

NEWSLETTER  
for Members of  
CALLERLAB

# Direction



The International Association  
of Square Dance Callers

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

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## IN THIS ISSUE

CALL TO CONVENTION .....	1
FROM THE CHAIR .....	1
CONVENTION UPDATE .....	2
T2000 INFORMATION PACK AVAILABLE .....	3
1998 CONVENTION EXHIBITORS .....	3
PERSPECTIVES BY TEAM 2000 .....	4
A "PRO" VIEW OF THE PROPOSALS .....	5
A "CON" VIEW TO THE PROPOSALS .....	5
CASE FOR ADOPTION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS .....	6
ARGUMENT AGAINST THE PROPOSED DANCE PROGRAM CHANGES .....	6
THE RESOLUTION -- ABRIDGED .....	7
AGAINST DANCE PROGRAM CHANGES .....	8
WANTED - AFTERPARTY SKITS .....	9
ADVANCED COMMITTEE REVIEW .....	9
JUST THE FAQs, MA'AM! .....	10
PORTLAND MINI-LAB TAPES .....	10
IN MEMORIAM .....	11
PARTNERS COMMITTEE .....	11
"FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION" .....	11
MIND YOUR HOME BUSINESS .....	11
MINI-LAB AUSTRALIA .....	12
FOUNDATION DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE ..	12
FROM OUR MEMBERS .....	13
PROPOSED LEVELS STRUCTURE .....	13
SQUARE-OPOLY? .....	14
AN "ALTERNATE" ALTERNATE PROGRAM .....	14
WHICH WAY DO WE GO? .....	16
SQUARE DIVERSITY .....	17
MUST PROGRAMS ALWAYS CHANGE? .....	18

## CURRENT QUARTERLY SELECTIONS:

MAINSTREAM	None
PLUS	Go Right/Left to a Wave (7/97)
ADVANCED	Swing the Fractions (5/97) Follow to a Diamond (11/97)
TRADITIONAL	The Wagon Wheel (3/98)
CONTRA	En Zed Contra (3/98)

## EMPHASIS CALLS:

BASIC	Touch 1/4 (1/98)
MAINSTREAM	Spin the Top (1/98)
PLUS	Explode And...(Anything) (11/97)

## 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

## CALL TO CONVENTION

In accordance with the bylaws, notice is hereby given of the Call to Convention to be held at the Drawbridge Estates Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 6, 7, and 8, 1998. All Life Members, Members, Associate Members, and Apprentices are cordially invited to attend. Non-member callers may attend by requesting an invitation from the Home Office.

The principal business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 8th, will be the review and consideration of the Team 2000 proposal, a copy of which is included with this issue of *DIRECTION*.

Additionally, the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors is considering proposing revisions to the bylaws dated 3/26/97 (all members received a copy with the April 1997 issue of *DIRECTION*). Specific sections being considered are Article III, Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7. The purpose of this possible revision is to bring the bylaws into conformance with the California state laws under which CALLERLAB is incorporated.

Convention invitations and registration packets were included in the November issue of *DIRECTION*. If you did not receive a packet and wish to attend the convention, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-331-2577.

## FROM THE CHAIR

Mark your calendars! The CALLERLAB convention will be held at the Drawbridge Estate Inn and Convention Center near the Cincinnati airport. The dates will be April 6-8, 1998. The Drawbridge Estate Inn is an excellent facility and has extended a very favorable rate to our organization. It should provide us a great atmosphere to conduct our business and to enjoy the educational seminars planned. In addition, the convention provides us a place to make new friends and to renew old friendships.

While you can expect a good time, this is a working convention. The CALLERLAB convention gives **YOU** the opportunity to have **YOUR** voice heard. **YOU** can be a part of the decision making process. The convention is **YOUR** chance to take part in committee meetings and attend the educational seminars. It is an opportunity to talk personally with **YOUR** Board of Governors. It is an opportunity to learn how CALLERLAB functions and how **YOU** can participate and become part of the solutions we are all looking to find.

The focus of this year's convention is especially important to all of us. Our theme is "Pathway To The Future." This convention provides us a forum to do just that, discuss our future. There will be numerous educational sessions scheduled directed at improving our calling and teaching skills. The entire CALLERLAB convention is devoted to the betterment of square dancing. In addition, our convention includes sessions for the caller's partner. Truly, there is something for everyone.

As most of you know, there is a proposal before the membership which would change our current program structure. Undoubtedly, this will be the primary topic of discussion at this convention. Do **YOU** think a new program structure is what square dancing needs? Or, do **YOU** feel our current programs continue to offer callers and dancers a viable and workable set of guidelines for the square dance activity? It's **YOUR** decision. Please remember that the Board of Governors cannot make this decision. Only **YOU**, the membership can decide. Each member of the Board has one vote, the same as **YOU**. Also, remember that the vote has been restored to the Wednesday morning meeting. This is a very important issue for the activity, and I encourage each of you to attend the convention and give the discussion careful consideration.

Finally, this is my last "From The Chair" article. It has been a very fast and busy two years. As I write this, many thoughts and feelings run through my mind. There have been some exciting things happen in these last two years. Also, I'm quite sure that I share some

of your feelings regarding decisions made that were other than I would have liked. But, that is also what I like about CALLERLAB. It is a democratic organization, and majority rules.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped make this job easier for me. First of all, thanks to our Executive Director, George White, and his entire staff for everything they do. The volume of their workload is unbelievable. Also, thanks to all the committee chairmen and their committees. They are the real backbone of the organization. In addition, thank you to the Board of Governors for their concern and dedication to the activity. Be assured that they represent you, the membership, very well. A sincere thank you to the Executive Committee for the commitment of time and effort in running the day-to-day business of the organization. Finally, thank you to the membership for your support and confidence. It has been my privilege to serve as your Chairman.

CALLERLAB is square dancing's PROFESSIONAL leadership. As a member, **YOU** are a part of that leadership. However, being a leader also means responsibility. Attend the CALLERLAB convention and help share in the responsibility of caring for this great recreation we call square dancing. If **YOU** want to make a difference---**BE THERE!!**

You'll be glad you did.

Jerry Junck  
Chairman Of The Board

## CONVENTION UPDATE

**A**s of this writing, 142 callers and 89 partners are registered for the 1998 convention in Cincinnati. This represents a significant increase in registrations over last year at this time. If registrations continue at this pace, we may have to limit attendance to a maximum of 600 attendees because of space limitations. If you plan to attend, register early to avoid disappointment.

Convention invitations and registration packets were included in the November issue of *DIRECTION*. If you did not receive a packet, or have misplaced it, and wish

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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 (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.

to attend the convention, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-331-2577.

While the convention does not officially begin until 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 6th, several activities have been planned for Sunday, April 5th, for those callers and partners arriving early for the convention. Activities scheduled on Sunday are:

- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. CDP dance
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Reception & Social Hour
- 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Orientation Session for first-time attendees
- 9:00 - 10:30 p.m. After Party

Convention registration will be open on Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for early-bird arrivals. Look for registration in the London Lobby.

Associate Members calling less than 50 dances or lessons per year and Apprentice Members are also invited to attend the CALLERLAB Convention, even though they are unable to become full Members until they meet all of the requisite qualifications for membership. Present members come from all 50 states, nine Canadian provinces, and from fifteen overseas countries. Delegates who attend the conventions have an opportunity to sit down and discuss mutual concerns with others from all over the world. Many callers frequently find that what they thought was a unique problem is, indeed, shared by others. While the serious side of square dancing takes up most of the convention time, there is still time to prove the square dancing slogan, "Friendship is square dancing's greatest reward".

## T2000 INFORMATION PACK AVAILABLE

There has been much discussion in the last few months regarding CALLERLAB dance program changes. A proposal presented by the Team 2000 Committee, entitled Target 2000, is now being studied by the CALLERLAB membership. It will be the main topic of discussion scheduled for the 1998 CALLERLAB Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. The proposal is in resolution form and will be presented to the CALLERLAB membership for their approval or disapproval on April 8, 1998. All callers, caller associations, dancers, dancer associations, and all other interested parties may receive and review the proposal in order to formulate their own opinions and perhaps relay those opinions to CALLERLAB members who will be voting on the issue. Informational packets containing the proposal may be acquired by writing:

CALLERLAB T2000 Proposal  
829 3rd Ave SE, Ste 285  
Rochester, MN 55904-7313

Enclose a #10 self-addressed envelope, stamped with enough postage for 2 ounces of domestic delivery (55 cents US postage).

Interested parties who have access to e-mail and the internet may partake in an ongoing discussion regarding the proposal by sending an e-mail to MAJORDOMO@DMSHOME.ORG. The body of the e-mail message need only contain one line as follows:

Subscribe SD-2000 <your e-mail address>

This will subscribe the sender to a mail list entitled SD-2000. This mail list is not restricted to callers. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Postings to this mail list are the opinions of the participants and not of CALLERLAB, the CALLERLAB Board of Governors, or Executive Committee.

CALLERLAB has always been responsive to proposals properly submitted for study and consideration by its members. The proposal regarding changes to the existing dance programs will receive complete and objective consideration. The CALLERLAB membership will vote to accept or reject any proposed changes to the dance programs. If any changes are endorsed by a vote of the membership, CALLERLAB will issue the appropriate press releases and notices advising all interested parties of the changes. Until such time, there are NO changes in the current CALLERLAB dance program structure. All programs remain intact at this time.

Throughout the years CALLERLAB has remained a major stabilizing factor in square dancing. Our dance programs will remain relatively stable to insure the continued growth and well being of the activity. The membership of CALLERLAB takes the responsibility of dance program maintenance very seriously.

## 1998 CONVENTION EXHIBITORS

CALLERLAB convention exhibitor information has been mailed to all exhibitors whose names we have on file. If you wish to exhibit at the Cincinnati Convention and have not received an information/application package, please contact the Home Office.

To exhibit at the convention, you must be registered at the convention hotel. If you are a CALLERLAB member you may display and sell products or services of any kind. Non-members may exhibit at the convention only if their product or service is primarily for square dance callers. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office.

## "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, 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 CALLERLAB 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.*

### A "PRO" VIEW OF THE PROPOSALS

by Larry Cole

The ad hoc committee proposals are clearly the way to go. The three proposals provide a clear path to dance program reform. Square Dancing has needed such an overhaul for a long time. The sooner the ad hoc committee's phenomenal foresight can become reality the better.

The first proposal mandates a clear-cut Basic Dance Program. This proposal will give us an entry program, as yet unnamed or structured, that will allow an easier access for new dancers to the world of square dancing. It calls for a program that can be taught, more importantly "learned", in 10 to 12 sessions. Let us ponder for a moment what this means. It means that every 10-12 weeks another set of new dancers join the world of square dancing and can recruit a new class. This second class can recruit a new class, who can then recruit a new class, who can then - WOW - what will we do with all these dancers? Better yet, after these new dancers are finished with their entry program they can continue to dance in this basic program for as long as they wish. The new entry program will be a bona fide CALLERLAB Square Dance Program. Clubs will flourish at this phase and dancers can enjoy square dancing in a very relaxed atmosphere.

The second proposal provides for dancers who are willing to make a greater commitment to their hobby. Thoughts on this second phase (program, level, plateau, etc.) suggest it will contain calls from both the current Mainstream and Plus Programs. While it is true that no work has been done at this time to restructure our current lists to fit this proposal, it is most definite that a change will occur. The teaching (learning) time for this proposed program will be an additional 10-12 sessions beyond the basic program. It is assumed that most clubs will dance this newly created program. The increased activity in the Basic Program will build a strong base to feed into this second proposal. Also, the dancers participating in this phase of dancing will no longer be spilt between Mainstream and Plus. Just think, everyone dancing together and having a great time.

(See A "Pro" View on page 5)

### A "CON" VIEW TO THE PROPOSALS

by Larry Cole

Whoa!! Wait a minute. Let's contemplate this undertaking for a moment. On the surface the ad hoc committee proposals appear great. We can employ them to glean new dancers and with less material to learn at the beginning means they can recruit sooner. We can exercise them to furnish these additional dancers with a place to dance after they graduate. We can manipulate them to strengthen our clubs as these new dancers move on to the second step. We can apply them to combine the dancers we have into one "fun filled" hall at conventions and festivals instead of several poorly attended halls. All the callers and clubs will be working together with corresponding goals in mind. Wow, everything really looks great.

Therefore, you exclaim, "what is the problem?" Well let us examine a little farther down the proverbial road. Should the proposals pass they more than likely will lead to changes in the programs. It is expected that some calls will be dropped from the Basic Program and that the Mainstream and Plus Programs will be combined, which will also cause some calls to be deleted from each of these programs. Disregarding which calls are in question, let us consider some complications. First, is the fact that, we as callers resist change with a passion. We are very set in our ways and some of us will never conform to a modernistic way of thinking. Aside from that, what about the memory callers or the module callers? Both of these type callers are every bit as accomplished as the sight caller, but will have a much more difficult time adjusting to a new set of calls. For instance, the memory caller will have to completely relearn all that he knows. You cannot simply replace, on the spur of the moment, one or more calls in a memory sequence. Multitudes of callers will need to completely start over and reconstruct their calling program. Will they be willing to do so? I think not. The module caller has it a little better. He/she can replace lost calls in their modules with other equivalents. True it is not as easy as it sounds and some will not make the change. They will continue to call and teach in their comfort zone

(See A "Con" View on page 6)

### A "Pro" View - (continued from page 4)

The third proposal calls for the use of Extended Applications for all the calls used in the first two programs. There is always a percentage of square dancers who eat, sleep and breath square dancing. These eager folks want to be challenged and explore all the possibilities of their activity. Therefore, these Extended Applications, used in proposal number three, will feed their undying yearning for more. Many dancers will not be interested in making this considerable commitment and that is fine, because as much dancing as most could ever want is available in the first two proposals.

However, (it seems like there is always a however) there are some obstacles to overcome in implementing this plan. First, we callers resist change, some with a passion. Second, there is a wealth of printed material that must be changed. Third, it is a sure bet that some calls must be deleted from our lists. Now I am not about to say that this can be accomplished with ease, because it cannot. It will take a tremendous amount of work and dedication by everyone involved. We will lose callers, we will lose dancers and we will lose clubs but since we have been losing them for some time now, we really have nothing to lose and everything to gain. So . . . on your marks, ready - set - go, let's get to it. This is the greatest thing to hit square dancing in a very long time and when implemented, will bring tremendous enthusiasm and carry us to new heights of success.

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## CASE FOR ADOPTION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

by Jon Jones

For way too long, too much emphasis has been placed on how long it takes to learn to square dance. For the Mainstream dancer, a full season (one year.) For the Plus dancer, two full seasons (two years.) This would actually be three years if the CALLERLAB recommendation of dancing at least one year after the Mainstream graduation, in the Mainstream Program, were followed. For those who wish to do rounds, add another year.

So, for the average dancer in the U.S. to be able to dance everything at an "average type" dance, which would be Plus with rounds, it will take no less than three to four years. Ouch! That hurts. It has hurt our activity because it takes too long to be able to participate in a full evening of our so-called "Fun" activity.

(See *Case for Adoption* on page 7)

### A "Con" View - (continued from page 5)

and ignore the new concept. Such "comfort zone calling" will lead to new dancers being subjected to calls they have never been taught. Do we need this type of dancer frustration? We should also consider all the printed material such as books on calling techniques, teaching manuals for new dancer classes and hundreds of thousands of program lists that are posted, printed and pasted in a multitude of places. How do we update all this material? Not to mention the very heart of all that we use the music or more correctly, the "cue sheets" that accompany all our records. Many of these singing call cue sheets will become obsolete and a great number of callers cannot easily adapt them to the new changes. If space permitted there could well be many more points to consider.

We need to evaluate the following in order to make the right decision: 1. Can we really justify the repercussions that we may induce? 2. Will the ad hoc committee proposals really be that great? 3. Will they save Square Dancing or destroy it? The present CALLERLAB programs are not the problem. Recruitment, apathy and attitude are the real problems. We must overcome the apathy of callers and dancers. We all must restore our passion for the activity. An attitude adjustment must be made. Callers must begin to work together for the good of square dancing. Recruitment is our largest problem, however, with a change of attitude and a kick in the pants to apathy we can effectively recruit and turn our beloved square dancing around.

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## ARGUMENT AGAINST THE PROPOSED DANCE PROGRAM CHANGES

By Al Stevens

*[Editor's Note: Unlike the other contributors to this section, Al Stevens is not a member of the Team 2000 Ad Hoc Committee. Because of his stature in the European dance community, Al was asked and agreed to contribute this article.]*

The recent proposal by the ad hoc committee that was presented to the Board of Governors of CALLERLAB has been digested and I would like to offer some personal views, and opinions, regarding the proposal, as I understand it. I might add that this view is strictly my own personal opinion, not the opinion of any organization or group, in Europe, and the European square dance scene should not be held accountable for my feelings. I might further add, that if I was calling "full-time" anywhere else in the world, perhaps I would alter my views, but I have been living

(See *Argument Against* on page 7)

### **Case for Adoption - continued from page 6**

Those who are dancing their desired program are having fun and we certainly don't want to take that away from them. However, we are losing the majority of newer dancers because the process is too difficult. Therefore, the fun is gone and so are they.

The ad hoc committee's proposal to change the Basic Program's name to "square dancing" (standard applications), graduate after ten to twelve weeks, and provide dances all over the world for these new graduates, who will quadruple the number of dancers in less than two years. Isn't that exciting? You bet it is!

To satisfy the existing majority of dancers, proposal #2 must be put into action as well. This will eliminate the current two-program dance, i.e., a Mainstream dance with one or two Plus tips. Furthermore, we keep the emphasis on proposal #1 and encourage proposal #2 dancers to join the Square Dance Program. They will be the majority in two years.

Proposal #3 is connected directly to proposal #2. It is needed at the present time to satisfy those who must have more. Comments have been made that this is entirely a new concept that we know very little about. Isn't that exciting? Yes! We haven't had anything to get excited about in a long time. In many of our overseas countries this is not entirely a new concept. They do a lot of it already.

Hopefully the big emphasis will be placed on the Square Dance Program. In a short period of time this will be the main attraction. We must create the attitude of "Fun, Fellowship, and Family."

### **THE RESOLUTION -- ABRIDGED**

by Jerry Story

Target 2000 is a motion that contains three segments. These three segments are to be voted on as a single motion. Essentially, the segments deal with replacing the existing Mainstream and Plus dance programs with three newly designed programs. The new programs will contain a subset of the calls currently contained in the Mainstream and Plus Programs.

**SEGMENT ONE:** "As an entry program, establish a 10-12 session square dance program, that contains calls from the Basic list, the title and content of which to be designed at a later date."

This resolution suggests that the title for this program be named "Square Dancing." The purpose is to commit us to the concept first. We have been through this before, only to be bogged down with content. Nothing ever gets accomplished. Callers will be encouraged to work this program into groups and/or clubs. We are talking about clubs that could dance this program

(See *Abridged* on page 8)

### **Argument Against - continued from page 6**

with these thoughts for the past 18 years. The proposal, as I understand it, is to have 3 parts. The first part is to recognize the current Basic Program as a stand-alone program (in my estimation, this means divorcing it from the current Mainstream Program) with its own committee, this program will be called "Square Dancing" and should be taught from "standard" applications first. Recommended teaching time, not to exceed 24 student hours.

The second part is to create a program using the calls from the current Mainstream and Plus Programs. This program should be also taught from "standard" applications first. Recommended teaching time should be 24 student hours.

The third part of the program is to combine the first two and enhance them by applying "extended" applications. Recommended teaching time should be 50 student hours. For callers who wish to teach extended applications from the start, the committee recommends a total of 100 student hours.

Currently, I am teaching the Basic Program in approximately 50 student hours, extended applications. I am teaching the remaining, current Mainstream Program (in its entirety) in approximately 30 additional student hours, this is a total of 80 student hours, and just covers the Mainstream Program. This is an average taken over the last 13 years and covers over 50 classes--I was a statistician in the Air Force.

The second program implies (and this was the way other European countries envisioned) the "current" Mainstream and Plus Programs would be combined, in their entirety, and taught from "standard" applications. This is a total of 49 of the most difficult movements, to be taught in 12 weeks--an average of over 4 movements per session. Granted, there are some, but not many, easy movements, but for every easy movement, there are 6 difficult movements that have to be taught as well. Having taught over 240 classes in my career, graduating over 8,700 dancers along the way, I find it just shy of impossible to consider. Now the reality as I see it.

The committee carefully worded the original resolution to read "to create a program using the calls from the current Mainstream and Plus Programs". The words "to create," means they will construct a new program utilizing the "popular" calls from Mainstream and Plus. In essence, this means that for the current Mainstream "only" dancer, they have to reduce their program significantly in order to adapt to the proposal. The current Plus "only" dancer must reduce their program even more than the Mainstream dancers do.

(See *Argument Against* on page 8)

*Abridged - continued from page 7*

forever, if they so choose. For this to happen, callers must learn to entertain dancers with 40-50 calls. This gives us, as a fraternity, the opportunity to set new goals for ourselves, and a chance to reach for a higher standard of excellence.

It pumps us up again. Callers will soon find out just how much fun calling the Basic calls can be. But first callers must learn that we don't really need the 100 + calls that we have become so desperately dependant upon. This program will be very exciting.

**SEGMENT TWO:** "As a second dance program, establish a program that embraces the largest percentage of dancers worldwide which can be easily taught in 10-12 sessions. The title and content for this program to be designed at a later date."

The resolution suggests that the title for this program be "Plus Dancing" to cause the least amount of confusion for existing club dancers. Once again, we need a commitment to the concept first. A total of 20-24 sessions or classes is proposed that will allow a new graduate to attend the NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION and dance in the main hall with the vast majority. Currently, the vast majority dance is SOFT PLUS. We are not making this up! This is a well known fact. Check for yourself at any major festival. You will find it the same all over the world. Even where the current system is being used correctly, (nowhere is the system being used 100% correctly), the same situation exists. Studies have proven time and time again that any activity with long tedious learning curves is not likely to survive in today's busy society, let alone the future. With this new package brings a much more attainable, desirable, and marketable product. We won't just have survivors of the system, we will have graduates. It will no longer take three years to obtain the status of a club dancer, as we know them today. Callers will not have to rush the dancers to Plus in a single season. The dancers will already be there! This proposed dance program reflects what is being danced currently and will help clubs and callers get back to reality. This part of the three step package gives all of us reason to rejoice in seeing today's square dancers take the opportunity to recruit new dancers into a club that is not only sociable, but enjoys dancing, too.

**SEGMENT THREE:** "As a third dance program, establish a program predicated on difficulty, easily taught in 20-25 sessions, utilizing the calls from the first two dance programs from different formations and arrangements. The title and content for this program to be designed at a later date." This portion of the

(See *Abridged* on page 9)

*Argument Against - continued from page 7*

Realistically, the Plus dancer here could lose approximately 50% of the Mainstream calls and perhaps as much as 65% of their Plus calls. Personally speaking, I think this is asking a little too much of the people who have no current problems, just to "patch-up" a problem that exists elsewhere.

Why should the people who have taken CALLERLAB's recommendations in the beginning, and made them work, be asked to sacrifice something they believe in? I see no realistic logic in this approach. I still maintain that it is not the program that is at fault, it is each and every caller who will not apply/has not applied the programs the way they were intended to be applied. Callers have created a very realistic problem along the way and are now asking those of us who have applied the programs successfully to agree with them. I would like to ask this question. If I were to endorse this proposal, alter my programs accordingly, watch the complete activity here crumble and fall, who would come to our rescue?

These, again, are my personal views. I have dedicated a lot of my energy/life to this activity and do not wish to see any part of it harmed in any way at all, most of all in my back yard. I truly love this activity and will continue to support it to the best of my ability. I also have been a firm backer of CALLERLAB and have had to bite my tongue on some of the decisions we have made in the past; however, I have always managed to defend their position. I certainly hope, when all the cards are all on the table, that I can continue to defend the position of the majority, if the majority can read this letter with an open mind. Put yourself in my shoes and ask yourself, "What would I do if I were Al Stevens"?

## **AGAINST DANCE PROGRAM CHANGES**

by Tony Oxendine

There is an enormous amount of discussion regarding the new "proposals" from a recent ad hoc committee. These proposals, if passed, will generate an enormous upheaval in square dancing as we know it. The proposals, simply stated, are that we design a new "list" called square dancing which will be composed primarily of the Basic calls. The new "list" will be "square dancing" plus some of the Mainstream and Plus calls. The next "level" will be these same calls used from extended applications. Let's face it. What we are trying to do is adjust the programs to accommodate what we are actually calling. This sounds real good on paper. The problem is that we

(See *Against Changes* on page 9)



### **Abridged - continued from page 8**

proposal addresses the dancer who may feel left out. This dancer is the experienced club dancer of today. This dancer needs a program that stimulates his interest from a choreographic viewpoint. Callers will be encouraged and trained by CALLERLAB and its Accredited Caller-Coaches to work extended applications (formerly Dance By Definition, or DBD) into their programs. Callers should be very cautious if they should choose to take their dancers on to ADVANCED DANCING (not A-1) without utilizing this suggested third dance program. It is this cheating effect that has caused a lot of our problems. The lack of DBD has jeopardized the integrity of all the dance programs. This particular portion of the resolution gives each of us the opportunity to set new goals for ourselves and gives us the opportunity to become better callers and stronger leaders. This program should keep dancers from program jumping. The worst thing that could happen is the dancers get better, provided the callers do. Is this so bad?

We need a shot in the arm (or a kick in the pants, or both.) Many callers and dancers feel these proposed dance programs, as a package, have the viability to motivate us all towards a prosperous and thriving activity. Most of all, this package reunites our leadership in AMERICA. We need this, and so does the rest of the world.

Consider this a valid copy of the "Motion Package" to be voted on at the Cincinnati, Ohio, April, 1998, CALLERLAB convention. However, the opinions expressed in this paper are that of the "Author" and are not necessarily that of CALLERLAB.



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

#### **WANTED - AFTERPARTY SKITS**

**J**on 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

### **Against Changes - continued from page 8**

(callers) have never been able to stick to what we agree on. Our current system of calls would work just fine IF we all used the programs in the way in which they were designed. Unfortunately, we never gave the current system a chance. If we adopt these new proposals, I fear that we will do the same thing. No system will work unless we all abide by the rules. It only takes one or two callers (who think that they know more than the membership body) to upset the entire apple cart. Once two or so callers start changing things to better fit their needs, more callers join in. Eventually we will have the same problems that we have now.

Just for discussion, let's say that we pass these proposals, and we actually DO follow the rules. What happens? For starters, look at the clubs. Almost every Mainstream club in the USA will have to change their dance level somewhat. They will either have to learn some more calls or drop some of the calls that they spent a great deal of time in learning. The same is true for the Plus clubs. Do they drop back to Mainstream, or do they spend more time learning calls from extended formations? Regardless, we are going to have some unhappy dancers.

What about our overseas friends. In many areas of the world, the current system is working great. Do we expect callers and dancers from the rest of the world to adjust their dancing just because of our shortcomings?

If our first program is called "square dancing", where does this put the people that do Contra and CDP. Are they NOT square dancers? The umbrella of square dancing should encompass all of us.

Finally, do you REALLY believe that callers are going

would already have Basic and Mainstream clubs. We all know that we have made square dancing too difficult. The problem is that we LIKE to call the way we call now. Until we, as callers, are willing to make the commitment to change, NO amount of new proposals will help us.

#### **ADVANCED COMMITTEE REVIEW**

**T**he Advanced Committee has completed its 1997 biennial review. The committee has voted to add *Partner Tag* to the A-1 list, and *Remake the Thar* to the A-2 list. Committee members voted by mail, following the Plus Committee Review.

*Partner Tag* is added to the A-1 teaching order just before Horseshoe Turn. *Remake the Thar* is added to the A-2 teaching order as the first item in the Remake Family.

Advanced Committee membership is open to Members and Associate Members of CALLERLAB who call a minimum of 50 Advanced dances or lessons a year. If you are eligible, I urge you to call the Home Office for information on joining the committee. The committee currently consists of 170 members.

This completes the 1997 review of the Basic/Mainstream Program, the Plus Program, and the Advanced Program. Updated program lists are available from the Home Office.

For the Advanced Committee,  
Bob Stern, Chairman

### JUST THE FAQs, MA'AM!

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions. Popularized by the internet and now a feature of *DIRECTION*. We'll try to answer some of the more frequent questions we get at the Home Office. If you have a question you'd like to have answered in this column, please send it to the Home Office.

Q: The president of a club I call for asked me why the callers' BMI and ASCAP licenses can't be used to license the state convention?

A: The licensing agreements that CALLERLAB and ROUNDALAB negotiated with BMI and ASCAP are unique in that prior to 1991, neither BMI nor ASCAP licensed performers that moved from place to place in plying their trade. They licensed event sponsors and/or facility owners. Once they understood the conditions under which callers and cuers worked, an agreement was reached and the attorneys for BMI and ASCAP agreed to license callers and cuers to perform copyrighted music.

They were then required, by law, to offer similar agreements to people engaged in similar activities, i.e. aerobics instructors, line-dance teachers, country-western dance instructors, clogging leaders, ballroom dance teachers, etc.

Based on their understanding of the square dance activity, they offered licenses at a very, very low cost compared to license fees that were charged for other activities. Had they included conventions in their agreement, they would have had to offer the same rates to ALL conventions, not just square dance conventions. Very simply, they were not prepared to that. As a result, square dance conventions must secure their own BMI and ASCAP licenses for the use of copyrighted music at that convention.

Q: Then who has to be licensed for festivals and weekends?

A: If the festival or weekend has only one dance hall, then the caller and cuer that performs in that hall

must have a license.

If the festival or weekend has multiple halls, i.e. a Mainstream hall, a Plus Hall, a round dance hall, etc., then ALL callers and cuers that perform music at that event must have a license.

Q: Why do ALL callers and cuers at a festival have to be licensed? I thought that a club dance only had to have either the caller OR cuer licensed.

A: That's true. Consider, however, the number of dancers attending a festival versus the number of dancers attending a club dance. Some licenses are based on the number of people attending an event. Some licenses are based on the seating capacity of the hall, regardless of the number of people actually in the hall. Assuming that a festival or weekend will have more dancers than a club dance, a license required of all callers and cuers makes sense when considering the greater number of dancers present. If one caller performs to 100 dancers, and if two callers perform to 200 dancers, BMI and ASCAP receive fees more nearly calculated on the number of dancers available to hear the copyrighted music.

### PORTLAND MINI-LAB TAPES

**E**v Mackin, Chairman of the Portland Mini-Lab, advises that Convention Tapes International (CTI) had recorded the sessions at the Mini-Lab in September. The tapes are now available and can be ordered from CTI. The Home Office can supply an order form or you can call CTI at 1-800-747-6334 to place an order.

The following tapes are available at \$10 per cassette or \$100 for the entire set. CTI accepts Visa, Mastercard or American Express:

1. "What Is CALLERLAB"-Jerry Junck  
Resources Available From CALLERLAB-George White  
Ad Hoc Committee Report On Alternative Programs-Jon Jones.
2. Teaching Techniques-Mike Jacobs & Jerry Junck.
3. Use of Music and Voice-George White & Jon Jones.
4. Extended Applications With The Mainstream Program-Tony Oxendine.
5. Advanced Choreography-Mike Jacobs and Red Bates
6. Timing and Smoothness-Jim Mayo and John Kaltenthaler.
7. Square Dance Audio Equipment: The Answers To All The Questions You Ever Had, But Were Afraid To Ask-Bill Heyman.
8. Formation Management And Choreography-Tony Oxendine & George White.
9. Sight Calling-Mike Jacobs.
10. Panel Discussion-Alternative Dance Programs To The Basic, Mainstream and Plus Programs-Jim Mayo, moderator; Jerry Junck & Jon Jones.
11. Programming For The Club Caller-Jerry Junck.
12. Showmanship-Tony Oxendine.
13. General Meeting-Jerry Junck, moderator; Comments From The Floor; Discussion Of Alternative Dance Programs Resulting In A Consensus Statement To Be Forwarded To CALLERLAB.

REMEMBER!



REGISTER

## IN MEMORIAM

William (Buck) Green, Seattle, WA, 8/20/97  
Lee Newton, Fergus Falls, MN, 11/17/97  
Richard Brouillette, Bloomington, IL, 12/27/97  
Dalt Young, Bethlehem, PA, 1/1/98  
Bill Addison, Brandywine, MD, 1/13/98

## PARTNERS COMMITTEE

**K**athy Davenport, Chairman of the Partners Committee, announces the plans for the Cincinnati Convention. Since it was so successful in Los Angeles, there will be tables reserved for the partners to lunch together on Tuesday, April 7th.

A museum trip has been planned for Tuesday afternoon, April 7th, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm for any that care to participate. There are two programs you may choose from, the Museum of Natural History and Science or the Cincinnati History Museum. Mary Ann Alexander, Vice Chairman, must have your reservation by March 1, 1998. The forms are sent to the partners when we receive your registration for the convention. If you have not received a reservation form, please call the Home Office.

Our programs at the convention include, "How Do You Get Through To The Non-Communicator?" and "Partners In The '90s and Beyond".

A new idea for this year, is called "Partners Informals". This will be a room with 3-4 experienced Partners, where you can come in and talk, ask questions, etc. We felt that there may be some of you who do not want to express yourselves in the main sessions, that you may be more comfortable in a small group.

A partners survey will be included in the registration packet you pick up at the convention. The Executive Committee has asked that we include some questions concerning square dance attire or lack thereof, in your area, as well as the dancers feelings and your own about CALLERLAB. Please take some home to Partners in your area to complete and send to me.

Looking forward to an exciting convention.

Kathy Davenport, Chairman  
Mary Ann Alexander, Vice Chairman  
Partners Committee

## "FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION"

**O**n 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". Donations this period exceeded \$4,500:

NECCA (Northeast Callers & Cuers Association) donated the surplus from the Portland, Maine, Mini-Lab  
Lehigh Valléy Callers Association, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
The Reita Graham Memorial Fund, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Their 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 55904-7313.

## MIND YOUR HOME BUSINESS

**A** Homeowner's policy may protect your home quite well--but it probably doesn't insure your in-home business. Homeowners policies are not designed for home businesses, nor do their premiums reflect the additional risk. Experts estimate that 60% of home businesses are incorrectly insured for their potential losses.

A number of factors explain this insurance gap. Some policyholders mistakenly believe that their homeowners policy will cover any losses. It won't. Others might believe that there is no risk if no customers or vendors come to visit the business, but this fails to address business personal property (computers, fax machines, etc.), which the Homeowners policy covers only minimally. Moreover, even if no one comes to the door, owners increase their liability for the times they leave the premises on business. Other risks abound: The loss of one piece of computer equipment, software, or callers' equipment, could cause a major loss of income, and obtaining a replacement fast may incur extra expense. On the liability side, a third party might bring a suit arising out of general liability, products or completed operations, or may sue for personal or advertising injury.

A business activity rider can be attached to a Homeowners policy--but its purpose is to cover minor, part-time home businesses, such as piano lessons or tutoring, not full-fledged business operations. And if you have an umbrella policy, that won't help either, it only covers personal liability situations. It does nothing

to fill the business liability gap.

There's good news about in-home business insurance costs. In-home packages run from as low as \$150 to \$490 per year; of course, this varies by area and type of business. These packages may cover business personal property (on and off the premises), loss of income, the extra expense needed to get back in business after a crippling loss, and third party claims. Other available coverage includes protection for money and securities, crime, valuable papers and records, and receivables. With comprehensive protection, most every type of damage to personal property is covered, except for major exclusions such as flood and earthquake.

Conducting a proper business requires proper insurance.

Did you know that CALLERLAB members can purchase affordable equipment insurance through the same company that provides our group liability coverage? This plan covers your calling equipment for the full replacement value . . . no matter how old it is, so long as it is insured for its full replacement value.

Theft, water, vandalism, fire, lightening, and breakage due to other hazards associated with calling square dances . . . any possible threat to your equipment is covered under this "ALL-RISK" Plan with very few exclusions! Your equipment is covered where it is located or while in transit within the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, District of Columbia, and at temporary locations anywhere in the world . . . 24 hours a day, with very few exclusions.

Usual calling equipment such as sound systems, microphones, speakers, speaker stands, remote microphones, records, tapes, and recorders, as well as electronic equipment used in your business, such as computers, word processing equipment, and video equipment would be covered. This policy is easy to apply for, and has special features that allow you to customize it to your own specific needs.

Be advised that most homeowners' policies do not cover your square dance equipment once you take it from your home to call a square dance. We know of several callers that have had equipment stolen and found out too late that it was not covered by their homeowners policy.

We urge you to check with your insurance agent about coverage and cost. We think you'll find our insurance to be the best insurance bargain around. If you have any questions about this CALLERLAB benefit, call our Insurance Administrator at 1-800-503-9230, for complete information or contact the Home Office for a brochure.

## MINI-LAB AUSTRALIA

**M**ini-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 Square Dance 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. As stated earlier Registration Forms for the Dancing Convention and Mini-Lab Convention will be sent on request.

## FOUNDATION DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

**T**he CALLERLAB Foundation for the Preservation and Promotion of Square Dancing has been designated a 501(C)3 corporation by the IRS. Donations to the Foundation are now tax deductible.

Several fund raisers are in the works for the Foundation. The Foundation will conduct a Trail-End dance at the 1998 National Convention in Charlotte.

A codicil is available as an addition to a standard will so that those who wish to bequeath funds to the Foundation may do so easily and expeditiously. This codicil is available from the CALLERLAB Home Office.

Funds raised will be utilized to increase public awareness of square dancing as an art form and as part of our nation's history. These funds will also help to educate the general public as to the physical, social, and mental benefits of square dancing.

IRS Revenue Ruling 67-246 and Revenue Procedure 90-12 describe conditions under which an event qualifies as tax deductible. Guidelines for conducting a tax-deductible event are available by calling the Home Office. **DO NOT, REPEAT DO NOT** advertise your event as tax deductible unless you are positive that it really is tax deductible. If you have any question as to its deductibility, please contact the Home Office for guidance.

As an example: If you conduct a square dance and advertise the admission as a \$3.00 per person donation, the donation **IS NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE**. The IRS has ruled that if the donor receives something of value in return for his donation, it is not deductible. If the "fair market value" of a dance in your area is \$3.00 per person, any donation over \$3.00 would qualify as a gift to the Foundation and, therefore, deductible. i.e. A \$5.00 donation would result in a \$2.00 deduction for the donor.

As we said before, if you have any questions regarding deductibility, contact the Home Office. We must not jeopardize the Foundation tax status by leading people to believe that their donations are tax deductible when, in fact, they may not be.

### 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.

### PROPOSED LEVELS STRUCTURE

Graham Elliott - SA Callers Association

**W**e write on behalf of the callers and dancers in the state of South Australia to express our views on the proposed restructure of the square dance levels as proposed by Team 2000.

In summary, we are not in favor of the proposal as it stands. There are a number of factors that lead us to this view and they are as follows;

1) We enjoy what we consider to be a reasonable standard of Mainstream in this country. We actively promote the full use of the definitions and our dancers receive a some degree of challenge with this program. Mainstream represents the majority of clubs and is still the principle level at conventions. Whilst there is a movement of the

more experienced dancers to Plus, our MS is still well supported and is working.

It is a fact however, that our numbers are also falling and the average dancer age has increased over the past years. The effect of this is that full "Extended Application" Mainstream is becoming harder for the average Mainstream dancer and so we could support some degree of review of the current programs. The proposal offered by Team 2000 however, is too severe a change.

2) Mainstream is our "foundation" level. In other words, it is the level most well supported and is the destination of our learners' classes. This approach means that bringing the general public into the activity is not too onerous a task and yet to some degree, we can also satisfy the needs of the more experienced dancers at this level through the use of Extended Applications. We too experience the movement of "good" dancers to Plus and higher which depletes the standard at Mainstream, but the proposal will still result in the movement of good dancers to the highest level. The challenge and variety at the new "Square Dancing" and "Plus" levels is much reduced from what it is now. Sure, we can always claim that a good caller can provide good dancing at even the most basic of levels, but the reality is that the regular club callers who have that skill represent only a small percentage.

3) The consequences of this proposal are that we may well lose most of our existing dancers. They currently receive a degree of challenge which keeps them in the activity. If we were to set up the "Square Dancing" level as proposed, we would of course need to provide clubs & convention/festival programs to cater for this level. What our current Mainstream dancers are dancing can only be found at the "Extended Applications" level, and even this is somewhat reduced from the current MS & Plus Programs.

We are aware that to effect long term gain, some "short term pain" may have to be endured, however we don't believe the intended gain will be significant here to justify the losses.

4) We do not for one moment reject change - we believe some improvements can be made to our existing programs in order to improve the retention of new dancers. This of course is but one aspect of recruitment - other areas such as promotion, dress, image, etc., can be revamped to improve our intakes. We do believe however, that this proposal is much too severe a "cut" and the consequences in this country will be more detrimental than beneficial.

5) We strongly believe in the concept of a Global Dance Floor - that is, learning square dancing in any one country enables you to dance anywhere else in the world. This is one of the biggest achievements of CALLERLAB and we don't want to lose it. We therefore implore you NOT to go ahead with this change in the USA if other countries don't have the need. The result may well be that the other countries do not make the change and we lose not only the ability to dance anywhere in the world, but callers no longer will be able to effectively exchange Note Services and travel overseas to call for other countries. We will become islands with no bridges to traverse.

There are many, many people who feel strongly about the above points and we ask that CALLERLAB accept the global sphere of square dancing we all enjoy and look outside of the USA to consider the consequences of this T2000 proposal.

## SQUARE-OPOLY?

by Nasser Shukayr

**H**ave you played the new Board Game "Square-opoly"? It's fun! Most board games begin at the START position, but not THIS one. Before starting this game, you must roll the dice until you overcome all your negative perceptions about square dancing. This takes most people only about thirty dice rolls, but some potential players NEVER get past their misconceptions, so they never get to play.

The game starts in the LESSONS phase. As your game piece (or "petticoat") moves around the board, you'll meet many obstacles. If you miss two lessons in a row, or if you're a slow learner, or even if you're a FAST learner (and therefore you get bored) you have to drop out of the game. After the LESSONS phase, your game piece finally gets to the NEW DANCER phase. A trap occurs at the game position known as "Graduation". Many pieces drop out of the game at "Graduation". It's a mystery.

The next game position is "Attend Your First Real Dance". This is a very RELAXING position, because you get to stand around and watch everyone else move THEIR game pieces through "Plus Tips". Some players cope with this phase by dropping out of the game.

In the NEW DANCER phase, you can quickly move ahead if your game piece gets recruited by a higher level club, during the procedure known as "Cherry Picking the Mainstream Clubs". But if the higher level clubs do NOT select your game piece, some players feel insulted, so they drop out.

If you've made it to this stage of the game, you now get to start all over in the LESSONS phase for a BRAND NEW level. If these lessons are too difficult, or if you

miss too many of 'em, or if a higher level player insults the meager skills of YOUR game piece, the normal response is to drop out of the game.

Eventually you'll get to the EXPERIENCED DANCER phase, where your game piece gets to dance as often as you'd like. You can score bonus points by going back to the LESSONS or NEW DANCER phase to help new players.

The game features many shortcuts. For example, you can quickly move from START to EXPERIENCED DANCER. But if you do, you run the risk of not being able to perform ALL of the moves later in the game. When this happens, the usual response is to become discouraged and drop out.

In the game's CLUB POLITICS section, you get to make decisions with every move. It's fun, but also dangerous. If you make an unpopular decision, the other game pieces become very loud. But you don't have to put up with their noise. You can always drop out of the game.

The game features many trap doors. These are paths with an ENTRY but no EXIT. These paths have strange names, such as Rounds, Clogging, Advanced, Challenge, Exhibition Groups, and Association Officers. What do they all have in common? They all take the best pieces out of the game and never put any new game pieces into the game.

Yes, we have now discovered THE most unique aspect of this game. There is only ONE way to enter the game (once a year, at the START position), but MANY ways to drop out.

The good news is that those who survive all the game's obstacles will become a tightly knit group. They will enjoy close fellowship and great times. They will then search the world looking for those FEW people with the RARE ability to SURVIVE the game's many traps, instead of trying to CHANGE the rules of the game so that MORE people can PLAY.

## AN "ALTERNATE" ALTERNATE PROGRAM

by Dennis Callin

**A** while back, our cousin organization came out with an abbreviated Plus Program called the "25-Week" dance program. Although the program claimed only 62 calls, it actually contained 88 (98 Plus calls - 10). I pointed out that to achieve completion of that program, a student dancer would have to learn 3.25 new calls per session (average). This ratio coincides with our present "Rush-to-Plus" program, which is failing miserably. Recently, our cousin organization brought out an augmented Mainstream Program called the "20-Week" Program. The ratio changed very little. The new program still

requires that a student dancer to take on complex calls at the rate of over three (3) new calls a night to complete. But, these programs also have some "fine-print" that is not seen up front. When you turn their programs over, you will find that the "graduate" dancer faces a "workshop" to learn the non-standard formations of the calls. For the 25-Week Program, the workshop lasted six (6) months (or about 26 weeks). For the 20-Week Program, that workshop is thirteen (13) more weeks.

At the 1997 Convention, the Ad Hoc Committee on Alternative Programs came out with a plan to reorganize our programs. At first glance, the T-2000 Program has three tiers of classes; very similar to the one we now have. The first class requires a student dancer to learn the 49 Basics from standard formation in 12 sessions. This request means the student learns FOUR (4) new calls a session (average). The argument in favor of this class is that we are dealing with the Basics, mainly simple movement calls. The second class now places the "graduate dancer" into a Mainstream/Plus situation. We now go into the next 46 calls from standard formations in another 12 sessions. The ratio of new call per session has lessened, but still runs close to FOUR (4). The argument that we are using only standard formations gets a tad thin here. Once we graduate the dancer from this class, we now let them face a 24-session class in DBD PLUS. 95 calls in 24 sessions (give-or-take) is still asking a student to deal with nearly FOUR (4) new calls a session (average). If our present students cannot handle THREE (3) calls a session, how are they going to handle FOUR (4)? Secondly, we are asking EVERYONE to reorganize around Basic and Plus. How many do you think will like THIS move?

Our present system of Basic, Mainstream, and Plus is structured a bit easier for the student. We ask instructors to teach Mainstream (combination of Basic and Mainstream) in no less than 30 sessions. If we rounded out the time evenly, a Mainstream class of 33 sessions would average out to TWO (2) new calls a session. The Plus workshop, handled later on, asks the instructor to teach the 30 Plus calls in 15 sessions. Again, the ratio is TWO (2) calls per session (average). At the end of each tier, the graduate dancer does not NEED a workshop, or another class. They can dance at their graduate level. The biggest argument against this class structure is: "we are doing this now, and it is not working." Excuse me? Our biggest trouble is that we are ABUSING and MISUSING the present system and THAT is why it is not working.

A friend of mine in Southern California has recently begun using a variation of the present system. This caller/instructor calls the program the "Red, White, and

Blue" class system. In actuality, you can use any name you want in place of "Red, White, and Blue." For now, let us refer to this as the "Three Phase" system. The first phase asks a student to learn the Basics in standard formations in 15 sessions. This class ratio is close to THREE (3), but again, these are Basic calls. The second phase asks the student to learn the Mainstream Program calls, with emphasis on also learning DBD Basic, in 15 sessions. This class fudges the ratio a bit, which asks for 17 new calls, but also reviews past calls. Still, the second phase places the "graduate dancer" at Mainstream in the recommended 30 sessions. In the third phase, the student learns Plus, with emphasis on DBD Mainstream, in 15 sessions. The ratio goes back to TWO (2), with review of past calls. As a class system, the "Red, White, and Blue" program is what we SHOULD use in our present classes. The three-phase system follows CALLERLAB guidelines and recommendations close to the letter as to content and time. The result should be a good dancer in any of the three tiers of dancing. Though experimental, this caller/instructor has received the support of two clubs for this system. In order to give the graduating dancers of this system a place to dance, the clubs have agreed to split their dances into the phases equal to the classes. Once a Basic level class graduates, the two clubs have agreed to hold dances that feature Basic and Plus tips. Purists may not like this concept, but if it saves square dancing, why should we argue? Once the Mainstream classes graduate, the tips now feature all three tiers. Round Dancing parties have done this successfully for years, so why can we not steal a page from their book?

Both our cousin organization and the Ad Hoc Committee have some outstanding callers in their midst. I am also sure that they did not just throw these plans together, but rather took a hard look at square dancing today. Many of them are traveling or National Callers and can see situations all around the country, and maybe even the world. However, I still would like to know why we have to bulldoze the present system down and reorganize the calls? Many areas of square dancing enjoy the many-tiered system of programs we now employ. Instead of "throwing the baby out with the bath water", why do we not just try and make our present system work the way it is supposed to work? The "Alternate Program" seems to throw away Mainstream as a viable program, and will cause many clubs to reorganize. The "Alternate" Alternate Program -- the "Three-Phase" Program system - works within our present Basic, Mainstream, and Plus Programs. The "Alternate Program" requires students to learn at a rate of nearly FOUR (4) new calls a session, while the "Three-Phase" Program stays near TWO (2). The "Alternate Program" uses 3 classes that total 48

sessions to create a Plus dancer. The "Three-Phase" takes 45, but allows the graduate dancer to CHOOSE which program they want to dance.

As an observer, or as a reviewer, I know which movement I would wholeheartedly support. The Three-Phase Program only requires that WE use the present system correctly. The only reorganization required by this program is our thinking -- that Plus is THE desired destination. By promoting a three-tier beginning system, we allow the student dancer to choose what level of complexity they want in this activity. Some people want just the Basics, while others will eventually climb all the way up into the high levels of Challenge. Why do we not let the DANCER choose where they want to stop? The Three-Phase class system gives them this opportunity, and a place to dance. The club gets new members in 15-17 weeks, and can have up to three classes a year. Bottom line -- the benefit of such a system is three-fold: it uses the present system with minimal reorganization; it provides student dancer choice of dance-complexity destination; and it provides multiple chances for class-entry and advancement. Thank you in advance for this chance to voice my opinion.

## WHICH WAY DO WE GO? WHICH WAY DO WE GO?

By Nick Martellacci

*Reprinted from the American Square Dance Magazine, August, 1997*

**Y**ou folks haven't heard from me in a while. I wrote the "What's Right with Square Dancing" article, which appeared 2-3 years ago in ASD. Just like back then, I'm sold on square dancing as an activity and believe we're doing more right than wrong. But I'm writing to voice my concern over discussions by some of the leaders of our activity regarding the chopping up of Mainstream and Plus to come up with a more "accessible" entry-level program (some sort of hybrid "Plus-Lite" program than can be taught in a short period of time).

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Right now, right this very moment, CALLERLAB offers something for absolutely everyone in the whole-wide world who wants to square dance.

For those who want to square dance with no strings attached, we have Fun Nights (also called One-Night-Stands or Barn Dances). People with little or no dancing experience come together and with the help of a caller, learn simple square dance routines, line dances, round dances, mixers, contra, and the like. Everything to be danced at a particular event is taught as part of the dance itself. No pain, no strain, no commitment--just lots of fun!

For those who like the idea of dancing on a regular basis but who cannot commit to an entire season of lessons, CALLERLAB offers the Community Dance Program (CDP). The twenty-four square dance calls of the CDP can be learned in six weeks. The *CDP Journal* and the *Dancing for Busy People* manual offer a wealth of contra, line dance, and traditional square dance material to keep CDP dancers happy for a long, long time. Once again, no pain, no strain and only minimal commitment.

At this point we move away from the more traditional types of square dancing to discuss modern western square dancing and the CALLERLAB lists/programs (the alleged REAL problem of square dancing). The Basic, Mainstream, and Plus Programs are certainly within the mental and physical grasp of most people over eight years old. (For those who like puzzle solving, we offer Advanced and Challenge.) The unfortunate reality is that not everyone over eight years of age is able to learn square dancing. Why? Because the CALLERLAB Programs require a double-edged commitment. The first commitment is the time required to learn the calls, formations, and concepts of the program. The second commitment is to dance the program often enough to be able to hold up your 1/8th of the square at a dance!

Commitment--there's the rub! Not every-one is able to make the dual commitment to learn the calls and then dance the programs regularly to remain proficient. Inability to make the time commitment to learn and practice a modern western square dancing program does not make someone a bad person. The reverse is also true, but our square dance leaders are having trouble accepting it. The fact that CALLERLAB Programs (I'm referring to Basic and beyond) require a commitment on the part of the dancers, does not make the programs bad! Our challenge as leaders is to steer the right people to the right segment of the activity-- Fun Nights/CDP versus Modern Western Programs-- based on the time commitment the dancer can afford to make.

### PLUS-LITE

My first problem with the Plus-Lite proposal is that it focuses entirely on the teaching of steps and not on the development of club members. If work and family commitments prevent someone from taking lessons, those same reasons will prevent that person from attending our dances after graduation. If we work the lists and our graduates still don't show up on club night, what have we gained?

My second problem with the Plus-Lite compromise is that by adopting it, we sound like we're apologizing for square dancing. We hear over and over how bowling is one of square dancing's big competitors. How many



teams in a bowling league would want a player who showed up once a month and had a 28-pin average? What about country western dancing--square dancing's newest competitor? Each week you have a new dance to learn. Every week you miss represents one more dance you have to play wallflower. YES, as in any other activity, you have to make a commitment if you want to share in the fun of Modern Western Square Dancing. Yes, you have to show up "x" weeks to learn a given program, AND IF YOU DO what a world of fun and friendship waits for you!

When someone says, "I'd really like to square dance but I can't spare the time right now..." our response should be, "Don't worry, we'll still be here dancing when you've got the time ... and by the way, do you have any friends who might be able to join us now?" What CALLERLAB and the American Callers Association seem to be saying in this situation is "Oooh! if we cut out this and Oooh! if we cutout that and Oooh! if we make this shorter and Oooh! if we don't do that would you reconsider?" Watering down square dancing won't give people more time to take lessons and attend dances ... it will just water down square dancing!

In caller's school they play a game in which a person at the microphone can call anything except "X." As the game progresses, more and more calls are added to the do-not-call list. The exercise is designed to kick away the caller's crutches (those favorite calls and patterns used without thinking) and force the caller to move the dancers using the other calls on the list. Initially, the game is an eye opener for both caller and dancers. However, the longer the game is played and the fewer the number of calls available, both caller and dancers become frustrated and bored. How many times in real life can we play "Don't Call X" by constantly chopping away at the CALLERLAB lists and still expect callers to keep the dancers happy? When I say happy, I mean (a) in the activity, and (b) not anxious to move on to the next program before they're ready.

To sum it all up, CALLERLAB offers something for everyone. Let's concentrate on selling the right product to the right customer!

Happy Dancing!

## **SQUARE DIVERSITY**

by Geoff Garbutt

"Why don't we remove some of the lesser used, or redundant moves from our programs?" Have you ever heard this statement? This option has been mentioned in some of the discussions taking place about the ad hoc committee proposals for re-structuring our programs.

I certainly remember thinking that way a few years ago. But as I consciously disciplined myself to start

using what I thought were redundant moves - I discovered something amazing - my choreography started to become more exciting. It was like switching from black and white to color movies.

In my day time job I work as a hydrographer. We are involved with measuring the water resources of our region. Over the years we have had to start dealing with environmental issues. We have been re-named to "Water Resources Officers" and get more involved with protecting our water resources. About two years ago my employer sent me to an Environmental Management course. Now I don't like biology, but I did learn something about the importance of "Biodiversity". Put simply, biodiversity means that every species in an ecosystem has a role to play, and if you remove one species it could cause a problem somewhere in the system. For instance, one species may be the only source of food used by a small fish, which is in turn the only source of food used by a fish which is important to the commercial viability of that region. Every species has it's part to play in the overall health of the plant and animal species in any ecosystem. Remove one, no matter how insignificant it may seem, and a new balance of species takes over, which is not necessarily a good balance. I still don't understand the vital interactions that go on--but I do now understand the necessity for biodiversity.

I believe that these "lesser used or redundant moves" may have a similar role to play in the overall health of our square dance ecosystem. For instance:

1. Star Thru and California Twirl - Sure these moves can be replaced by Slide Thru and Partner Trade - but what about the pleasure of holding someone else's hand? And sometimes, when you are a newer dancer, it is reassuring to have a hand to guide you through the choreography. Furthermore, both these moves can be taught fairly early, allowing us to put beginners into box setups fairly quickly.
2. Dive Thru could be replaced with Pass to the Center I suppose. But Dive Thru is another one of these moves that can be taught fairly early. Pass to the Center involves teaching ocean waves and trades first.
3. Scoot Back is nothing more than a Partner Trade? But it does introduce interaction with dancers in the other wave.
4. Left Square Thru and Wrong Way Thar are examples of moves that are hardly ever used. Why? Is it because we are afraid of breaking down the squares? If we started to use them a bit more maybe the dancers wouldn't break down so much - and they would have just a little bit more variety available to them.

As an example of where we have already lost some

color; there used to be a move called Divide. It was used quite nicely in singing calls where, for instance, we had the heads doing something in the middle and then called Sides Divide, Star Thru to meet the heads for the next move. It all flowed very nicely and smoothly. But it was reasoned about twenty years ago, quite correctly in fact, that Divide could be replaced by Separate. We all accepted this because Separate was a generic move that could be used in many set-ups, while Divide could only be used in one. But in the years since, how many times have you heard a singing call figure using Sides Separate and Star Thru? I imagine hardly ever.

Remember also that the variety of moves helps to provide relief points in our beginners classes. If we had nothing but the most commonly used moves, then learning could become tiresome. For instance, we might only teach Ocean Wave or Two-Faced Line moves, with no relaxer moves like Dopaso. (I know that's a bad example - but it serves to make a point.) If we have no relaxer moves - then learning will be all hard work - and beginners lose interest.

I know that our programs need adjusting, but before we remove a move, have a good look at it, and apply tests similar to the following:

5. Is it unpopular simply because it isn't used? If so, could we promote it's use a bit more.
6. Does it appear to be redundant because another (more generic move) does the same thing? Then look at all the other things this move does - enables hand holds, helps teach other moves etc.
7. Does the move add color to the overall picture, even though it may not be used very much? (I haven't heard Walk Around and See Saw in many new singing call releases - but it would be sacrilege to lose these colorful moves.)

The same also applies to adding new moves to a program. There are many well-documented cases of where biological ecosystems have been damaged by introduced species. The same could happen to our dance programs. For instance, have you noticed that many square dancers have had trouble doing Wheel and Deal from Two-Faced Lines since the introduction of Ferris wheel? (It didn't happen straight away, but after twenty years of using Ferris wheel, we seem to have forgotten that we can also Wheel and Deal). So before adding new moves to any program, we must also consider the consequences it may have on other moves, (no matter how unintentional).

I'm not opposed to trimming our programs to achieve a better balance of teaching load, but we need to do it responsibly.

## MUST PROGRAMS ALWAYS CHANGE?

by Bob Van Antwerp

**F**or quite some time I have had an in-gut disturbance that I have wanted to get off my chest and feel it is time to have it shared.

In the organizational meeting of CALLERLAB, our major thrust was to slow down the tremendous amount of basics and experimental movements that were flooding the entire country. It must be stated that during these trying times, when in our infancy, many hours, days, weeks, months, and years were spent by many dedicated leaders to construct, rework, analyze, discuss, and finally produce a list of dance movements that were generally well accepted by the majority, and they all had input into the list. Realizing the old adage that states, "When you are through changing, you are through", may hold true in many situations but I personally feel that CALLERLAB has gone too far in the changing process.

We started with this Basic Program or list, then did some revising to establish a limited Basic list, then decided to change from a list, to a plateau, to a program, which maybe makes sense to many callers. I won't argue the point. From there we had a Plus list and then decided to make it a Plus I and Plus II list and then back to a standardized dance program of one list. Maybe this is good for the activity and maybe it is not. Many callers will not agree and many will, which is the way it usually works. We then worked an Advanced list into two lists which I will attest is probably for the better. During this time we determined it would be good to have an All Position Dancing designation. That lasted for awhile, then we decided to change it to Dance By Definition. All of this at the dancers expense.

To move on, we established a Quarterly Selection program which I favored, but I am personally embarrassed when I have thoroughly taught my dancers, per CALLERLAB direction, the Quarterly Selection to have it dropped so quickly. Their response, "why do we learn it in the first place"? I agree, we have moved some very good Basics into the lists from this experimental program but seemingly very distracting to dancers. Then we decided to have one for Mainstream, Plus, and Advanced.

My complaint is not with the intent, but the ever-changing procedure.

We then instituted the 25 Week Learn to Dance Program and the Community Dance Program. These two programs have validity in all sense and purpose, but the dancers are becoming bewildered and confused with the amount they have to make decisions on. "Just

what programs do I belong in and should I push myself higher." My question is, when is all of this instituting, changing, and adding going to stop? Our dancers are communicating loud and clear that CALLERLAB can't make up it's own mind. So what are we dancers to expect in leadership of our callers? Many have felt the same way that I do. The exit of many respected caller/leaders have dropped from membership due to our meddling process.

I will never down play all the excellent objectives we have accomplished. And I am the first to recognize them and applaud their efforts. They were stalwart, hard working, dedicated members who saw these through to completion in a successful manner. Why keep meddling with what we have?

From a dancer now entering the square dance picture, or those now involved, I can readily see why they would become thoroughly disgruntled with CALLERLAB's apparent uncertainty in making decisions on the programs we now offer. I must admit I had my finger in the pie many times and will take my lumps with the rest. Although as democratic as it may be, our changes in dance programs are becoming a joke to many and in the long run I feel will be the slow death of our organization.

We must find a way to stabilize the continual changing process or we will not have a need for CALLERLAB, as callers will diminish because they will not have dancers to call, teach, or work for. Seemingly, without proof, many of our caller/leaders enjoy the changing scene and have difficulty in seeing what the future may hold for us. Maybe personal intervention causes the desperate interplay to make the changes.

As I see it, we must make some final adjustments, IF NEEDED, to the programs we now have and then leave them untouched for many years. This time slot I will not endeavor to produce, but will leave this in the hands of the well-informed professionals who are so very close to the action. If something is not stabilized in the programs, I feel my strong admiration and dedication to CALLERLAB will wane like may others. I will find myself going out on my own and doing the best I can to reasonably retain my dancers and not be led by the direction of CALLERLAB. Please don't ascertain that this letter is easy to write, with my being a past chairman for two years, a Milestone recipient, and a Gold Card holder.

As you are well aware, we have fought many battles with unknown quantities since the beginning; we have spent many of our own hard earned dollars without question; stood tall when adversities were before us, but yet we maintained camaraderie that was strong. Today, I question this being the case as to the direction we are taking and hoping it is not a personal race

track for some.

No, I do not want to return to the old times as this is wrong to even consider; but one must relate to our losses of dancers and many callers. The responsibility and blame is not of the dancers, not the dancer associations, not of the caller association in local areas, not the National Square Dance Convention, and not the square dance publications or note services. The fault lies with CALLERLAB, which has created and attributed to the downfall of dancers and callers. We must face up to our diminishing dance population and establish a non-changing environment so dancers and callers alike can again learn to respect the image that we once had attained.

I feel so strongly about this changing-adding-deleting-modifying-dropping attitude that has crept into the strong position, but now diminished, strong-hold we once had on the square dance activity, I feel we must act now. I urge the Board of Governors to offer exceptionally strong leadership to the membership, giving foresight and direction to a waning dance society and not let it go unnoticed or untouched.

To me, the collapse of CALLERLAB could be near, no matter how many fund raising activities we sponsor, if we do not take the time to aim our course in a different direction of change-change-change.

#### CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF PROGRAM CHANGES

- 1974 - CALLERLAB encourages the development of definitions of dancing levels or plateaus as a basis for clubs to identify their programs.
- 1975 - CALLERLAB "Tentative Mainstream" list adopted for a one year trial basis. To be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 1976 - A program endorsed of dancing beyond Mainstream for one year, called Mainstream Plus, Standard Plus, and Mainstream Plus All Position Dancing.
- 1976 - Each year at convention time, a Quarterly Selection will be made by membership to be retained as a Mainstream experimental.
- 1976 - Adopted a Mainstream program and it will remain unchanged during 1976-1977.
- 1977 - Passed a Basic Program 1-38 movements for 1 year trial basis.
- 1977 - Passed a resolution establishing a level of dancing beyond Mainstream to be identified as Mainstream Plus I and that Quarterly Selections be considered as part of Mainstream Plus I.
- 1977 - A resolution passed to adopt the Mainstream Plus II plateaus for one year.
- 1977 - Resolved that CALLERLAB recognizes the existence of three levels of dancing above

- the Mainstream Plus II level and that these levels are Advanced level, Basic Challenge level and Extended Challenge level.
- 1978 - Mainstream Plus II Program accepted as a permanent plateau between Mainstream Plus I plateau and Advanced level.
- 1978 - Resolved that the 12 movements identified as the Plus I Program will remain unchanged until 1981.
- 1978 - Resolve that CALLERLAB endorse and encourage continuing dance programs at Basic and Extended Basic plateaus.
- 1978 - Resolved that Mainstream Plus II be accepted as a permanent plateau between Mainstream Plus I and Advanced level plateau.
- 1979 - It was resolved that the word Mainstream be deleted from Mainstream Plus and the two programs be called Plus I and Plus II Programs.
- 1979 - Resolved that All Position Dancing be placed on a 1 year trial basis.
- 1979 - Be resolved that if a movement is eliminated from the Quarterly Selection list and not added to the Mainstream list it will be referred to the Level Identification Plus Program Committee for possible inclusion in one of the Plus Programs.
- 1980 - Resolved that All Position Dancing be dropped from back page of CALLERLAB programs.
- 1980 - Resolved that all members of Quarterly Selection Committee must be calling the Mainstream Quarterly Selections Plus I or Plus II levels as a part of their regular calling activity.
- 1981 - Calls of 1-48 of Mainstream adopted for 3 years.  
Calls of 49-68 of Mainstream adopted for 3 years. That Basic list of 1-34 and Extended Basic list 35-48 be merged into a single list and called the Basic Program 1-48.
- 1981 - No calls will be added or deleted to Mainstream Program in 1981.
- 1981 - Be resolved that Plus I and Plus II lists be considered at 1982 convention.
- 1982 - The existing Plus I and Plus II lists be combined into one program. No new calls to be added for one year.
- 1982 - A Plus level Quarterly Selection was approved.
- 1982 - Endorsed to eliminate the term level and insert program.
- 1982 - Quarterly Selection Committee voted to retain Chain Down the Line and Linear

- Cycle, but drop Release Recycle, Star the Route, and Release the Column.
- 1983 - Be it resolved that the Board grant permission to the Challenge Committee to discontinue their Quarterly Selection.
- 1983 - A new teaching order of CALLERLAB programs in the Plus element be in effect on a one year trial basis.
- 1983 - CALLERLAB resolved the following components of the square dance activity and are: Contra, Traditional, Round Dancing, Basic, Mainstream, Plus, and Advanced. Recognized the next logical groupings will be referred to as Basic Challenge followed by Extended Challenge.
- 1983 - Resolved that the Plus Programs in its combined form be in effect on a one year trial basis.
- 1983 - Resolved that procedure to change specific Mainstream definitions be referred back to Mainstream Committee for review and consideration.
- 1984 - Advanced Dancing Information Booklet to be distributed to all and be accepted on a one year trial basis.
- 1984 - Resolved that any move placed on the Mainstream Quarterly Selection list must be removed at the third convention following its placement on the list.
- 1984 - Resolved that the Plus teaching order be approved on a permanent basis.
- 1984 - Resolved that the Advanced Program be divided into Advance I and Advanced II Programs.
- 1984 - Resolved that the Basic Program be adopted for 4 years.  
Resolved that the Mainstream Program be adopted for 4 years and that Mainstream QS may be added to MS if they meet appropriate criteria. No other changes until 1988.

AT THIS POINT I DECIDED TO NOT PROCEED

CALLERLAB OFFICE HOURS:

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INSURANCE QUESTIONS & CERTIFICATES  
 A.H.Wohlers & Co. 1-800-503-9227.

# TARGET 2000

## The Proposal

- WHEREAS:** It takes too long to learn to square dance; and
- WHEREAS:** As a result, the number of square dancers has diminished significantly; and
- WHEREAS:** The time frame for learning the respective dance programs is of prime importance; and
- WHEREAS:** A unified and overwhelming support exists for emphasis on the existing Basic dance program; and
- WHEREAS:** Callers need to be encouraged to implement dance groups and clubs utilizing the existing Basic dance program as an entry destination program; and
- WHEREAS:** Slowing down the rapid and premature movement of dancers through the dance programs is desirable; and
- WHEREAS:** A large majority of callers and dancers today are not using extended applications of the programmed calls, and most dancers today, are dancing a program euphemistically referred to as "soft Plus"; and
- WHEREAS:** The second dance program after the entry program should encompass and embrace the largest majority of dancers today by including calls they are actually dancing that can be taught in a reasonable time frame; and
- WHEREAS:** The complexity of learning to square dance has resulted in a break down in the integrity of the existing Mainstream and Plus dance programs, at least in the United States, due to dancers rushing through these dance programs and callers facilitating this premature advancement; and
- WHEREAS:** Only after dancers have been involved in square dancing for quite a while and have learned the required program vocabulary, that they are ready to learn the more complex applications of the calls contained in those dance programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Every dance program should include some degree of complexity so as to keep dancers of all abilities interested in the dance program; and
- WHEREAS:** Any new set of dance programs should be built and structured with the overriding purpose of building up the base of dancers and clubs back to the levels once enjoyed by the activity; and
- WHEREAS:** Because all subsequent dance programs get their dancers from the entry program, such entry program must appeal to a large number of people and therefore must necessarily receive the greatest attention both in design and implementation to make all these proposed new dance programs work effectively;

**THEREFORE, 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, 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 that can be readily taught in 12 sessions, each session being two hours in duration, from Standard Applications only; and
- (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 CALLERLAB 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.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 1998



PRESS RELEASE

\*\*\*\*\* START \*\*\*\*\*

**MAINSTREAM EMPHASIS CALL**

Dana Schirmer, Chairman of the Basic/Mainstream Committee, is pleased to announce **SPIN THE TOP** has been selected as a Mainstream Emphasis Call for this period.

**SPIN THE TOP**

**STARTING FORMATION:** Ocean Waves

**ARRANGEMENT:** Standard arrangement is parallel Right Hand Ocean Waves. ("1/2" Boys in Center, Girls on Ends)

**COMMENT:** However, **SPIN THE TOP** can be performed from any arrangement.

**DEFINITION:** Each end and adjacent center dancer turn one half (180°). The new center dancers turn three quarters (270°) while each outside dancer moves forward in a quarter circle to meet the same center with whom he started.

**STYLING:** All hands are joined in hands-up position, elbows in close. Exert slight pressure to assist opposite dancer in turning. Arcing turns should be utilized rather than pull by type of movements and should flow effortlessly from one turn to the other so that you are in a sense, "weaving" along the line. Dancers who become new ends should have arms in natural dance position and hands ready to assume appropriate position for the next call.

**TIMING:** 8 steps from point of contact.

**ENDING FORMATION:** Ends in an Ocean Wave which is at right angles to the original starting wave.

**DANCE EXAMPLE:**  
(for EMPHASIS USE:) (Static square) Heads **SPIN THE TOP**, Extend, **SPIN THE TOP**, Single Hinge, All Eight Circulate, Boys Run Right, Square Thru 3, Dosado, Swing Thru, **SPIN THE TOP**, Pass Thru, Allemande Left.

**GETOUTS:**

**ALLEMANDE LEFT:**

(Zero box) **SPIN THE TOP**, Pass Thru, Tag the Line, Face In, Ladies Lead Dixie Style to an Ocean Wave, Left **SPIN THE TOP**, Left **SPIN THE TOP**, Allemande Left.

**RIGHT AND LEFT**

**GRAND:**

(Zero lines) Pass the Ocean, Fan the Top, **SPIN THE TOP**, Right and Left Grand.

**SINGING CALL EXAMPLE:**

(Static square) Heads Square Thru, Dosado, Swing Thru, **SPIN THE TOP**, Right and Left Thru, Flutter Wheel and Sweep 1/4, Swing and Promenade.

**\*\*\*\*\* E N D \*\*\*\*\***

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

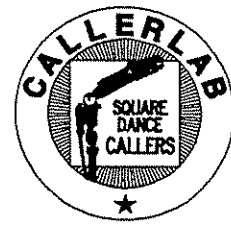
**THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS**





PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 1998



PRESS RELEASE

\*\*\*\*\* START \*\*\*\*\*

**BASIC EMPHASIS CALL**

Dana Schirmer, Chairman of the Basic/Mainstream Committee, is pleased to announce **TOUCH 1/4** has been selected as a Basic Emphasis Call for this period.

**TOUCH 1/4**

**STARTING FORMATION:** Facing dancers. (**TOUCH 1/4** is not to be used when dancers are already touching. The correct call in that situation would be Single Hinge.)

**ARRANGEMENT:** All arrangements are normal from most formations with exception of static square which would be BGBG (normal) or inverted squares (Heads or Sides Facing In or out).

**DEFINITION:** Dancers touch and without stopping turn one quarter (90°) by the right.

**STYLING:** Use normal hands-up, palm-to-palm position, with hands about shoulder level.

**TIMING:** 2 steps

**ENDING FORMATION:** Dependent on starting formation.

**DANCE EXAMPLE (for EMPHASIS USE:)** (Static square) Heads **TOUCH 1/4**, Head Men Run Right, **TOUCH 1/4**, Girls Run Right, Box the Gnat, Right and Left Thru, **TOUCH 1/4**, Girls Run Right, Pass Thru, Right & Left Grand.

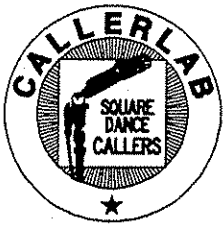
**GETOUT FROM ZERO LINES:** **TOUCH 1/4**, Girls Run Right, Right and Left Grand.

**SINGING CALL EXAMPLE:** Heads (Sides) Lead Right, Circle to a Line, Forward and Back, Right and Left Thru, **TOUCH 1/4**, All Eight Circulate, Boys Run Right, Square Thru 3/4, Trade By, Swing and 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



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February 1998



PRESS RELEASE

\*\*\*\*\* S T A R T \*\*\*\*\*

### PLUS QUARTERLY SELECTION

Doren McBroom, Chairman of the Plus Quarterly Selection Committee, announces that the committee has selected **NO NEW MOVEMENTS** as the Plus Quarterly Selection for the period March 1, 1998 to July 1, 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       | GO RIGHT / LEFT TO A WAVE 7/97                       |
| ADVANCED   | SWING THE FRACTIONS 5/97<br>FOLLOW TO A DIAMOND 9/97 |

\*\*\*\*\*

### PLUS QUARTERLY SELECTION

In the most recent KEEP/DROP balloting, the Plus Quarterly Selection **FAN THE BOAT** was voted to be dropped.

The current Plus Quarterly Selection is:

GO RIGHT / LEFT TO A WAVE

\*\*\*\*\* E N D \*\*\*\*\*

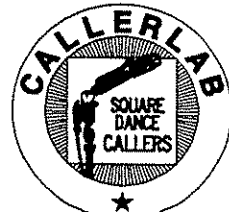
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\*\*\*\*\* **S T A R T** \*\*\*\*\*

**CONTRA OF THE QUARTER**

Yona Chock, chairman of the Contra and Traditional Dance Committee, is pleased to announce that the committee has chosen **EN ZED CONTRA** as the Contra Dance of the quarter for the period March 1, thru June 30, 1998.

**EN ZED CONTRA**  
by Glen Nickerson

**MUSIC:** "Farewell to Whiskey" from the album "We (heart) Love Contra"

**FORMATION:** Facing Couples (as in Beckett's Reel)

<b>Beats of Music:</b>	<b>Description of Dance</b>
<b>Intro</b>	----, Everybody go Forward and Back
<b>1- 8</b>	----, Men (cross over) Swing opposite lady (end facing down four in line)
<b>9-16</b>	----, Lines of four Promenade down
<b>17-24</b>	----, Couples Wheel Around and Promenade back
<b>25-32</b>	----, Bend the Line and the Ladies Chain
<b>33-40</b>	----, Same four make a Left Hand Star
<b>41-48</b>	----, Right Hand Star the other way back
<b>49-56</b>	----, Slant left and do a Right & Left Thru
<b>57-64</b>	----, Everybody go Forward and Back

\*\*\*\*\* **E N D** \*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\* 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 **THE WAGON WHEEL** as the Traditional Dance of the Quarter for the period March 1, thru June 30, 1998.

**THE WAGON WHEEL**  
A Traditional Square Dance

**MUSIC:** A 7 x 64 beat singing call can be used if you add an opener, middle break, and closer and call the "Wheel" figure twice for the ladies and twice for the gents. Otherwise use a long playing hoedown.

**FORMATION:** Standard Square

<b>Beats of Music:</b>	<b>Description of Dance</b>
1- 8	Gents to the center, Forward and Back
9-16	Ladies to the center, right hands across (Star Right)
17-24	Left hand back and how do you do (Star Left)
25-40	Get your partner, the one in blue (Star Promenade)
41-64	Ladies swing out and the gents swing in, Promenade and we'll try it again

Description:

1- 8	Men walk in four steps and back out four steps to home position.
9-16	Ladies step in and face left, extending their right hands to grasp the hand of the lady opposite them and walk forward turning the "Wheel" (Star).
17-24	Releasing right hands the ladies turn right face to form a left handed "Wheel".
25-40	Ladies keep left hands joined in the "Wheel", but take their partner's right hand in their right. Gents now dance with the ladies as the "Wheel" turns.
41-64	Ladies take their left hands out of the "Wheel" and take their partner's left hand. The gents swing the lady across to his right side into Promenade position and they Promenade home.

N.B. The figure can be varied by having the ladies pass their partners and Promenade with their corners for a change of partners, or by having the men form the "Wheel" and, on beats 41-48, the ladies swing the men out of the "Wheel" on to their left side. The gents immediately swing the ladies out of the center and into Promenade position. You can add a opener or closer with no partner change if it fits your music.

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*

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