAB Conventions like this one, to increase our knowledge and find enhance our ability. For instance, this convention had sessions on teaching techniques, music and voice, sight resolution, choreography, formation management, programming, and showmanship, just to name a few. What a marvelous opportunity to gain knowledge and improve the technical aspects of calling. I believe improving our calling skills is easier to address because most deficiencies are mechanical in nature. Many of the skills necessary to be a successful caller can be enhanced through good instruction, study, practice, and a passion for square dancing. Having said it is easier to improve our calling skills rather than the activity, is it? What about our attitudes? More about that later.

The second objective of this convention, however, how to improve the square dance activity, is not an easy issue to address. It seems there are as many opinions as there are callers. At this convention, there were sessions dealing with the current status of the square dance activity. These discussions were directed at some of the problems associated with our recreation. However, just to re-state or lament over our problems is unproductive. Very simply, we must first identify our most troublesome problems and decide which ones we can correct. Then, we must come to a consensus of opinion as to how to resolve these problems. Finally, and this is vitally important to success, we ALL have to agree to accept the decisions of the majority and make a conscientious effort at implementing whatever solutions are approved.

To be perfectly honest, one of our major problems in square dancing is the lack of NEW DANCERS. But, we must be more precise. It is the declining numbers of new dancers into our activity that is the problem. Well, if lack of new dancers is a problem, what is the solution? Very simply, NEW DANCERS. Let's be

realistic. An influx of new and energetic dancers would go a long way toward solving most of our problems. But, there is another problem. It is the caller's responsibility to motivate dancers to recruit. It is the caller's responsibility to teach and maintain that class. It is the caller's responsibility to communicate to the club the importance of retaining these new dancers as happy and productive members. It is evident by our small class size and dropout rate, that we have not been aggressive enough in recruiting, or patient enough with the new dancers we have taught. Quite frankly, our leadership in this area simply has not been effective.

Much of the discussion at this convention has centered around the ad hoc committee proposal. This proposal is one attempt directed toward the problem of recruiting and retention. Is this proposal the answer? What do you think? You are the membership. You are the ones who will ultimately decide this issue. As your Chairman, I think it is totally inappropriate for me to voice my thoughts and try to sway opinion. It is the membership's decision to make. It is YOUR decision to make. And it should be made with a great deal of discussion and thought. In the end, I will have one vote, the same as you. But, remember that no matter what the decision might be, we must all abide by the decision of the majority.

Whether we decide to embrace the entire ad hoc committee proposal, decide to accept the Basic Program for an entry level, or we continue to subscribe to our current programs, we are going to have to accept a leadership role, and provide a dance environment that is choreographically easy enough for new dancers to succeed. I think it is imperative that unless we, as callers, change our attitude toward dancer success, no decision we make will have any effect on recruiting or, most importantly, retention. I firmly believe that, collectively, most callers call material far too difficult for new dancers. I just as strongly believe that propensity has to change before we will see new dancers continue to enjoy the activity. Earlier I alluded to our attitudes about new dancers and their success. Perhaps, this is one aspect of our calling skills that will be very difficult for many to change.

In my first CALLERLAB speech, as Chairman, I talked about attitudes and described two types of dancers. Recreational dancers and hobby dancers. Most hobby dancers are what we have left in the activity. They dance the Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and Round Dance Programs. They are the survivors. They enjoy choreographic challenge. These hobby dancers are what we have catered to for the last twenty-five years. It will take a huge adjustment in caller attitudes to change to an easier style of choreography for new dancers. We MUST change our attitudes regarding teaching, complexity of choreography, and dancer

success, if our activity is to survive and grow. I think that change is absolutely imperative.

To be sure, there are recreational dancers in square dancing. However, they are the minority. If you go to the midwest, or the northwest, you will find them. Some of you have heard this story about my Dad. I grew up, and still live, in Nebraska, as many of you know. When I first began calling in the resort parks in Arizona, I did not have a Mainstream dance. Like everyone lucky enough to have the opportunity to call a winter program, I was thrilled to be there and couldn't wait for my Dad and Mom to visit and see what it was all about. They took square dance lessons with me in 1965. They came to Arizona to visit in 1992 and I was embarrassed that they drove 1500 miles and could only WATCH me call. I asked my Dad why, after twenty-six years of dancing, he didn't take Plus lessons. He gave me the best answer I have ever heard. He said, "Because, I don't want to." What a perfect answer.

My Dad is a recreational dancer. He dances a couple of times a month. He doesn't enjoy weekends or festivals because it's too much dancing. We have thousands of these kinds of dancers. However, if we don't provide a place for them to dance what they know, we exclude them from enjoying our activity. Many of these recreational dancers simply quit dancing when PUSHED upward. Most aren't like my Dad who will simply say, "I don't want to." I am always reminded of a statement by Jack Lasry during a keynote speech at one of the CALLERLAB conventions. He said, "I am not concerned by the numbers of dancers who drop out of our activity. But, I am concerned by the numbers that we drive out." I agree with Jack, and firmly believe we need to change our attitudes if we expect to retain new dancers.

Let me explain. If we sincerely desire to replenish and rebuild our base in the activity, then we MUST resolve to call to THEM. If we sincerely WANT to bring the recreational dancers back into our activity, then we MUST cater to THEM. There is no doubt in my mind that, if we do, we can create a huge pool of very happy new dancers. But, as I said earlier, it will take an attitude adjustment on the part of callers. It will not be easy.

I believe one of our largest obstacles will be to find callers who not only WANT to provide, but are CAPABLE of providing, a program simple enough to make recruiting easier and, thereby, more successful. Remember, I said earlier that we all need to work on our calling skills. Few would argue with that. But, we must do more. We must develop a sincere desire to provide programs directed toward the new dancer. My concern is that I see very few callers that want to offer this type of program. Most certainly, not if they have to do it alone. Most of today's callers grew up admiring

those callers who are able to demonstrate an expertise with complex choreography. This has been our focus for twenty-five years. It will not be easy to change that attitude.

Why should we do this? Because we have to, if we have any real desire to revitalize our activity. And, because we have a huge potential customer base available to us, the baby boomers. They are, just now, beginning to look for things to do together, as a couple. And, we have a wonderful activity to introduce them to. But, we must realize that these people are a much different group of people than the dancers we now know. Society has changed dramatically and these people are an impatient, show me quickly generation. They will not commit to a year of lessons, nor, will they necessarily stay with anything for any length of time. We need to be able to accommodate them.

We have to hook these people on the activity first. Once they are hooked they will become that new base we have been talking about. But again, we MUST have callers willing and capable of calling to them first. It will take a commitment from us to change our attitude toward teaching and calling for them after classes. Whether we adopt the ad hoc committee proposal, use the Basic list, or the current Mainstream list, we must prepare ourselves to provide an easier entry program dedicated to new dancers. That is how we created our current crop of dancers. They learned the Sets-In-Order seventy-five Basic list first. They danced it for years and became very proficient dancers. Then, they learned all the calls we currently dance, one call at a time, over the next twenty-five years. We seem to have forgotten that fact. Why can't we do that again?

Well, if we need to change our attitude, can we? Absolutely! There isn't anything we can't do. The question is, do we believe attitudes regarding teaching and new dancers are a problem? As you can tell, I do. But, what do you think? Are you willing to honestly assess your attitudes and make an evaluation of them? Are we, as a collective group, willing to improve our knowledge and skill? Are we willing to try? I certainly hope so. I believe that any attempt to improve this activity has to start with us first. We are the callers and the leadership of this great activity, and everything starts with us.

What will it take? Quality, dedicated leadership. From that leadership we MUST have four things:

1. A love and a passion for square dancing.
2. A sincere desire to recruit and train new dancers.
3. Patience to give these new dancers time to mature into the activity.
4. The leadership skills necessary to convince the current dance population of the importance of protecting these new dancers.

From our leadership, we must have a love and a

passion for square dancing. In addition, we need to restore a mutual respect for each other as well. There is no place for jealousy and mistrust among callers. The club caller, the class teacher, the full time caller, all have a place and a purpose in the activity. Most importantly, we need to recognize the importance of the club caller and what they provide to the activity. On their shoulders rests the very survival of square dancing. The club caller is the fabric and the backbone which provides the flame of passion and the leadership continuity in the activity. I salute you.

In addition, all of us have to dedicate ourselves to improving our skills. Callers have to become better and more efficient teachers. We must have a zest and a passion for teaching. We must possess the technical expertise to enable us to teach effectively, and to provide a comfortable and entertaining environment after class. That is part of our responsibility as leaders in this activity.

We need to be able to motivate dancers as to the importance of recruiting, and the necessity of being patient and understanding with the new dancers we do teach. That motivation, to inspire people to recruit, is vital to any success we may experience in restoring our recreational dancer population. But, in order to recruit effectively, we must convince our current dancing public of the importance of recruiting. We have to motivate them into becoming ambassadors for the activity. If we can do that, we will have a vibrant and cohesive recruiting network, and it really should not be that difficult to find customers for the greatest recreation there is.

Finally, and this is my opinion, whether we adopt the ad hoc committee proposal, the Basic list as our entry program, or continue with our current programs, I don't think we can effect any positive change in the activity until we address our attitude toward teaching and retaining the dancers we do teach. We will get new dancers from new dancers. If we run our new dancers off, we will get no new dancers. Does that remind you of our situation today? Does that make you think? I hope so. That is all a speech is supposed to do, make you think. I sincerely hope you do. Perhaps I've been a little hard on us, as callers, but leaders should be able to objectively look at themselves.

If I could have one wish for our activity, it would be for all of us to find the affection and passion we had for square dancing when we first made the decision to become a caller. Wouldn't it be great if all of us had the dedication, affection, and passion of a Cal Golden, a Jack Lasry, or a Marshall Flippo? Wouldn't it be fun? It can be, if you want it to be. YOU are the leadership. It's whatever YOU want the activity to be. Again, the theme of this convention has been, "See The Light." Let's be that guiding light. Let's provide that leadership. Square dancing is a great activity. Let's

make it better.

In conclusion, please notice that, again, I have not spent a great deal of time talking about CALLERLAB. My concern, and yours, should be with square dancing.

I do believe, however, that the members of CALLERLAB must take the lead in providing that leadership. I firmly believe that if we, as callers and members of CALLERLAB, take care of square dancing, then square dancing will take care of us. Thank you.

MINILAB SPEECH

The following speech was presented by Past Chairman Jim Mayo at the Mini-Lab Convention in Portland, Maine on September 22nd, 1997.

I am pleased to be invited to speak to you. As Jon mentioned, I was elected the first Chairman of the CALLERLAB BOG. My association with CALLERLAB began even before that - at the second meeting of the founders in 1971. I am also the only one remaining on the Board who has been there since the beginning.

An anecdote from that very first meeting still lives in my memory as one of the clearest illustrations of what CALLERLAB is. At that time the call Trade-By had been in use for only a couple of years. It had grown out of the earlier call Barge Thru which was a combination of Half Square Thru and Trade By. Marshall Flippo loved Barge Thru and continued to use it even though most callers had given it up. Frank Lane didn't like the call Star Thru which had been created a few years earlier and he continued to use the name Snaparoo for the action of Star Thru. At this meeting in 1971, Marshall asked Frank when he was going to give up that foolishness. Frank responded, a bit sharply, that he would give up Snaparoo just as soon as Marshall quit calling Barge Thru. Flippo's response was "Deal!" and both of them lived up to the agreement for ever after.

From my long range perspective it is perhaps interesting and informative to look back and consider what we are and how far we have come. At the very first CALLERLAB Convention in 1974, there were about the same number of callers present as we have here. 110 had been invited and 105 came. There were some interesting differences. The largest age group was those 46-50 years old. The next largest was those aged 41-45. The youngest was 19 and the oldest caller present was then 66. In those days we referred to partners as wives and there were 60 of them present.

The founding group of 25 callers - those who met before the first convention and would become the first Board of Governors - had identified 15 statements as the mission of the new organization. The first five were:

1. Let's put the dance back into square dancing.

2. An accepted form of standardization is vital to the continuance and growth of this activity.
3. Caller/teacher leadership training is the responsibility of the callers and teachers.
4. Professional standards for callers and teachers need to be established.
5. Today's square dancing is due for a reappraisal.

As we stood around the lobby on the first morning we all felt several emotions:

First, was respect. Nearly everyone there was - to me, certainly, and to most of the others - a superstar. Most were callers who traveled and were known to thousands of dancers all over the US. A few, like me, were local club callers who, for a variety of reasons, were known by the superstars.

The second very clear feeling was uncertainty. This grew out of the fact that most of these callers were very independent. They ran their own business and were not very comfortable with the thought that someone might start to tell them what they could and could not do.

In spite of that concern, they all recognized that there were problems facing square dancing. It was that recognition that had brought them together. They came to see whether, collectively, they could do something to make square dancing better and solve the problems we were facing. Something they knew they could not do alone.

One of the exciting aspects of that convention was that the real work was done in the lobby of the hotel. One of the issues that generated the most heat was a question of styling - should the hand hold in Ocean Waves be up or down. At two in the morning Jack Lasry, Al Brundage, Earl Johnston, Jon Jones, and many others of equal stature were squared up trying out various ways of holding each other - while turning in Swing Thru and Spin the Top. I have been excited to find that same kind of intensity and concern here in Portland.

When the convention was over, much had been accomplished. A committee had been established that would, in the next year, identify a Mainstream dance program. It would become accepted and used successfully around the world. Another committee was established to develop a standard curriculum for caller training. This, too, has survived for nearly a quarter century and has made major improvements in the quality of caller training.

Perhaps the most important outcome from that first convention was the discovery that we all cared deeply about the future of square dancing. We left St. Louis with the hope that we could work together without sacrificing our independence. We came away feeling

that, collectively, we were much more powerful than we could ever be individually. We also came away with a plan for action.

At the first convention we didn't have a chairman - I was elected at the end of that convention to serve through the next year. In my files I found some notes for the banquet speech I gave at the 1975 convention. We had been calling ourselves "Professional" and some were wondering whether that was justified. Some folks think that, if you charge for your services, that makes you a professional. Others thought we were puffing ourselves up - that calling might more properly be referred to as a trade or a craft.

Clarence Darrow once was asked by a client of his, how she could show her appreciation for his help. His response was:

"My dear woman, ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has been only one answer to that question."

I'm not sure I want calling to be put in the same category as some of the services that people charge for. There must be some other distinction. I suggest that the difference between a professional and a wage earner is RESPONSIBILITY. That responsibility comes in three parts.

First, is to the customer. We owe them the best that we can give - every time.

Second, we have a responsibility to the field - in our case that responsibility is to square dancing. At the very least we should strive to do it no harm.

Finally, we are responsible to our fellow professionals. We should assure that our actions do not reflect poorly on other callers. The reputation of all of us is affected by the performance of each of us.

In a professional field the specialized knowledge and training that the pro's receive prevents the customer from easily evaluating their performance. It's difficult for the patient to tell which doctor is the best. So also with teachers and lawyers. Only ethical responsibility on the part of callers will maintain standards and assure that we try to make square dancing as good as it can be.

None of us teaches all the dancers we call to. We train each other's customers and we depend on each other for the future. Here in Maine it is well understood that the rising tide lifts all the boats. We also know that the ebb tide can leave all the boats on the beach.

Perhaps here by the ocean I can share with you a bit of oriental wisdom that I found. In organizations there are three kinds of people. They are like boats. There are rowboats that need to be pushed along. There are sailboats that move in the right direction only when there is a favorable wind and then there are power boats. They move continuously through calm or storm.

They are usually masters of themselves, their surroundings, and their fate.

Square dancing is certainly facing bigger problems now than we were in the 1970's. CALLERLAB's early work did much to slow the impact of the problems we were facing then. We did not, however, solve them all. We didn't even identify some that have finally come back to bite us. One of the important reasons to be here is to contribute to the solutions that will carry square dancing into the next millennium.

One of the most important lessons that I have learned in my association with CALLERLAB is the wisdom of group process. If good communication paths are available and the minds are open to new ideas, a group can discover better solutions than even the most brilliant individuals. We have gathered here to work together to make square dancing better. We have proposals produced by a committee of many callers working hard for a year. These MAY be the best course for us to follow into the future. But there may also be ways that these proposals can be improved. The best that we can do is to hear what we each have to say and to be open to new ideas. If we do that, we may be able to plan the best solutions to the problems we face. Even if we do find the best solutions for today, there may still be problems we have not identified that will rise up and bite us in the future.

Only you can decide whether you will be a rowboat, a sailboat, or a power boat. We need power boats to churn through the choppy seas that we are facing. We must also be careful as we churn ahead to be sure that we don't run down the canoes and sailboats that share our harbor.

Square dancing is a unique recreation. It is one of the few activities that can allow couples to make friends and engage in healthy exercise for mind and body at any level of involvement that they wish. We modern square dance callers have carved out a small part of that "level of involvement" pie. We serve only those customers willing to be involved in the first year at least 60 evenings, and then willing to tolerate a high level of frustration for another year or two.

I would like to see us expand that market. I would love to find callers who believe that square dancing can be fun with 50 calls (or even less.) They would have to be willing to learn a new range of skills and they would have to put aside their own interest in "challenging" choreography. They would have to believe that dancing can be fun without always stretching the dancers to the edge of their ability. They would have to remember that the most valuable aspect of square dancing is the friends we make. Friendships that last a lifetime.

With a core of callers like that we could replace the

base of the pyramid that we destroyed over the last quarter century. We have made square dancing a very demanding activity. We say we can teach it in one season but we all know better. I can teach new dancers to dance reasonably comfortably to me at my club in one season - because I can control what I call to them. Those same new dancers will not be successful at your club - or even at my club with you calling - no matter how good a caller you are. If we are to rebuild the cadre of first-year-dancer, enthusiastic recruiters that once filled our classes, we must make square dancing easier and more fun.

Only you can make that happen.

HOME OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Home Office will be closed on December 25th, 26th, January 1st, and 2nd, in observance of the Christmas and New Years Day holidays. The entire staff wishes you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

The 50th National Square Dance Convention in Anaheim, California, has graciously donated 500 Gold Certificates (early bird certificates) to the CALLERLAB Foundation. This represents a potential income of \$12,500 to the Foundation.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to help raise funds for the Foundation and also get a discount on your convention registration for the Anaheim National.

If you are planning to attend the National Convention in 2001, you can help the Foundation by purchasing one or more of these valuable certificates.

Buy a certificate now for \$25! After March 15, 2000, you can trade it in for a convention registration which normally sells for \$35. Purchase of the certificate also entitles you to free admission to the Pre-Convention Dance to be held in the Spring of 2000.

If you buy a certificate and do not attend the convention, you may be able to claim the certificate's fair market value (\$35) as a tax deductible donation on your 2001 income tax. Be sure to check this out with your accountant.

Order your "Gold Certificate/s" from the Home Office. Send a check for \$25, made out to "The CALLERLAB Foundation", for each certificate. **Don't delay! Do it today. The Foundation desperately needs your support.**



**Time to register for the
1998 CALLERLAB
Convention!**

"PERSPECTIVE" BY TEAM 2000

Editor's Note: The purpose of this feature is to present a balanced perspective regarding the recommendations and proposal presented by the ad hoc committee. This very important proposal will be the central issue at the next CALLERLAB convention. The members of Team 2000 have been asked to each provide one article in favor of the proposal, and one article against the proposal. These articles are presented for the purpose of educating the membership as to the issues and arguments for and against the proposal. The Executive Committee and Board of Governors urges each and every member to attend the convention in 1998. Every vote counts on this very crucial proposal.

Here is the proposal as submitted to the Board of Governors by the Executive Committee. If approved by the Board, this is the resolution that will be presented to the membership at the 1998 CALLERLAB Convention in Cincinnati:

BE IT RESOLVED: *The members of CALLERLAB agree in concept to establish and endorse the following set of dance programs that may eventually replace the existing Basic/Mainstream and Plus dance programs. The exact names of the herein proposed programs as well as program content, program implementation, and ultimate disposition of the existing Basic/Mainstream and Plus dance programs will be determined one year hence by a special ad hoc committee to be named Target 2000 Ad Hoc Committee, appointed immediately by the and reporting directly to the Executive Committee. The herein proposed dance programs will not be initiated and implemented sooner than January 1, 2000. It is the expressed intent of this proposal that the general membership have the ability, by way of a vote at the 1999 CALLERLAB convention, to ratify the work done by the Target 2000 Ad Hoc Committee, which will be presented to the membership at that time by the Board of Governors, or to reject such work, in which case the existing Basic/Mainstream and Plus dance programs shall remain in force. The proposed dance programs shall be structured as follows:*

- (1) The proposed first dance program shall contain calls from the existing Basic Program list which can be readily taught in 12 sessions, each session being 2 hours in duration, from Standard Applications only;*
- (2) The proposed second dance program shall contain calls that are currently listed in the existing Mainstream and Plus Programs, or calls from the Basic Program that were not selected for inclusion in the proposed first dance program, if any, that can be readily taught from Standard Applications in 12 additional two-hour sessions; and*
- (3) The proposed third dance program shall contain the Extended Applications of all calls listed in the proposed first two dance programs. This proposed third dance program could be taught in no less than 25 additional two-hour sessions.*

Furthermore, as an integral part of this resolution, the membership hereby agrees that the proposed third dance program is an "umbrella" type of dance program. Dancers in the proposed first dance program, after learning the listed calls from Standard Applications, may learn the Extended Applications of the calls contained in the proposed first program before going on to the proposed second dance program. However, all dancers are strongly encouraged to learn the Extended Applications of all calls contained in the proposed first two dance programs before going on to the fourth dance program, which currently is the Advanced Dancing Program.

It is further agreed by the CALLERLAB membership that the existing Basic/Mainstream and Plus dance programs remain intact and in use through the design phase of these proposed new dance programs. Callers are encouraged to begin the formation of dance clubs that dance only the currently listed basic calls in preparation for the implementation of the new dance programs as well as the perpetuation and preservation of the activity.

"PERSPECTIVE" BY TEAM 2000 (Continued)

The articles that follow are written by members of Team 2000 to present the arguments both for and against the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. The opinions expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CALLERLAB, its members, or the Board of Governors. Furthermore, these viewpoints may not even reflect the viewpoint of the author regarding these issues. The authors endeavor to bring to the attention of the reader, salient issues regarding the proposals of the ad hoc committee.

VIEW IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION

by Jerry Junck

It has been discussed, at length, that some change to square dancing is necessary to improve its popularity among the various recreational activities available to the public. Many callers and dancers feel that it is necessary to teach far too many calls for people to become proficient in a comfortable period of time. They feel that the lengthy classes and the rush to teach all the calls on the list, has resulted in the inability of square dancers to recruit new dancers.

This way of thinking has led to the Team 2000 proposal. The proposal is an attempt to more evenly divide the current square dance programs into two programs with a similar number of calls in each. The entry level of Basic, to be called "square dancing", with the next level to be a club or festival program. This second program would be an amalgamation of calls from the current popular Mainstream and Plus lists. For those callers and clubs wanting more, the proposal calls for an extension of each of these programs, which would be extended applications. This program would include additional formations and arrangements not considered being standard.

By designating the Basic Program as the entry level, callers and dancers should find it much easier to recruit new dancers. A Basic Program would only include approximately fifty calls. Therefore, the teach time would be greatly reduced, thus making lessons a much easier SELL to prospective new dancers. Hopefully, with this shorter list, it would be possible to have multiple classes each year, rather than the current practice of only one class per year. With multiple classes, it is hoped that the numbers of square dancers would grow dramatically in a short time.

Furthermore, the second program consisting of approximately another fifty calls should be able to satisfy today's current dancer. As stated above, it would be an amalgamation of popular calls from the current Mainstream and Plus Programs. Many feel that

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VIEW OPPOSING THE RESOLUTION

By Jerry Junck

The three proposals initiated by the ad hoc committee are based on the assumption that most of the problems in square dancing are directly related to the content of our current program lists. However, the assumption that the lists are the problem, is simply not true. The content of the lists has never been a problem. However, the use, or more precisely, the misuse of the lists has, in a very significant way, contributed to our current situation. As callers, we must accept the fact that we have not exercised good judgement in using the programs. Furthermore, we have either been forced to push dancers through class, or have not perfected the skills necessary to be an effective and competent teacher. No change in program content will remedy this.

To be perfectly honest, one of our major problems in square dancing is the lack of NEW DANCERS. Recruiting new dancers is, and has been, a serious problem. We have been woefully lacking in our recruiting, teaching, and retention skills. There are three things we must do to address this deficiency.

First, in order to recruit effectively, we MUST convince our current dancing public of the importance of recruiting. We quite simply have not done this. We must educate our current dancer population as to the absolute importance of recruiting. In addition, we have to motivate them into becoming a vibrant and cohesive recruiting network.

Secondly, we have to exhibit more patience with the new dancers we do teach. We have to make them feel welcome. We must make today's dancer aware of the importance of tolerance. The establishment of Basic groups would most certainly make recruiting easier because of less teaching time. But, to do this would not involve any change to our current program lists. The Basic Program has been, and is now, available to us. All we need to do is use it. However, if we do not provide a place for these new dancers to dance, it

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this is what most areas are currently dancing anyway. Therefore, this program simply reflects the reality of square dancing today. It is hoped that this program would be accepted as a satisfactory club and festival program that could be embraced by everyone.

Finally, this proposal also accommodates those who want more challenging and difficult choreography. This third program would make use of extended applications. But, the extended applications are not another whole list of calls. Instead, the purpose of this program is to provide more complexity through the use of non-standard formations and arrangements of the two programs discussed above. Callers and dancers who desire this type of dancing will not have to learn more new calls. Instead, they will only have to learn new formations and arrangements for calls they already know.

This proposal emphasizes standard positioning for the first two programs in square dancing. It is hoped that this will make square dancing easier to learn with less frustration. In addition, the time commitment for lessons will not be as demanding, and should make recruiting easier for everyone. With the fast pace of today's society, this is something we all need to consider.

IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION

by Kip Garvey

This is a mock interview. The questions are representative of those that I have been asked over the last year regarding these issues.

Q. *Kip, can you explain to us in simple terms what the proposal from the ad hoc committee means?*

A. The ad hoc committee has a single proposal that affects our Mainstream and Plus dance programs, essentially replacing them with three new dance programs. These programs were developed by the ad hoc committee over a two-year period and with extensive input from callers and dancers all across the country and around the world. If the ad hoc committee's proposal is adopted, we will have a new entry level dance program called "Square Dancing." It will consist of the calls currently on CALLERLAB's Basic dance list. It will be a stand-alone destination dance program instead of a subset of Mainstream, as Basic has been in the past. Though the actual proposal does not state a

See *IN FAVOR*, Garvey on page 11

would serve no useful purpose. It is imperative that we convince our current dance population that these new dancers need time to enjoy what they have learned; that they must be treated with respect and patience. And, that there is no need to instantly move on to another program.

Finally, callers have to become better and more efficient teachers. As callers, we must possess the technical expertise to be able to teach effectively, in order to provide a comfortable and enjoyable environment for new dancers. That is our responsibility as leaders in this activity. We must have a zest and a passion for teaching. We need to be able to motivate dancers as to the importance of recruiting, and the necessity of being patient and understanding with the new dancers. No change in the content of our current program structure satisfies these concerns.

Therefore, the ad hoc committee proposal does not address our problems of recruiting. It is a mistake to think a change in the program structure will motivate dancers to recruit, teach dancers and callers to be more tolerant, and give callers the technical expertise necessary to become better teachers. That has to come from us, as leaders. The content of the lists is of NO concern to non-dancers. They don't know and don't care!

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

by Kip Garvey

Our dance programs as they exist are destination programs for dancers. Dancers can learn the Mainstream calls and remain Mainstream dancers if they so choose. They can workshop various applications of the Basic and Mainstream calls. They can take extended vacations, and upon returning, be able to attend a Mainstream dance without concern. This is mostly due to the fact that the Mainstream dance program was designed as a destination program.

The proposed new dance programs do not offer this same option. The proposed Basic Program is nothing more than a lead-in to learning the next program. It is obviously not a destination program because it is limited to standard applications only. No stand-alone dance program that's worth anything would limit its applications to standard applications. Why would I want to start a Basic club and limit the dancers to standard applications? One purpose of having a destination program is that dancers can stay in that program and examine and use the program calls from

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IN FAVOR, Garvey continued from page 10

time frame, it is the intent of those who worked on the ad hoc committee that this program be teachable in 10 to 12 two-hour sessions. Furthermore, the presentation of calls from this program shall be from standard applications. CALLERLAB has printed a book containing the standard applications of these calls.

Q. That sounds very enticing. But, can't we do the same thing with the existing dance programs without too many hassles?

A. To some extent, yes. The fact of the matter is, even though this attractive alternative has been seemingly available, very few callers, if any, have opted to use it. To my knowledge, Mainstream is the first recognizable destination program in this country. And in quite a few areas in this country, Plus is the first destination program. I don't have personal knowledge of any Basic clubs anywhere, except in Canada and Europe.

Q. Is it fair to say, then, that the non-existence of Basic dance clubs is an American problem?

A. In part, yes. However, in those areas with which I am familiar that have successful Basic dance clubs, problems are beginning to appear similar to those faced years ago in America. These problems threaten the existence of those Basic dance clubs partly because Basic is not generally accepted as a destination program. And, of course, all dancers want to believe what they dance is a bonafide dance program, not just a stepping stone to some dance program that is as yet out of reach for them. As the number of available callers increases in these areas, the pressure for dancers to jump to the next dance program increases proportionately. This is because callers need a place to call. And what better way to attract dancers than to advertise yourself teaching a workshop at the next level? We make it easy for callers to do this because the next dance program they advertise, be it Mainstream or Plus, has too few calls in it. The time it takes dancers to learn these two programs is relatively short. The dancers are not making very much of a commitment to learn Mainstream or Plus. This pressure on the dancers is totally out of control of CALLERLAB or any other dancer/caller organization. The only two weapons we have that will slow dancers down are (1) effective dance programs with plenty of meat on the bone, and (2) moral suasion.

Q. How will the proposed Basic, or "Square Dancing" dance program ease the situation?

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every which way. Not doing so would make for a bunch of pretty bored dancers in a short time.

It is obvious that the designers of the proposed dance programs intend the proposed second dance program be the first destination program. It will contain a significantly larger number of calls than the current Mainstream Program. The fact that the dancers theoretically will only be responsible for standard applications is a ruse. In reality, many callers today are not aware of what constitutes standard applications of many of the calls. And when they do analyze the calls and the standard applications therein, there will be a lot of consternation.

CALLERLAB has published a document entitled "Standard Basic and Mainstream Applications" and another entitled "Standard Plus Applications". It was never intended that either of these documents be the "final word" regarding standard applications. These two documents were written and adopted for an entirely different purpose. But, since we have these documents already in print, will they be the defining documents for standard applications? If so, many of our currently popular usage of Basic, Mainstream, and Plus calls will not be available for us to use until the proposed third dance program.

For instance, Circle Left or Right any fraction, is not allowed from facing couples. Stars are not allowed from 8-Chain Thru Formations. There is no standard for Half Sashay or Left Square Thru. Does this mean we can't teach these calls even if they are on the list? Ladies In, Men Sashay can only be done from a clockwise moving circle. Back Track and Wheel Around can only be done from promenade circles. Lead Right and Grand Square can only be done from a static square. Dive Thru can only be called from an 8-Chain Thru. Left Swing Thru can only be called from a Left-Hand Wave with men in the center. Since Wheel and Deal requires a "0" or normally arranged couples, the favorite 3-times-through zero of (from facing lines) "Pass Thru, Wheel and Deal, Double Pass Thru, Centers In, Cast Off 3/4" is no longer available to us. Flutter Wheel and Reverse Flutter Wheel require normal facing couples. Veer Right is, in itself, described as "non-standard". Circulate is limited to Waves and 2-Faced Lines. Cloverleaf is limited to completed Double Pass Thru Formation. Spin the Top is limited to Parallel Right-Hand 1/2 Waves, making it illegal from a 1/4 Tag Wave, Tidal Waves, or any Facing Couples until the proposed third dance program. And the list goes on and on.

It can become a pretty boring dance program if the dancers are held to only the standard applications.

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IN FAVOR, Garvey continued from page 11

A. In and of itself, not a lot. After all, the Basic list has been with us for quite some time. Yet our caller-members have chosen not to utilize it except when teaching their beginner classes. We are still faced with the problem of going out and developing an entire new genre of Basic clubs. Who's going to do this? What is the motivation for doing this? The ad hoc committee's proposal contains three segments. In conjunction with the other two segments, the proposal makes a lot of sense and will definitely help ease the situation. The other two segments of the proposal act as motivation for developing new Basic clubs. Without the other two segments, instituting the Basic program as a stand-alone dance program may not really help our situation as much.

Q. *Well then, we'd better hear about the other two segments.*

A. The second segment involves developing a second dance program that is representative of what the average club dancer around the world is dancing today. The ad hoc committee's proposal suggests that the name be "Plus Dancing" in order to appeal to the largest majority of today's dancers, but this can be determined later in committee. The proposal explicitly states that the total number of calls shall not exceed those that can be taught the average group of dancers in another 10-12 two-hour sessions. Furthermore, the content shall be limited to some combination of calls from the existing Mainstream and Plus dance programs, and the calls shall be presented in their standard applications.

Q. *That sounds like a combination of Mainstream and Plus into one dance program without any DBD. Why do we want to do that?*

A. The rationale for this is based on observations at major dance events and festivals. Since our dance programs exist only to make it easy for dancers to travel around and dance in different areas, our quest in teaching new dancers is to teach them what they need to know in order to travel around and dance at festivals and other major events. Clearly, the main floor at nearly all these events today dance somewhere between Mainstream and Plus, and do not dance those calls from very many formations and arrangements. This is a reality that cannot be disputed. So, why shouldn't our next dance program reflect what is currently being danced around the world?

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It is obvious that dancers will want to experiment with the extended applications within a short time after completion of the standard applications. Which means, of course, that as a destination program, the proposed second dance program will be only a temporary stopping point. Not much of a destination! The dancers and callers will undoubtedly wander into the third proposed dance program, which is extended applications.

Well, this doesn't seem to solve any problems at all in my view. New dancers will spend their first year learning Basics, the amalgamated Mainstream and Plus, and arrive somewhere in extended applications before they consider themselves "arriving" at square dancing. Someone needs to explain to me how this is any different from the mess we have now.

The proposed new dance programs constitute an elaborate scheme to replace Mainstream with another destination program that contains more calls, yet theoretically can be taught in a shorter time frame. Hogwash! It just won't work. The proposed dance programs have not factored in the human elements: The fickleness of dancers and the wanton disregard callers have historically shown toward remaining within the confines of a highly disciplined set of dance programs.

The response we need to make for the challenges we face regarding dancer recruitment and retention is, to work diligently toward getting callers to refocus their attention on recruiting and building new groups and clubs that dance only the Basic calls. We need to make Basic a stand-alone, destination dance program. We need to train and assist callers in advertising, conducting and maintaining these important groups. This is the area that is lacking the most in our activity. The Basic calls have been virtually ignored by callers for decades. Many callers treat the Basic calls with little respect and toleration, rushing their dancers through them as fast as they can so they can get to the "good stuff".

But the Basic calls are the ones we teach to new dancers. They are the only calls we teach to new dancers. Experienced dancers dance prefabricated combinations of the Basic calls with fancy names attached to them. And only experienced dancers can dance these fancy calls. Inexperienced dancers can't, without first learning the Basics.

The only dance program that caters to the non-dancing public is the Basic Program. All the other dance programs draw from this pool of dancers. But there is no pool of dancers dancing the Basic calls. So, what's

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Q. Whoa! Back up a minute. You mean our dance programs are not in place to aid in consistency around the world?

A. Not entirely. Nice idea, maybe, but why? And the fact is, they don't. A large majority of overseas dancers dance the Mainstream and Plus calls from many formations and arrangements. In America, the majority of dancers dance the calls only from limited formations and arrangements. That's certainly not consistent. The only reason our dance programs exist is to aid in dancer transiency, not so that everyone is doing the same thing at the same time. If dancers never traveled anywhere, there would be no reason for standardized dance programs. I would teach my dancers whatever I thought pleased them; you teach your dancers whatever you think they like. As long as our dancers don't ever mix together, they are happy as clams. Our dance programs are in place only so dancers can dance together when they want. That's why it is really important that our dance programs reflect what is being danced and called at events where dancers from different areas are mixed together. These are the major dance events and festivals. What the largest majority of dancers do on the main floor should be the content of our major dance program. To some extent this infers worldwide consistency. But, as times and dancer desires change, so too should the dance programs that reflect what the dancers are doing.

Q. How will this affect our current Mainstream and Plus dancers?

A. That's a real good question. In order to speculate on that, we have to imagine what the amalgamated dance program will look like. Obviously, the combination of the 17 Mainstream calls and the 32 Plus calls can't all be in the new dance program. That would certainly exceed the limitation of being able to be taught in 10-12 sessions. Though the actual number and content of calls will be determined later by a committee of CALLERLAB members (along with the actual name the program will bear), I believe the final number will not exceed 24-26 calls. Some Mainstream calls will be discarded, and a lot of Plus calls will be discarded. Which ones will we keep? My best guess is, look what's being called today on most festival main floors and those are the calls that will be included -- the so-called soft Plus calls. Since some of the 24-or-so calls in this new program must be Mainstream calls, the

See IN FAVOR, Garvey in right-hand column

AGAINST, Garvey continued from page 12

the solution? Concentrate on the Basic calls. Focus on developing a large pool of dancers who dance the Basic calls. This pool of dancers will represent the single most important marketing tool our activity has ever known: Word of mouth advertising from happy customers.

This effort cannot be successfully implemented utilizing the proposed dance programs from the ad hoc committee. Think about it. Give it a lot of serious thought. Can we successfully develop a large pool of entry level dancers using the proposed dance programs? My answer is an emphatic "NO!"

IN FAVOR, Garvey continued

Mainstream dancer may have to learn, let's say, about 10-12 new calls. These calls will replace the 7 or 8 Mainstream calls that will be discarded. I don't see this as any particular hardship on the Mainstream dancer. The Plus dancer will actually lose about 18 or so calls from his vocabulary. Of course, they will be lesser-used calls. But none the less, today's Plus dancer might experience a feeling of disenfranchisement. That's where the third and final segment of the ad hoc committee's proposal comes to the forefront.

Q. How so?

A. The third dance program will require dancers who want to participate in it to dance the calls contained in the first two dance programs from all allowable formations and arrangements. This program is predicated on difficulty. Dancers in essence will learn to dance the calls by definition. Whereas the previous two programs only exposed the dancers to the calls from standard applications, this program is designed for the dancers who want to do the calls every which way. This program is also a prerequisite for entering into Advanced dancing. Since the extended applications of the calls contained in the first program and the second program can be extensive, the ad hoc committee recommends this third dance program be taught over a period of 20 to 25 sessions of equal length. This program will be especially intriguing to today's experienced Plus dancer. It just so happens I have experimented with this idea with my own Plus club over the last two years with great success. I believe this program, if properly administered by callers, will attract many of today's experienced Plus dancers.

Q. *The new proposal obviously will take a lot of thought and rethinking about how and what we teach new dancers. What do you see as the single most important adjustment we callers must make if this new proposal is accepted and adopted?*

A. Probably the most significant change callers can expect is that they **MUST** be involved in starting new clubs and groups that will dance the entry program called "Square Dancing" consisting of the calls on today's Basic dance list. All of us are going to have to develop this new program, and probably without very much help from existing clubs. Existing clubs will have their focus on the second and third dance programs. We callers will be left with the responsibility of developing an entire new generation of tomorrow's square dancers. I think the rest of the adjustments we will have to make, are very minor compared to this.

Q. *So, voting favorably on the proposal means we are accepting the challenge and responsibility of seeing to it the proposal succeeds. Is this a plausible expectation? Will callers do this?*

A. Truly, this is my greatest concern. But I think so. Because **NOT** doing so means we will continue the way we are now. And the way we are going now will result in more callers hanging up their microphones because there simply won't be very many dancers to call for real soon. My Plus club is one of the healthiest clubs in my area. Over the last 4 years we have managed to put a mere 11 new couples in the club. Over the same period we have experienced attrition of 19 couples. It doesn't take a genius to figure out the math. At this rate the club will be bankrupt of dancers in a few years.

Q. *What effect will this proposal have on our fellow overseas and Canadian callers and dancers?*

A. I don't think the adjustments they would be required to make are that severe. First of all, many of them have a Basic Program. We don't. The proposed entry-level program is today's Basic Program. Many of them have Mainstream Programs. If they comply with this new proposal they will have to drop about a dozen known calls and add about a dozen new calls. This is a relatively minor adjustment to make. It would take about 2 months or so to teach the new calls. If they have Plus Programs there essentially wouldn't be any adjustment at all. They could continue to use the Plus calls that get dropped if they want to, at least for a few years until this

new set of dance programs kicks in. They could slowly wean their dancers from the discarded calls and not affect the ability of their dancers to travel around and dance in other areas. If they truly have the best interests of their dancers at heart, and they take the time to analyze what adjustments they'll have to make, I think they will conclude that the adjustments are minor.

Q. *What advice can you give CALLERLAB members at this point in time?*

A. Plan to be in Cincinnati on April 6-8, 1998. This is an extremely important proposal. I urge each and every member to read about the proposal, educate themselves to the issues involved, be objective, determine what they believe is the best alternative for their dancers and square dancing in their areas, and vote accordingly. I also urge members of ACA to consider joining CALLERLAB before April so they can participate in this vote. I expect every caller will want to vote either to accept the new proposed dance programs or to keep the ones we have. I can't imagine any caller sitting on the fence regarding this proposal. After all we've heard over the last 4 years about dance programs, who can possibly stay home and not be there to vote in Cincinnati? The theme of the entire convention will be this proposal. My advice? Be there and let your voice be heard.

IN MEMORIAM

Joe Portelance, Beverly, MA, June 10, 1997
Joseph W Hall, Seattle, WA, July 29, 1997
Ernie Richardson, Oklahoma City, OK, August 4, 1997

PLUS COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Plus Committee has completed the 1997 biennial review of the Plus Program. The committee has voted to drop *Partner Tag*, *Remake the Thar*, and *Triple Scoot*. This review was conducted in three steps. The members of the committee who met in Los Angeles voted to drop three calls from the program this year. Confirmation of this decision and selection of calls for consideration to drop were done by all committee members, by mail, following the convention. The committee then voted on the final slate of candidate calls in October to select the three calls to be dropped.

Plus Committee membership is open to Members and Associate Members of CALLERLAB who call a minimum of 30 Plus dances or lessons a year. If you are eligible, I urge you to please join and participate.

The committee currently consists of 255 members. This completes the 1997 review of the Basic/Mainstream Program (by the Mainstream Committee) and the Plus Program. No changes were made to the Basic or Mainstream Programs this year. The Advanced Committee, Bob Stern, Chairman, must now consider whether or not to add the calls dropped from the Plus Program to either the A-1 or A-2 Programs.

The Plus Committee feels that we have a good program and that the best way to improve the program is to work effectively with what we have to provide entertainment for the dancers.

For the Plus Committee,
Larry Davenport, Chairman

PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE

Your Executive Committee has selected "PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE" as the theme of the 1998 CALLERLAB Convention, to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This theme, and several others suggested by CALLERLAB members, were considered by the Executive Committee. The idea for the theme "Pathway to the Future" was suggested by Jon Jones of Arlington, Texas. Jon will receive his 1998/99 dues as a token payment for his efforts in helping to set the tone and direction of the 1998 convention.

We urge all of you to join in the spirit of this convention theme. Take part, contribute and learn from others while we work together to make square dancing even more fun for everyone. Complete details are included with this issue of *DIRECTION*. Make your reservations NOW!

WANTED - AFTERPARTY SKITS

Jon Jones will be hosting an afterparty at the 1998 Cincinnati Convention. He would like your help in making it the most successful party ever. If you are interested in presenting or if you have a skit, one liner, unusual talent, play an instrument, sing, or any other type of afterparty entertainment, please call Jon at (817) 469-1179 or write to him at:

1523 Bluebonnet Trail
Arlington, TX 76013-5009.

C-2 DEFINITIONS REVISED

Ed Foote, Chairman of the Challenge Committee, is pleased to announce that the *Extended Challenge (C-2) Definitions* booklet has been revised as of November 1, 1997, and is now available from the Home Office.

Also available from the Home Office are *Basic/Mainstream Definitions* revised December, 1993;

Plus Definitions, revised November, 1997; and *Advanced Definitions*, revised June, 1996. Each definitions booklet includes a copy of the current Program list for that program. Each booklet sells for \$3.00, including postage.

"FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION"

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the CALLERLAB Foundation, we wish to express our appreciation for the generous donations from the following "Friends of the Foundation":

Clark & Miriam Baker, Belmont, Massachusetts
Square Esta Club, Marie Steinberg, California
Bill & Peggy Heyman, Marlborough, New Hampshire
George & Pat White, Rochester, Minnesota

Your contributions will enable the Foundation to increase public awareness of the fun and fellowship that makes square dancing a popular recreation today. Foundation projects that will help preserve and promote square dancing are important to the growth and image of the Foundation. Caring people are what will keep our activity alive.

All contributions will help us expand our resources and do a far more extensive job in the preservation of square dancing.

To make a tax-deductible donation or memorial to the Foundation, send it to The CALLERLAB Foundation, 829 - 3rd Ave SE, Ste 285, Rochester, MN 55904.

MINI-LAB AUSTRALIA

Mini-Lab Australia will be held June 9, 10, and 11 in Adelaide, the capital city of the state of South Australia. It will be held immediately after the 39th Australian National Convention, which is also being held in Adelaide June 4-8, 1998.

The Mini-Lab will be held at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, South Australia.

Mini-Lab and Caller Registration Forms are available from the Secretary:

Les Tulloch
P.O. Box 3273
Port Adelaide, S.A. 5015
Australia

Phone Number: 011 61 8 8449 6295

Mini-Lab caters to callers in the Southern hemisphere, primarily Australia and New Zealand, but callers from all countries are eligible to attend.

Members of the CALLERLAB Board of Governors, the Chairman of the Board, and the Executive Director will be in attendance.

The theme chosen for Mini-Lab Australia is *Learning to Teach*. Teaching will always be part of a calling

career as teaching is involved from beginners through Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and beyond.

Mini-Lab is open to all callers, new and experienced. You do not have to be a CALLERLAB member to attend. For CALLERLAB members, attendance meets the requirement for convention attendance. Please consider joining us in Adelaide in '98.

If you would like to attend the Australian National, as well as the Mini-Lab, you would be most welcome. Registration Forms for the Dancing Convention and Mini-Lab Convention will be sent on request.

STARTER KIT FOR NEWER CALLERS

A "Starter Kit for Newer Callers", produced by the Caller Training Committee, is available from the Home Office. The kit contains 45 pages of information important to new and relatively new callers. If you are involved in the training of new callers, you should strongly encourage them to purchase their own copy of this manual. Those of you who are involved with local caller association training programs may also wish to add this informative manual to your library.

The manual includes the Formations and Arrangement charts as well as common definitions currently in use by most callers. It also includes many CALLERLAB publications on such topics as Music, Smooth Body Flow, Helper Words for Callers, Timing, Modules, Mental Image, Sight Calling, Code of Ethics, two papers dealing with Degree of Difficulty, Reference Sources and the two Standard Application booklets on Mainstream and Plus.

A list of the Accredited Caller-Coaches is included, as well as information on available scholarships. The manual is arranged and published in a loose leaf notebook format so that additional material can be added as it becomes available.

Order the kit from the enclosed Sales Items list. Cost is \$15.00 plus shipping.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Opinions expressed in letters or articles from our members are that of the writers and do not necessarily reflect that of CALLERLAB, nor of the Editor.

The Editor reserves the right to condense, omit or re-write all or any part of material sent to CALLERLAB for publication.

THE BIG PICTURE

by Ed Foote, Pennsylvania

A ll of us have read articles in recent years regarding the decline in square dancing, but after a while all the words and thoughts become jumbled, so that today if the average dancer is asked why square dancing is in decline, the likely

response is: "I don't know." Some criticize the activity and say that the product, which has been successful for 25 years, is the reason for the decline, so the product needs to be changed by shortening or combining lists.

It might be helpful to step back and look at the big picture of what is happening in this country without discussing square dancing at all. Once we see the big picture, it will be easy to understand how this affects square dancing.

I. ALL GROUP ACTIVITIES ARE DOWN.

According to Psychology Today Magazine, group activities started to decline in the late 1980s, and have been in a free fall for the past 5 years. Bowling was once trumpeted as the model which square dancing should follow. Last year a major television network did a feature about the sharp decline of bowling leagues. In the past year 3 bowling alleys closed in the Pittsburgh area. Why are group activities down?

A. Staying at home has become much more popular. According to a Newsweek/Gallup poll, as far back as 1989 70% of all adults said that staying at home is their favorite method of relaxation. In 1986 it was only about 25%. Why is staying at home so popular? 3 reasons:

1. A safe haven from life's pressures. According to Psychology Today Magazine: "Many people in the '60s and '70s viewed it (staying at home) as a trap, an infringement on their freedom to discover and express themselves. Now it is a refuge from the pressured life and tough times outside."

2. Video cassettes. The convenience of renting movies to watch at home became big business in the second half of the 1980s.

3. Home computers. With the advent of the Internet around 1993-94, people now prefer to sit home and work with their computer. This has contributed significantly to the free fall decline in group activities in the past 5 years.

B. There is more emphasis on individual activity. "Do your own thing" has become the watchword in recent years. According to Psychology Today, activities requiring only individual participation, such as crafts, using a computer, walking, working out in a gym, and taking courses at local colleges, are all flourishing. Group activities are floundering. One psychologist noted that any organization trying to sell the public on a group activity had better emphasize the individual benefits

to be gained by participating.

- II. WE HAVE LESS LEISURE TIME. According to the previously mentioned Newsweek/Gallup poll, in 1990 Americans said they were working 6 hours more per week than in 1973, and they had 10 fewer hours of leisure time per week.

With the heavy emphasis on corporate downsizing in the 1990s, it is likely that those still working for corporations are working even longer hours today and have even less free time. Those ousted in corporate downsizing sometimes are working 2 jobs now.

- III. ADULTS ARE SEEKING A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCES. According to Psychology Today, people are not satisfied with only experiencing a few recreational activities - they want to experience as many as they can. This probably explains why so many people complete a square dance beginners class and then drop out after 1 or 2 years. It is not that they do not like the activity of square dancing or that it is too difficult, it is simply that they have spent@ time doing square dancing and now they want to do something else.

SUMMARY: All this means the following for square dancing:

1. Many people will want to stay home and watch videos or use their computer and thus not join a beginners class. This does not mean there is anything wrong with our activity, it just means that people want to stay home.
2. To get some of these people into beginners class, our advertising will have to emphasize the individual benefits of square dancing, such as exercise and maintaining mental alertness.
3. When people do come to beginners class, it will make no difference whether they have to learn 25 calls or 100 calls. They are in this for the experience, and they will leave after a certain length of time (probably 2 years) because they want to try something new. Thus, all the talk about shuffling lists or combining lists is futile; list changing will have little effect on the underlying causes for the decline in square dancing and could cause damage to the structure of the activity, thereby adversely affecting those who are currently in square dancing for the long haul.
4. What will be needed is large-scale recruiting efforts which, even if successful, will have to be ongoing in order to replace those who drop out each year simply because they want to experience another activity.

WISH I HAD A DOLLAR!

by Brian Dalton, England

You know, I wish I had a dollar for every word that has been written about what is wrong with our activity over the last few years. I'm not saying that everything that is written is wrong, quite the contrary. In my opinion, (and I emphasize that this is all it is), most of the real problems have been covered in print many times. But are Callers and Clubs doing anything about it???

One thing that I find a little frustrating, and it was brought home to me by a comment in one of the articles in the August Direction: The comment was that because the majority of voting CALLERLAB Members reside in the United States, any voting issues are largely dictated by the United States. This is logical, and we, as the rest of the world, have to live with that. The point in this particular case was keeping or dropping calls. As a recent example, I remember Cross Trail Thru was dropped because it wasn't used much in the U.S.A. However, the rest of the world used that move a lot. Bad luck for the rest of the world!

My point is that maybe the United States needs to have a look outside their boundaries to see how others are faring, before deciding that decisions based on the local environment are good ones. I admit, there are problems across the rest of the world, but I have to tell you, in my opinion (again), from what I have seen, heard, and read the problems are far worse in the U.S. than anywhere I have lived or called in the last five years. Take Germany for example. The activity is thriving there, It is also doing well in England, Australia, and New Zealand. I admit there are problems in these places too, but not as bad as the U.S.A.

I think the key issue is not with the number of calls on any list. It is how the caller manages them. This brings into play another significant factor. In these countries that are still doing well, many of the clubs are caller run or the caller at least has significant input into how new classes are structured and how the progress of dancers is managed. I think a situation where a caller is hired by a club to teach a group of dancers to a specified level in a fixed time frame is unrealistic. People learn at different rates and the teaching program should be flexible to cater for that. Who cares if it takes three weeks for everybody to learn Dixie Style properly as long as they have fun while they are doing it and learn it well. (The Foundations).

The other significant factor which I believe is really meaningful, and it has been covered in print, but I am now speaking from experience. When we taught learners classes in New Zealand and Australia, we deliberately requested our dancers not to even consider

thinking about Plus until they had completed another full year revising the Basics and Mainstream. We also asked our graduating dancers to "Angel" for our new learners. They didn't mind one bit. In fact they really enjoyed helping out and it fostered the social side of the clubs, too. Strangely enough we didn't lose too many dancers and we certainly didn't lose any one because we held them back from advancing to a higher dance level.

Even now in these countries the majority of the programming at their National Conventions is at Mainstream level, and most open dances are Mainstream, too. You don't have to dance A2 or Challenge to have fun. You just need to learn well, and in the proper time frame, so you can dance well whatever the level is that you choose to settle at.

At the end of the day I still firmly believe that at least 50% of our activity is social and I really have very little time for people who think they have to climb the levels as an ego trip. As far as I am concerned, any caller worth his salt should be able to take the Basic Program and make it challenging enough and interesting enough to please any dancer.

Another aspect is the relatively new concept of Extended Applications. In New Zealand and Australia at least, the tactic of teaching Standard Applications first and then adding the Extended Applications once the dancers are nearing the end of their learning year, has been pretty much the standard way of teaching since I learned to dance. There wasn't a formal procedure for this teaching pattern, but now there is and I think it has been proven to work very well. Again though, I think it is up to the caller to gauge when he thinks the learning class is ready for that.

Really, we as callers need to grasp the idea that teaching lists are a guideline and we are the ones who need to control what happens in classes. Above all we are there to provide entertainment to our dancers. If they don't have fun, they won't come back.

DON'T GIVE UP ON MAINSTREAM!

by Jeff Garbutt, Australia

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate the ad hoc committee for taking on the very brave job of looking at our dance programs. Considering the dialog that has been going on in the last five years, all based on very uncommon ground, I would consider their bravery as the square dancing equivalent of men's first steps into space. The space program explored very dangerous and new territory, and much testing had to be carried out to refine systems before the first moon landing. In the same way that it was not safe or possible to go to the moon on men's first space outing, I think we need a lot more

work on these proposals before we go any further.

Why is this? Mostly because CALLERLAB is the "International Association of Square Dance Callers" -so any changes to our programs have to be tested to ensure they will work not only in USA, but other countries.

Now, of course, the main impact of the recommendations is the loss of Mainstream as a program in it's own right. The justification for this appears to be that Mainstream is either redundant or is not working. The reasons for this are many and have been documented in many publications in recent years, but for those who came in late, let me try to summarize the reasons as best as I understand them. And if I'm wrong, I will be happy to be corrected by those "closer to the problem":

There is a "perception" that the teaching time required to get newer dancers to club level needs to be reduced.

The "full" Mainstream Program takes more than 20 weeks to learn.

To teach Mainstream within 20 weeks means teaching from standard set-ups only, and maybe leaving out some of the lesser used ones.

Standard Mainstream is ultimately not challenging enough, so it is necessary to add moves from the Plus Program, but only from standard set-ups.

There is also the issue of the alternate program being suggested by the "American Caller's Association". I still have not seen their list, but it appears to have a concept of "frequently used moves from standard set-ups".

It is very difficult to find a "full Mainstream" dance in the USA anyway.

Now back to the problem. Is Mainstream truly either redundant or not working? Well folks, Mainstream level dances are alive and well in many parts of the world. Especially in Australia. Why is this? Simply because the current Basic, Mainstream, and Plus Program format is used "as intended".

In Australia, Mainstream clubs still thrive because we tend to use full Mainstream, all moves and all set-ups. Callers who don't use challenging Mainstream ultimately lose dancers to other callers who do. This causes those callers to improve to the stage where they also offer better Mainstream. After a couple of years, many dancers start to learn Plus, and they will also ultimately dance full Plus. But the Mainstream clubs do not seem to suffer, maybe because there is still a lot of Plus dancers dancing at Mainstream dances. Is there a downside to all of this? I suppose there is. It takes longer to lose dancer interest and we tend to keep them in the movement longer.

The current CALLERLAB programs, especially

Mainstream, work perfectly well in our part of the world. Mainstream is certainly not redundant and it does work!

So we come back to the problem. Is there some way we can solve the problems in USA without affecting the rest of the world? I'm sure there is. What's more I think the tools are already available within CALLERLAB. For instance:

The use of standard applications to create a dual Mainstream Program, "standard" for newer dancers and "full" for experienced dancers, which will revitalize Mainstream and slow the entry of dancers into Plus. (Refer my article on "Standard Applications" in June 1997 issue of *DIRECTION*.) The revised teaching order for Mainstream suggested about two years ago. This teaching order recognized the inconsistencies of teaching some family moves at the same time.

We have already recognized that some family moves do not belong together, for instance, "Partner Tag" which was considered a "nuisance child" in Mainstream, is maturing quite nicely in Plus. We could look at splitting up other families. There is scope to swap moves between Mainstream and Plus to make the two programs more logical. For instance, "spread" is an easy move that could easily be taught at Basic level. I'm not saying we should, but we do have the ability to swap moves around.

The above tools are already available to us, and should be exploited to "fine tune" our current programs before taking more drastic moves.

But these are not the only tools available to us. Dance programs, as such, only make up part of the overall picture. There are other reasons why people come square dancing, such as: Fun, Relaxation, Social Contact, the music used, low stress exercise, the travel that normally comes with the hobby, friendship, and many more reasons. We should also look at exploiting these aspects of square dancing more.

But getting back to the programs, one of the best tools available to us is to actually use each program to its limit. Every caller naturally likes to keep the whole floor dancing with no breakdowns, but we can become over-protective. Sometimes you have to take your dancers to "the edge of their capabilities" and beyond. One of the biggest thrills I get out of calling is to put familiar moves together in a way to make the dancers think, "Gee, I didn't know I could do that!". It's amazing how much one can squeeze out of a program like Mainstream, or even Basic, when you explore "beyond standard set-ups".

Okay, that's enough philosophizing for now, and back

to the ad hoc committee. I will assume the ad hoc committee has handled this issue in a quality way, such as:

Having no pre-conceived ideas.

Brainstormed the issues.

Came up with a problem statement.

Set up several criteria or "tests" that should be applied to their ideas to make sure the one chosen will work.

Has not been influenced by lobbying, or by the dance program(s) suggested by the "American Caller's Association".

Has looked at other issues that influence people to dance, such as fun, friendship, etc.

And have thought about the good of the whole movement.

I assume that the final recommendation was tested to ensure it will work in countries outside of the USA. But wait, isn't that asking too much of a committee based in the states? That's a bit like taking a test pilot from the space program and asking him to test a new submarine. How can the members of the committee know if their proposals will work in other countries if they don't routinely call in other countries?

So before we go any further with the recommendation, let's do some more testing and refinement, before we go for our "moon landing". Let's make sure that all systems will work - not only in the States, but other parts of the world. Let's make sure that we don't abandon a perfectly good system already in existence.

Finally, congratulations once again to the ad hoc committee for taking on this task, but remember that CALLERLAB is *"The International Association of Square Dance Callers"*. So look at the big picture first, and if we must change, make sure that the changes will not hurt the rest of the world.

FOOTNOTE:

In the time since I first wrote the above article, I have received the August issue of *"DIRECTION"*. In particular I refer to the article titled "HOW FAR TO THE NEXT BUS STOP?". I liked that article, and fully agree with the concept of having nice reachable stops to get off at. **But the bus stops already exist.** The first bus stop is called Basic, the second is called Mainstream. **The problem is not that the bus stops don't exist, it's just that there is nothing at the bus stops!**

What would you do if you came to a bus stop and found only desert, and you were told that the next bus stop was at an oasis. Would you get off, or continue on. What we need to do is to transform the scenery at the first bus stop, and encourage more people to get off there!

If newer dancers know that they have clubs to dance at, and that they will have dances programmed at Festivals, Conventions, etc., and that callers are working hard to make the programs interesting - then they may decide to stop at "Basic" or "Mainstream".

What could be done is to adjust the bus stops so they are (more) evenly spaced. One possible way, for example, is to take all the calls in the Basic, Mainstream and Plus Programs, re-order them into a logical teaching order, (split up families where necessary), then cut them up into three similar sized programs.

I do agree with the concept of name changes mentioned. Although a name change is simply cosmetic, it would better reflect the intention of making "Basic" and "Mainstream" destination programs.

TEAM 2000 DISCUSSION

by Andreas Macke, Germany

I have just read the August '97 issue of *DIRECTION* with the latest news on the Team 2000 discussion. Now I want to pass along my ideas on the questions raised in this issue - some viewpoints from overseas (where the square dance scene is different from the one in the States).

The answer to the question "3 bus stops" versus, "no changes" depends on what you want to achieve. We definitely need to recruit more people, so I talked to a marketing professional here in Germany. The very first question he asked, was, what is the group you want to touch, talk, and influence? Every marketing strategy is directly aimed at a special group of people, so you have to have as much information as possible about this specific group. Then either you have to modify your product so it fits the needs of this group - or you have to raise some new and unknown needs within this group.

When we transpose this to our square dance picture, we have to ask the same question, before we plan any changes to our product. First of all, who is the group we want to recruit in the future? To date, in the USA, the age of the average dancer is somewhere in the high sixties. About twenty years ago (when the CALLERLAB Programs were established) the average dancer was much younger (in the forties or fifties). So these people normally learn much faster than the average sixty year old dancer of today. So the length and complexity of the programs was exactly aimed at the customer and therefore quite successful. In most overseas countries the average dancer is also much younger, so the existing CALLERLAB Programs still work fine for most overseas countries.

The drop-out rate in our modern dance programs is due to the fact that the "group of consumers" (i.e. the

needs of this group) and the product (the square dance) don't fit any more. Now we basically have two options: Either change the product (the program lists) or look for other groups of consumers. This decision must be made before we can discuss any possible changes to the lists.

If we change our product so that it will fit again the needs of the average consumer in the USA (i.e. the sixty year old dancer, and sometimes even older), we run in trouble with the worldwide standardization. The square dance population in most other parts of the world is much younger, so the modified "new product" will no longer fit the needs of this worldwide group of consumers. On the other side it will hopefully fit the needs of the consumers in the States.

If we don't change the product (i.e. leave it as it is), we have to take the other way. Here the only chance is to recruit a much younger crowd. So here again is the first step to look closer at the needs of this group, then define a marketing strategy for our product. This could go along with some assisting steps, for example: Change the view and image of the square dance, so that younger people will be attracted. It is probably a good idea to talk to some marketing professionals on what is needed to attract the focused group of consumers and how to define an effective marketing strategy.

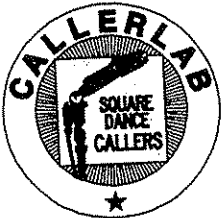
This is definitely the much harder way. On the other hand we can keep the worldwide standardization, so dancers from one country can dance without a problem in any other country in the world. This has worked for all of us for many years. I think it is much too easy to say that the world has changed. The callers and dancers from twenty years ago have not been much better or worse than the dancers or callers from today. The only thing that has changed is that both are getting older. Now is the time to make some changes. This cannot be done in just a few months, it will take at least five years, but we have to start somewhere and I think, NOW is the time to do so.

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

---Theodore Roosevelt

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

APR 6- 8, 1998	Drawbridge Estate, Cincinnati, Ohio
JUN 10-12, 1998	Mini-Lab, Adelaide, South Australia
MAR 29-31, 1999	Dallas Grand Hotel, Dallas, Texas



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



PRESS RELEASE

***** START *****

MAINSTREAM QUARTERLY SELECTION

Walt Cooley, Chairman of the MSQS, announces that the committee has selected **NO NEW MOVEMENTS** as the Mainstream Quarterly Selection for the period January 1, 1998 thru April 30, 1998.

Quarterly Selections are provided as optional material for those callers and/or clubs that wish to include a workshop in their programs. Do not use a Quarterly Selection unless you walk it or workshop it first.

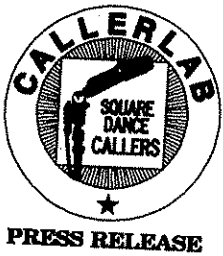
Current Quarterly Selections:

- MAINSTREAM NONE
- PLUS FAN THE BOAT - 3/97
 GO RIGHT/LEFT TO A WAVE - 7/97
- ADVANCED SWING THE FRACTIONS - 5/97
 NONE - 9/97
 FOLLOW TO A DIAMOND - 1/98

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



***** START *****

ADVANCED QUARTERLY SELECTION

Bill Harrison, Chairman of the Advanced Quarterly Selections Committee, announces that the committee has selected **FOLLOW TO A DIAMOND** for the period January 1, thru April 30, 1998.

Quarterly Selections are provided as optional material for those callers and/or clubs that wish to include a workshop in their programs. Do not use a Quarterly Selection unless you walk it or workshop it first.

FOLLOW TO A DIAMOND

STARTING FORMATION: Box Circulate Formation

THE ACTION: In-Facing dancers do their part of Follow Your Neighbor and Spread. They become the Points of the Diamond, Out-Facing dancers Box Circulate Once and a Half. They become the centers of the Diamond.

ENDING FORMATION: Diamond

DANCE EXAMPLES: Heads Wheel Thru, Touch 1/4, **FOLLOW TO A DIAMOND**, 6x2 Acey Deucey, Flip the Diamond, 1/4 Thru, Right and Left Grand.

SINGING CALL EXAMPLE: Heads Square Thru, Do Sa Do, Touch 1/4, **FOLLOW TO A DIAMOND**, Diamond Circulate, Flip the Diamond, Slip, Recycle, Swing, Promenade.

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



***** START *****

PLUS COMMITTEE REVIEW

Larry Davenport, Chairman of the Plus Committee, is pleased to announce that the committee has completed the 1997 biennial review of the Plus Program.

The committee has voted to drop *Partner Tag*, *Remake the Thar*, and *Triple Scoot*. This review was conducted in three steps. The members of the committee who met in Los Angeles voted to drop three calls from the program this year. Confirmation of this decision and selection of calls for consideration to drop were done by all committee members, by mail, following the convention. The committee then voted on the final slate of candidate calls in October to select the three calls to be dropped.

Plus Committee membership is open to Members and Associate Members of CALLERLAB who call a minimum of 30 Plus dances or lessons a year. If you are eligible, I urge you to please join and participate. The committee currently consists of 255 members

This completes the 1997 review of the Basic/Mainstream Program (by the Mainstream Committee) and the Plus Program. No changes were made to the Basic or Mainstream Programs this year. The Advanced Committee, Bob Stern, Chairman, must now consider whether or not to add the calls dropped from the Plus Program to either the A-1 or A-2 Programs.

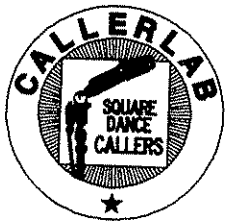
The Plus Committee feels that we have a good program and that the best way to improve the program is to work effectively with what we have to provide entertainment for the dancers.

Updated Plus Program lists are available from the Home Office.

***** END *****

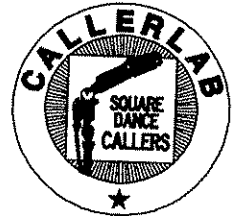
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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

***** START *****

PLUS EMPHASIS CALL

Larry Davenport, Chairman of the Plus Committee, is pleased to announce that **EXPLODE AND...(Anything)** (from waves only) has been selected as the Plus Emphasis Call for the period November 1, 1997 to March 1, 1998. (Standard formation, arrangement, and comment are provided from the CALLERLAB "Standard Plus Applications" document.)

EXPLODE AND...(Anything) (from waves only)

- STANDARD STARTING FORMATION:** Right-hand parallel ocean waves.
- ARRANGEMENT:** "0" (girls as centers and boys as ends).
- COMMENT:** Success will depend greatly on "Anything" call.
- DEFINITION:** Starting formation - Any 4-dancer ocean wave.
Everyone releases handholds, steps forward and turns a quarter in (90°) to face the adjacent dancer, and does the (Anything) call (e.g., Right & Left Thru, Star Thru, etc.)
- STYLING:** In all **EXPLODE AND...** figures, follow the styling suggestions for each of the "Anything" figures used.
- ENDING FORMATION:** Ending formation depends on each of the "Anything" figures used.
- DANCE EXAMPLE:** (from Zero Box or Zero Line) Pass the Ocean, **EXPLODE AND** Right & Left Thru, (ends in Zero Box or Zero Line, respectively).
(from Zero Line) Pass the Ocean, **EXPLODE AND** Load the Boat, Slide Thru (ends in Zero Line, 180° turned).
- ALLEMANDE LEFT GETOUT:** (from Zero Box) Right & Left Thru, Pass the Ocean, **EXPLODE AND** Allemande Left.
- RIGHT AND LEFT GRAND:** (from Zero Box) Right & Left Thru, Pass the Ocean, Grand Swing Thru, **EXPLODE AND** Right & Left Grand.
- SINGING CALL EXAMPLE:** (from Static Square) Heads Promenade 1/2, Star Thru, Pass Thru, Pass the Ocean, **EXPLODE AND** Touch 1/4, Split Circulate 1 1/2, Flip the Diamond, Scoot Back, Swing Corner, Promenade.
- TIMING:** 2 beats for the explode portion.

***** END *****

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THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



PRESS RELEASE

***** START *****

TRADITIONAL DANCE OF THE QUARTER

Yona chock, Chairman of the Contra and Traditional Dance Committee is pleased to announce that the committee has chosen **HOOK AND A WHIRL** as the Traditional Dance of the Quarter for the period November 1, 1997 thru February 28, 1997.

HOOK AND A WHIRL

MUSIC: Flop Eared mule, Chines Breakdown, Golden Slippers (available as hoedowns).

FORMATION: Standard Square

FIGURE:

CALL

DESCRIPTION OF DANCE

1st and 3rd balance & swing

Heads balance toward partners and away and then swing partners - a 12 count swing.

Promenade that outside ring

Heads Promenade full around to home.

Forward you go and back with your girl

Heads forward 3 steps, bow to opposites and back out.

Now the 2 gents forward with a Hook and a Whirl

Head gents hook right elbows and turn 1 3/4 around to face the right hand lady.

Now left elbow hook your right hand girl

Head gents turn their right hand girls one full turn.

The same two gents the same old thing

Head gents hook right elbows and turn 1 1/2 to face their corners.

Now ALL hook corners for a left elbow swing

All four gents turn their corners with a left elbow swing.

Now go to your own for a Hook and a Whirl

All swing partners with a right elbow one full turn.

Promenade your corner girl.

Take the corner girl and Promenade to home.

Repeat for Sides, Heads, Sides

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



PRESS RELEASE

***** START *****

CONTRA OF THE QUARTER

Yona Chock, chairman of the Contra and Traditional Dance Committee, is pleased to announce that the committee has chosen **OXO** as the Contra Dance of the quarter for the period to November 1, 1997 thru February 28, 1998.

OXO

A Traditional Six Couple Proper Contra

MUSIC: A lively long playing hoedown without strong phrasing works well for this contra as the timing tends to vary during the march down and back under the arch.

FORMATION: Six couple proper set. Ladies to the caller's left and men to the right facing their partners.

FIGURE:

-----, **Ends turn Topsy Turvy.** (Top couple holding both hands skip or sashay down the center while the foot couple comes up the outside to the top of the set. Without a pause the original top couple comes up the outside while the original foot couple goes down the center until all are in their original places.)

-----, **Lines go forward and back.**

-----, **"O" "X" "O".** (The top four and the foot four circle left while the center four star right.)

-----, **Reverse.** (Top four and foot four circle right, while the center four star left. All face the music.)

-----, **Follow the leaders, forward march.** (Top man turns left, top lady turns right to lead their lines to the foot of the set where they join both hands to form an arch.)

Go all the way down, and under the arch. (Couples 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 meet at the foot of the set and come up under the arch. #2 couple is now the new Top Couple.)

March up to place, ends turn Topsy Turvy.

N.B. Warn the "arching" couple to push away from each other to begin the dance over as they sashay up the outside for the "Topsy Turvy".

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CALLERLAB PLUS PROGRAM

REVISED 11-1-97

PLUS LIST - TEACHING ORDER

67. ACEY DEUCEY
68. TEACUP CHAIN
69. PING PONG CIRCULATE
70. LOAD THE BOAT
71. EXTEND
72. PEEL OFF
73. LINEAR CYCLE (from waves only)
74. COORDINATE
75. (ANYTHING) & SPREAD
76. SPIN CHAIN THE GEARS
77. TRACK II
78. (ANYTHING) & ROLL
79. FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR
80. EXPLODE THE WAVE
81. EXPLODE & (ANYTHING) (from waves only)
82. RELAY THE DEUCEY
83. PEEL THE TOP
84. DIAMOND CIRCULATE
85. SINGLE CIRCLE TO A WAVE
86. TRADE THE WAVE
87. FLIP THE DIAMOND
88. GRAND SWING THRU
89. CROSSFIRE
90. ALL 8 SPIN THE TOP
91. CUT THE DIAMOND
92. CHASE RIGHT
93. DIXIE GRAND
94. 3/4 TAG THE LINE
95. SPIN CHAIN & EXCHANGE THE GEARS

PLUS LIST - ALPHABETICAL ORDER

- (ANYTHING) & ROLL
- (ANYTHING) & SPREAD
- 3/4 TAG THE LINE
- ACEY DEUCEY
- ALL 8 SPIN THE TOP
- CHASE RIGHT
- COORDINATE
- CROSSFIRE
- CUT THE DIAMOND
- DIAMOND CIRCULATE
- DIXIE GRAND
- EXPLODE THE WAVE
- EXPLODE & (ANYTHING) (from waves only)
- EXTEND
- FLIP THE DIAMOND
- FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR
- GRAND SWING THRU
- LINEAR CYCLE (from waves only)
- LOAD THE BOAT
- PEEL OFF
- PEEL THE TOP
- PING PONG CIRCULATE
- RELAY THE DEUCEY
- SINGLE CIRCLE TO A WAVE
- SPIN CHAIN THE GEARS
- SPIN CHAIN & EXCHANGE THE GEARS
- TEACUP CHAIN
- TRACK II
- TRADE THE WAVE

Callers are reminded to limit their calls to the advertised program. Calls from a list other than advertised should not be used unless they are walked through or workshopped first. If conducting a PLUS workshop, use only PLUS calls. If conducting a workshop for PLUS Dancers who want more, workshop should be labeled appropriately.

NOTE: The Plus Program is understood to include more creative use of the Basic and Mainstream moves from other than standard positions. For this reason, CALLERLAB recommends that the Plus Program calls be taught in not less than 30 hours.

These lists are furnished through the courtesy of CALLERLAB and your local CALLERLAB callers.

CALLERLAB PROGRAMS

BASIC – MAINSTREAM – PLUS

Why Programs and Lists?

CALLERLAB programs define a world-wide standard of square dance calls to be taught in square dance classes or workshops. Program lists, such as this one, list the set of calls that may be called at a dance advertised to be a specific dance program i.e. Basic, Mainstream, Plus, etc. Dance promoters are encouraged to list the program to be danced on flyers, brochures and other advertisements of open dances. Dancers should refer to the program designations to seek out dances that will consist of material with which they are familiar. Program lists are used by callers in programming an appropriate dance for a specific group of dancers. Including the desired program in the caller's confirmation agreement will provide programming guidance to the caller as well as protection for the sponsoring organization.

The program(s) are not intended to segregate dancers into exclusive groups or to indicate that one who chooses to dance at his or her own preferred program is any better, or any worse, than any other dancer. Dancing skill can be achieved at many programs, and the quantity of calls is not necessarily an indication of dancer proficiency. It is hoped that the program lists will be used to aid in a logical teaching progression and thorough coverage of basics in classes and to provide an enjoyable modern square dance for dancers of all inclinations. In addition, CALLERLAB's intent is that approved styling and timing of square dance movements will be an integral part of all classes and dance programs. It is also hoped that proper teaching, including timing and styling, will result in smooth dancing for the greater enjoyment of all.

What Next?

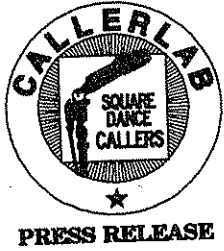
Responsible leaders, within and outside of CALLERLAB, recommend that dancers dance regularly at the program at which they graduate for at least one (1) year before they enter into classes or workshops for another program. This means that dancers graduating from the Mainstream Program should dance regularly at Mainstream dances for a year before going into the Plus Program. Graduates from the Plus Program should dance regularly at Plus dances for a year before going into an Advanced Program, etc.

There should be no pressure put on dancers to move from one program to another once they have graduated. Dancers should be encouraged to take their time, enjoy the fun and fellowship and learn to dance well at that program before moving on to another program.

What About Quarterly Selections?

Dancers are not required to know the Quarterly Selections in order to attend an advertised Mainstream or Plus dance.

Quarterly Selections are not part of the Mainstream or Plus Programs. They are provided as optional material for those callers and/or clubs that wish to include a workshop in their programs. Callers are reminded that Quarterly Selections should not be used unless they are walked through or workshopped first.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



***** START *****

BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION RESULTS

The 1997 balloting for the CALLERLAB Board of Governors has resulted in the election of the following individuals:

- GREGG ANDERSON, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- RANDY DOUGHERTY, Minneapolis, Minnesota & Mesa, Arizona
- MIKE JACOBS, Herndon, Virginia
- MARTIN MALLARD, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- TONY OXENDINE, Sumter, South Carolina
- DEBORAH PARNELL, Rancho Cucamonga, California
- JERRY STORY, Mission, Texas
- JOHN SYBALSKY, San Jose, California

Congratulations to each of these well-qualified callers! Their 3-year term on the Board will begin on April 8, 1998, following the CALLERLAB Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Members currently serving on the Board of Governors are:

Cal Campbell, Daryl Clendenin, Larry Cole* - Vice Chrmn, Tim Crawford, Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie, Randy Dougherty, Laural Eddy-Moseley*, Betsy Gotta, Bill Harrison, Mike Jacobs, Jerry Jestin, Jerry Junck* - Chairman, John Kaltenthaler, Martin Mallard, John Marshall, Jim Mayo*, Tom Miller, Wayne Morvent, Tony Oxendine*, Deborah Parnell, Ken Ritucci, Mike Seastrom, Nasser Shukayr, Al Stevens, John Sybalsky, and George White* - Executive Director.

** indicates members of the 1997-98 Executive Committee*

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



PRESS RELEASE

***** START *****

STARTER KITS FOR NEWER CALLERS

The recently completed manual "Starter Kit for Newer Callers" is now ready for sale and distribution. This has been a project of the Caller Training Committee and represents an excellent value of very important information, especially for new and relatively new callers. If any of you do any work with the training of new callers, you should strongly encourage them to purchase their own copy of this manual. Also, those of you who are involved with local caller association training sessions, should add this to your library. The cost is a nominal \$15.00 plus shipping.

The contents of the manual include the Formations and Arrangement charts as well as common definitions currently in use by most callers. It also includes many CALLERLAB handouts on such topics as Music, Smooth Body Flow, Helper Words for Callers, three papers on Timing, Modules, Mental Image, Sight Calling, Code of Ethics, two papers dealing with Degree of Difficulty, Reference Sources and the two application Booklets on Mainstream and Plus.

A listing of the Accredited Caller-Coaches is included as well as information on scholarships available for continuing education. The manual is arranged and published in a loose leaf notebook format so that when and if changes are made, you can insert the replacement page(s).

You may order this book from the Home Office at:

CALLERLAB
829 3rd Ave SE, Ste 285
Rochester, MN 55904-7313

Cost is \$15.00 plus shipping.

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1997



PRESS RELEASE

***** START *****

MINI-LAB 1998 - ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mini-Lab Australia will be held in the capital city of the state of South Australia, Adelaide. It will be held immediately after the 39th Australian National Square Dance Convention, which is also being held in our fair city of Adelaide.

Dates for National Convention: June 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8, 1998.

Mini-Lab Dates: June 9, 10, & 11, 1998.

Place of Mini-Lab: Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, South Australia

Mini-Lab and Callers Registration Forms are available from our Secretary:

Les Tulloch

P.O. Box 3273

Port Adelaide, S.A. 5015,

Australia

Phone Number: 011 61 8 8449 6295

Mini-Lab is run along the CALLERLAB guidelines, and over 3 days. It caters for callers in the Southern hemisphere. Australian and New Zealand callers basically, but we are expecting some friends from Japan, and possibly Europe.

Members of the CALLERLAB Board will be in attendance, and will be overseeing this function. It will give you the opportunity to talk to these people about individual concerns and to collectively put our points forward for more positive action from CALLERLAB. We have chosen a theme "Learning to Teach" as we feel this would be appropriate, as teaching will always be part of our calling career. Teaching is involved from beginners through Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and beyond. If you have any thoughts or ideas regarding topics involving "Teaching" please let me know them. They may be ideas you have, problem spots troubling you, or you may have teaching knowledge you wish to share with all of us. Mini-Lab is open to all callers, new and experienced. You may wish to renew membership, or for the first timer, become a CALLERLAB member. Please consider joining us in Adelaide in 98.

If you would like to attend our Australian National, as well as Mini-Lab, you would be most welcome. As stated earlier Registration Forms for the Dancing Convention and Mini-Lab Convention will be sent out on request. By the way, Callers Partners will also be accommodated for. Costs will be minimal and available on request. I look forward to seeing and meeting you in Adelaide in 1998.

Regards,

Jeff Seidel, President - Mini-Lab Australia

20 Eyre Crescent Valley View 5093

Australia

Phone Number: 011 61 8 8263 5023

***** END *****

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

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