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FROM THE CHAIR

By Vernon Jones

Change is defined by Merriam-Webster as “to become different, to make someone or something different, to become something else”. Change is an easy thing for some, as they are constantly looking for a different way. Look at the way our world has changed so drastically over the past 20 years. Computers, smart phones and even common household items have changed so much and as a result changed the way so many people conduct their lives. As easy as some people can change at any given time, other people find change extremely hard to accept. Technology changes so fast that some people can get overwhelmed quickly. As they experience this they can just give up and not try anything new, even though it might be a change for the better. It is my sincere hope that people will always be open minded about considering change in their lives. Now, I am not saying that all things should change just for the sake of changing. After all, Coke changed a few years back and if you are a Coke lover like me you can agree that the change was not a good one. But, at least Coke was smart enough to realize the affect on the market place and made a change--again!

Speaking of change! In this issue of *DIRECTION* you will find an announcement about a change in location for the CALLERLAB Convention next year. The Convention was to be at the National Conference Center in Landsdowne, Virginia, which is just outside of Washington DC. During a site visit to the center in May it became very evident that although the facility is very good, it was not well suited for the needs of our Convention and the people who attend it. I, for one, was very excited about this location and doing some sightseeing either before or after the Convention. The Executive Committee sometimes has to make some very hard decisions and this situation was certainly one of those instances. So, the Executive Committee decided to direct the CALLERLAB Executive

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

- MAR 21-23, 2016 Norfolk, VA
- APR 10-12, 2017 Mesa, AZ
- MAR 26-28, 2018 Albuquerque, NM

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**INSURANCE QUESTIONS and
CERTIFICATES**

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Director, Dana Schirmer, to begin looking into other venues. Once again, Dana has performed another magical act and found a great venue on very late notice at which to hold our Convention. I am very excited that the Convention next year will be in Norfolk, Virginia at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. This is a beautiful hotel and as the name suggests, sits on the waterside overlooking the Elizabeth River. Look for the information in this issue.

Another important item in this issue of *DIRECTION* is the Board of Governors election. There is a list of very capable candidates running for election. The vote for this very important election is never to be taken lightly. The people elected to the Board work for you, the Members. Look over the list of candidates. Ask question of others and the candidates themselves and make the most informed selection possible. This is your right as a CALLERLAB Member.

CONVENTION BREAKING NEWS!!

In January of 2012, CALLERLAB entered into a contract with the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, VA to host the 2016 CALLERLAB Convention. At the time, it was considered a rather unique opportunity to present a CALLERLAB Convention utilizing an all inclusive educational facility with lodging and meals . It was also recognized that this would present such an unusual Convention package for our Members that might it make difficult to attract attendees. In June, the Executive Committee visited the facility and although impressed with the meeting area and meals, found that the assigned guest rooms were considerably smaller than what was presented during the site visit in 2011. Discussion was held and after a considerable amount of negotiation, it was mutually agreed to cancel this contract.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA –2016!

43rd CALLERLAB CONVENTION



CONVENTION

NEWS FLASH!

A new 2016 Convention site has been found--The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA. This site will be similar to past Conventions with standard hotel accommodations and convention area. The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel is in the downtown area of Norfolk situated alongside the water front. Just four blocks away is the USS Battleship Wisconsin, available to the public for tours. Also in the downtown area are many restaurants and a large public mall just a few blocks away. The Executive Committee and the Home Office are excited to find a fantastic venue at this late date with many opportunities for a great Convention.

Standard room rates at the Sheraton will be \$109 per night with free internet and \$5 per day parking. Convention fees will remain the same as they were the past few years; \$210 for callers and \$200 for non-callers.

We regret this late change in plans, however, we fully expect to make this another great Convention. The Executive Committee has outlined many interesting sessions to go along with the theme "Agents of Change". If you still wish to visit Washington D.C. before or after the Convention, Norfolk is just a three hour drive away.

If you have already registered based on the earlier assumption of Lansdowne, VA, the Home Office will be contacting you to determine what action will be needed to re-register for the new location.

DIRECTION is the official newsletter of CALLERLAB, The International Association of Square Dance Callers, with offices located at 200 SW 30th St., Suite 104, Topeka, Kansas, 66611, Phone: 1-785-783-3665; E-mail: CALLERLAB@aol.com. *DIRECTION* is published and mailed first class or electronically to all Members and affiliates of CALLERLAB. *DIRECTION* is edited by Dana Schirmer, Executive Director.

The opinions expressed in articles submitted by Members or affiliates do not necessarily reflect the policies of CALLERLAB All articles

The Editor reserves the right to exercise 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.



**43rd CALLERLAB
Convention
Norfolk, Virginia
March 21-23, 2016**

“AGENTS OF CHANGE”

The CALLERLAB Executive Committee has chosen “**Agents of Change**” as the theme for the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention to be held at the beautiful Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA. The naming is sort of ironic, since we have had to change the venue for this Convention from Lansdowne to Norfolk. The Executive Committee selected the theme to stimulate ideas to improve the square dance activity. Many interest sessions are planned for this Convention dealing with various topics and ideas. Want to be an agent of change? Plan to attend the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention. Invite friends, as all dance leaders are welcome to attend and share in ideas to improve the future of square dancing.

As always, there will be technical sessions to peak your interest, as well as social events with plenty of friends. Room reservations may be made by internet at:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/Callerlab>

or

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1507174839&key=1ECF36B0>

or calling **1-800-325-3535** and asking for the “**CALLERLAB Special Rate.**”

Room rates at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel will be \$109, which includes internet service. Group parking will be \$5 per day.

Save the date and come to CALLERLAB’s 43rd Convention! Convention fees include two lunches, two banquet meals, and beverage breaks. A Reservation Form is attached to this issue. Register before September 30 to be entered into a drawing for prizes. Convention fees remain \$210 for callers and \$200 for partners and dance leaders.

Check out the following links to see info on the hotel and city of Norfolk:

<http://www.sheratonnorfolkwaterside.com> and <http://www.norfolk.gov> .

Make your plans to attend the 43rd CALLERLAB Convention! Reservations before September 30, 2015 are eligible for drawings for free room nights, etc.



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ELECTION**

The 2016 BOG election is in process. All Voting Members will receive their ballot via U.S. mail. Members eligible to vote will be electing eight Members to be seated on the Board following the 2016 CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, Virginia. Board Members serve a term of three years. If you are a voting Member, please vote!

Bob Asp, Bill Boyd, Walt Burr, Deborah Carroll-Jones, Betsy Gotta, Eric Henerlau, Mike Hogan and Ken Ritucci will complete their current terms on the Board at the 2016 Convention.

Valid petitions have been received nominating the following: **Bob Asp; Bill Boyd; Walt Burr; Deborah Carroll-Jones; Gary Felton; Al Frazier; Eric Henerlau; Mike Hogan; Robert Hurst; Jeff Palmer; Bob Riggs; Ken Ritucci; and Al Stevens.**

Betsy Gotta has chosen not to seek re-election to the Board this year.

The results of this important election will be announced in the next issue of *DIRECTION*

**INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Executive Committee has approved **Hiroshi Nakagawa** as the new Vice Chairman of the International Advisory Committee representing Japan, succeeding **Shozo Nishimura**. Thanks to **Shozo** for several years of service to the Committee and to **Hiroshi** for agreeing to serve.

The CALLERLAB Home Office will be
CLOSED September 7, 2015
U.S.A. Labor Day Holiday.



65th National Square Dance Convention ® June 22-25, 2016 Des Moines, IA

Now is the time to start thinking about the 2016 National Square Dance Convention which will be held in the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Contrary to what most people think, Iowa is not all flat land. We have rolling hills and tall bluffs to see and enjoy. Along the Missouri River by Council Bluffs, for example, are the Loess Hills, one of the few naturally occurring wind-blown silt deposits from thousands of years ago.

Des Moines is at the crossroads of Interstate 80 which is a major east-west highway system. If you want to see scenery along the way, we have listed 10 alternate routes using two lane roads to get to Des Moines. They are listed on our website, 65nsdc.org.

Des Moines is also easy to get to by air. We have a very modern International Airport, which has 18 direct flights in and out of the city, and is only 6 miles from the Iowa Events Center. There is also a Mega bus that links 120 major cities for really low prices. One of the stops is only a few blocks from the Events Center.

We have listed several of our best hotels on the back of our registration form. All will be linked by the purchase of a bus pass. A majority of these hotels are also linked by a skywalk, which is climate controlled, and are also linked to the Iowa Events Center.

For those of you camping, we will be using the Iowa State Fair Campground with 1600 sites, many of them with full hookups. It has mature trees on gently rolling land, but you may need lumber to level your RV.

Parking at the Events Center is \$7.00. There are other parking spaces around the Events Center as well.

The Events Center has four names depending on which direction you approach it from: Veterans Memorial Auditorium; Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center; Hy-Vee Hall; and Iowa Hall of Pride.

The Events Center has 4 floors which will be used

for the convention. The 300 numbered rooms will be used for education seminars, panels and clinics. Some of these rooms will also offer dancing: lines; hexagons; clogging; contra; rounds; Advanced; Challenge; DBD; high and low energy. Other areas will offer the live band, fashion show, exhibitions, Showcase of Ideas, Sew & Save, and more.

Registration will be located in part of the Memorial Hall at the main entrance to the convention center (3rd floor). Ways and Means, Information, Tours, Lost and Found are some of the other components that can be found at this location.

When not dancing, visit our capitol building which is the only five-domed capitol in the Country. One of the domes is gold plated with 24 karat gold leaf and the other four domes have gold on them near the very top.

Another place you may want to visit is our historic Governor's Mansion, Terrace Hill. The family lives on the second floor. Construction began in 1866 and was finished in 1869 at a total cost of \$250,000. The tower is 90 feet tall.

We also have a genuine English King's Manor House, the Salisbury House. It was brought over from England, stone by stone. It was moved by cosmetic magnet, Carl Weeks, in the 1920s. It has 42 rooms and is over 20,000 square feet.

During the end of the week of our convention (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) downtown Des Moines will host a Juried Art Festival featuring 190 of the nation's best artists selected from a competitive jury process. There will be live music and we have applied to do a square dance demonstration as part of the entertainment.

We will be offering a golf tournament on Wednesday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will include bus transportation to and from, 18 holes with lunch and prizes. Check the tour brochure or go online for more details.

If you arrive early or want to stay late you may want to visit: Adventureland Amusement and Water Park (pools, fun rides, food vendors entertainment and amazing water slides).

Another reason to attend the 65th National Square Dance Convention is the Midwestern Hospitality. Although Des Moines is a major city, (metropolitan area of 500,000) it is composed of

mostly small town comfort.

We are #1 as the best city for young professionals according to *Forbes Magazine*; 5th best city for retirement across the Nation; and 6th best state to retire in, both according to “Bankrate”.

We know it’s the number one place to square dance in 2016!

**ATTENTION
CALLERS &
PARTNERS!**



The Ways and Means Committee is planning a fund raising Talent Show for Sunday evening at the 2016 CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, VA.

WE NEED YOUR TALENTS!

We are looking for singers, musicians, dancers, comedians and any other talents to show off a little for the public.

We will be inviting the general public and local dancers to attend, so bring your A-Game and make sure all humor and acts are in good taste. This is a great opportunity to raise money and, hopefully, introduce non-dancers to the talent and fun that comes with square dancers and square dance leaders.

We know you can sing, and some of you play musical instruments, or have developed other talents you can share. We will have about two hours to impress the public. We have the talent, skills, and capability to put on an awesome show! This has the potential to be a great fund raiser, bringing in money from the general public and local dancers, rather than simply raising money among ourselves.

If you would like to perform, please send information about your singing, comedy, or other talents to the Home Office. Be sure to include the name (s) of the performers, types of act, time needed, and list any special audio/visual necessary (or whether you will provide). The Home Office will forward the information to the Ways and Means Committee.

43rd CONVENTION

Early Registration Incentive

The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel and the CALLERLAB has teamed together to provide incentives for those registering early. Again this year, there will be a raffle for three free nights of hotel lodging and other raffle items. Attendees who pre-register for the Convention before September 30, 2015 will be included in the raffle.

Registration Form attached!

MISSION STATEMENT

“To foster the art of square dance calling and improve caller skills.”

**WAYS & MEANS
COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Executive Committee has selected **Shauna Kaaria** as the new Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, succeeding **Gary Felton**. Thanks to Gary for serving several years as the Committee Chairman and to Shauna for agreeing to fill this position. **Bill Boyd** will retain the Vice Chairman position for the Committee. Plan to join this Committee and be a part of the challenges they will be working on in the future.



**65th NSDC
Clinic Volunteers**

Bev Sutter is searching for leaders to conduct various education clinics at the 65th NSDC in Des Moines, IA in 2016. If interested, please contact Bev at: dosidobev@gmail.com or call her at 563-590-7282, as soon as possible (before August 15, 2015).

BOG VOTING RESPONSE LOG

The Board of Governors (BOG) has established a policy that a report of the BOG and Executive Committee (EC) voting record responding to issues (LOGs) which require a response will be sent to the Membership at least once a year. The following is a report of the voting actions taken by the 2014/2015 BOG and the 2014/2015 EC.

BOG Response Log	Logs	Votes	Voting %
Clark Baker	5	5	100%
Bill Boyd	5	5	100%
Walt Burr	5	5	100%
Calvin Campbell	5	5	100%
Deborah Carroll-Jones	5	4	80%
Barry Clasper	5	5	100%
Larry Cole	5	5	100%
Wade Driver	5	5	100%
Betsy Gotta	5	5	100%
Patty Greene	5	5	100%
Bill Harrison	5	5	100%
Eric Henerlau	5	5	100%
Mike Hogan	5	5	100%
Jerry Jestin	5	5	100%
Vernon Jones	5	5	100%
Tim Marriner	5	5	100%
John Marshall	5	5	100%
Jim Mayo	5	5	100%
Bear Miller	5	5	100%
Tom Miller	5	5	100%
Bob Poyner	5	5	100%
Jerry Reed	5	5	100%
Ken Ritucci	5	5	100%
Dottie Welch	5	5	100%
TOTAL	120	119	89%

2014-2015 EC VOTING RESPONSE

EC Response Log	Total Logs	Total Votes	Voting %
Barry Clasper	15	15	100%
Betsy Gotta	15	15	100%
Eric Henerlau	15	15	100%
Tim Marriner	15	15	100%
Ken Ritucci	15	15	100%
TOTAL	75	75	100%

BOG ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Executive Committee has established a policy that a report of the BOG attendance at meetings will be sent to the Membership at least once a year. The following is an attendance report of the 2014/2015 BOG.

F= Attended Full Meeting

P=Absent Partial Meeting

P*= Absent Partial Meeting (due to emergency)

A=Absent Entire Meeting

n/a=not applicable—not on BOG

Name	2015	2014	2013
Clark Baker	F	F	F
Bill Boyd	F	P*	F
Walt Burr	F	F	F
Calvin Campbell	F	F	F
Deborah Carroll-Jones	F	F	F
Barry Clasper	F	F	F
Larry Cole	A	A	A
Wade Driver	F	F	F
Betsy Gotta	F	F	F
Patty Greene	F	F	F
Bill Harrison	P	P	P
Eric Henerlau	F	F	F
Mike Hogan	F	F	F
Jerry Jestin	F	F	F
Vernon Jones	F	F	A
Tim Marriner	F	P	F
John Marshall	F	F	F
Jim Mayo	F	F	F
Bear Miller	F	F	F
Tom Miller	F	F	P
Bob Poyner	F	F	F
Jerry Reed	F	F	F
Ken Ritucci	F	F	F
Dottie Welch	F	F	n/a

Ballots are in the Mail

Voting Members should be receiving BOG election ballots in the mail soon. **Ballots MUST be returned before September 15, 2015.** If you do not receive a ballot and you believe you qualify to be a voting Member, please contact the Home Office to verify your membership status.

CALLERLAB AT THE 64th NSDC

CALLERLAB made its annual appearance at the 64th National Square Dance Convention in Springfield, MA. CALLERLAB also participated in the Showcase of Ideas. The CALLERLAB booth provided a positive presence before the dancing public and elicited a great response from everyone who stopped by to visit.

Thanks to the following CALLERLAB Members who volunteered to help staff the booth: **Bob and Ann Poyner; Pam Clasper; Brian and Debbie Freed; Patty Greene; Henry Grissett and Sharon Golden; Tom and Cindy Hollinberger; Lawrence Johnstone; Paul and Mary Ellen Cote; Tom Miller; Scot and Erin Byars; Mike Huddleson; Dottie Welch; Cecil and Barbara Burton; Ken Ritucci; Dee Dee Dougherty Lottie and Bob Lottie; Betsy and Roy Gotta; Ralph and Mary Ann Kornegay; Dennis and Judy Grossnickle; Ray Wiles; and Donna Schirmer. Please advise if we missed your name.**

GENERAL CALLER ACCREDITATION

Accredit: “to give credit or authority; to bring into credit or favor; to authorize; give credentials to.”(*Second College Edition New World Dictionary*)

Members of many professional organizations seek accreditation so those who desire their services will have an indication as to their competence. The CALLERLAB Caller Accreditation Program provides this same measure of assurance to square dance clubs and other organizations that use our services. Accreditation by CALLERLAB recognizes the attainment of professional responsibility and competence in the calling and teaching of square dancing and related fields.

Any square dance caller may seek CALLERLAB Accreditation. Membership in CALLERLAB is not a requirement. Callers must be reaccredited every six years to maintain continuous accreditation.

A caller seeking accreditation must be accredited first as a General Caller. Once qualified as a General Caller, he/she may also opt to be accredited in any or all five specialty skill categories. These

categories include: 1) Square Dance Party; 2) Rounds; 3) Contra; 4) Advanced Dancing; and 5) Challenge Dancing.

Accreditation is accomplished by obtaining the signatures of three CALLERLAB Members or Associate Members in good standing. The Member or Associate Member does not have to be accredited to sign an Accreditation Application. CALLERLAB Apprentice Members or Associate Licensees may not sign as accreditors.

INVITE NON-MEMBERS AND DANCE LEADERS TO ATTEND CALLERLAB CONVENTION

Are you aware that CALLERLAB encourages you to invite dancers and non-CALLERLAB Members to attend the annual CALLERLAB Conventions? One of the most common comments we hear from first time attendees is that they wished they had attended earlier. During our formative years, we were discussing some complex programming, choreography, and styling issues. Much of this discussion would not have been of interest to many dancers. Currently, the topics available to our attendees range from some complex technical issues to marketing, recruiting, and retention discussions and other issues of interest to club and association leadership. We ask that you invite dancers and callers to attend. Contact the Home Office to arrange a special invitation to your friends.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The following scholarships were recently approved by the Foundation Executive Directors:

Phillip Pierce

Anthony Egan

Charley Huhtala

Congratulations, Everyone!

“Without a struggle,
there can be no progress.”

Frederick Douglass

RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

The Board of Governors has approved a process whereby any CALLERLAB Member (Active, Life, Associate, or Apprentice) in good standing may submit a proposal (resolution) to the Membership for consideration, discussion, and vote. The resolution must be in writing, signed by the author, and seconded by a CALLERLAB Member (Active, Life, Associate, or Apprentice) in good standing. Written resolutions must be submitted to the Executive Director at the Home Office either in person, by e-mail, by U.S. mail or fax. The resolution must include the reason that the author feels the proposal is necessary.

Resolutions must be submitted by January 1st of the Convention year in order to be listed in the "Call to Convention" and placed on the Convention Agenda. Please contact the Home Office for additional information or for a Resolution Submission Form.

ALTERNATE INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENT PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND:

During the 2001 CALLERLAB Convention, a Bylaws Amendment was approved which directed the Board Of Governors to establish an alternative to Convention or Mini-lab attendance to establish Voting Member status. That requirement was named the "Alternate Involvement Requirement Document". Over the next several months, the Executive Committee and the Board reviewed, discussed, and approved this document.

DEFINITION:

A Member who meets the other requirements for Voting Member status may complete any one of the three requirements listed below in lieu of attending a CALLERLAB Convention or Mini-lab. The other requirements for Voting Membership include: 1) calling more than 3 years; 2) calling at least 12 dance events per year averaged over the past 3 years; and 3) subscribe to the CALLERLAB Code Of Ethics.

"Excuses change nothing, but makes everyone feel better."
Mason Cooley

YOUTH COMMITTEE NEWS

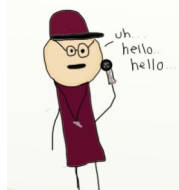
The Executive Committee has approved **Peggy Pingel** as the new Chairman of the Youth Committee, succeeding **Justin Russell**. Thanks to Justin for several years of service to the Committee and to Peggy for agreeing to serve. **Donna Schirmer** will remain as the Vice Chairman of the Committee.

NEW INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has approved **Barry Clasper** as the new Vice Chairman of the New Initiatives Committee.

MAINSTREAM COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has approved **Jeff Palmer** as the new Vice Chairman of the Mainstream Committee, succeeding "Bear" Miller. Thanks to "Bear" for many years of service to the Mainstream Committee and to Jeff for filling this position.



CALLER-COACHES AT 64th NSDC

CALLERLAB made its annual appearance at the 64th National Square Dance Convention in Springfield, MA. CALLERLAB participated in caller education by staffing six seminars dealing with caller education. CALLERLAB would like to thank those Accredited Caller-Coaches who donated their time during the Convention to staff these sessions. They were: **Ed Foote; Betsy Gotta; Tim Marriner; "Bear" Miller; Tom Miller; Randy Page; Tony Oxendine; Ken Ritucci; and Jerry Story.** Numerous other CALLERLAB Members also assisted the NSDC by serving on educational clinics, seminars and workshops as well as calling at the Nationals. **Thanks to you all!**

2016 MINI-LAB--SEATTLE, WA

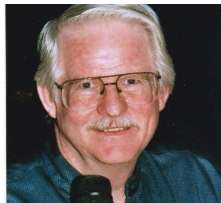
The Northwest Callers Association will be hosting a Mini-lab in the Seattle, Washington area July 29 - 31, 2016.

Contact: Minilab2016@hotmail.com .

More information will be provided soon. Save the date and plan to attend!

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Opinions expressed in letters or articles from our Members are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those 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.



“I GOT RHYTHM” By Paul Moore

Choreography is not the most important element in square dancing. As Harold Hill said in *The Music Man*, “Any boob can take and shove a ball in the pocket.” By that he was emphasizing the difference in skill needed to play billiards versus playing pool. My point was that just about anyone can deal with choreography, and a great way to do it is research (in the colloquial—steal the choreography from other callers, note services, wherever you can find good material).

Delivery of the choreography is what separates the great callers from the good callers, and the good from the bad. A big part of delivery is style—how enthusiastic a caller is; does his/her voice smile when it comes out of the speakers? Some callers are noted for being able to slip little one liners into the patter or while they are changing the music. Stan Burdick, one of the great callers and who with his wife, Cathie, published this magazine for years, used to have a funny little voice he could slip into at times like an old man: “Look out Martha, here comes the bruiser,” or as the old man’s partner; “Herman, I told you not to swing so hard at your age!” Stan always got chuckles.

Well, I just read the July issue of *American Square Dance* and either I am flattered or I am really angry with **Buddy Weaver** for stealing my subject for this month. In his record review, Buddy touched quite seriously on rhythm and the two major rhythms used in square dancing; the shuffle (which tells dancers to move smoothly and just shuffle their feet across the floor), and the boom-chuck (which has the tell-tale sound of old time dance music). It really makes folks want to pick their feet up and put them down. Callers who recognize the difference in the two rhythms and can use them to accentuate the choreography are way ahead of

everyone else. There are other rhythms that are not as common, but can add great variety to a dance. For example, there are a lot of Latin rhythms that put some extra lift into the dance. And there are jigs too, but it takes a lot of work and musical savvy to work with a jig, and most callers fall flat trying to call anything other than 4/4 (shuffle) or 2/4 (boom-chuck). Jigs are written in 6/8 (if you say higgledy-piggledy you are speaking in jig time).

Buddy also mentioned tempo (which is the number of beats per minute), and that most square dancing done now is 124-128 beats per minute. Back in the old days, when square dance choreography was simpler, the tempo was measured as high as 150 beats per minute. Yes, there were a lot of complaints on how fast the dances were getting and that people could not keep up with the tempo.

But whether callers worked in the 1950s or are working now, the good ones know what the rhythm and the tempo of the music is. They also know what the words are that they plan to use to call a dance. Put the two together, and you have a caller who chants or sings with the music, and his voice emphasizes both the tempo and the rhythm. These callers also know to emphasize the words that are the calls and to soften the filler words. For example, you all have heard:

“Right and Left Thru and turn that girl”

The words “Right” and “Left” should be said on the downbeat of the music. That way the caller is using the music to accentuate the important call. The words “and turn that girl” provide absolutely nothing to experienced dancers. Beginners perhaps need the reminder that the call ends with a courtesy turn, but why would a caller continue to use a phrase like that at a club dance? The answer is surprisingly easy: the extra words help keep the caller in time with the music, or the phrase. By saying the extra words, the caller fills time before he can make the next call so that the dancing is smooth.

All of this information should help the caller to learn to use his music to make the dancing work well. It is useful to the dancer because it helps make him/her music aware and to encourage the dancer to move his feet in the rhythm and tempo set by the music and reinforced by the caller’s voice.

The good callers know that there is another element to calling and dancing: timing. When

CALLERLAB was formed, they relied on experienced callers to help standardize the calls used and the definitions for the calls. Part of the definition is how many steps or beats of music each call takes. **Dick Leger** of Rhode Island headed the Timing Committee for CALLERLAB, and he assigned each member of the Committee a task: attend dances in their neighborhoods and, as completely as possible, count how many steps dancers took to do each call; notice, that is the time it takes for dancers, not the amount of time the callers give the dancers. By working through an immense body of data, the Timing Committee came up with a very good analysis of the timing for all of the calls. These numbers are published by CALLERLAB and are available to all callers.

What is the point of all this? Callers who know--who have internalized the timing for each call, can call a dance that flows with no stop and go and they do not even have to see the dancers. Their timing is built on the tempo and rhythm of the music. The callers who watch the dancers to judge the timing either call stop and go dancing, or they tend to rush the calls. If a caller watches a square with a number of hot-shots in it, he will adjust his timing to meet their speed, and the hot-shots are in charge of the timing at the dance, not the caller. The callers who really know timing will make the dancers adjust to the music and the proper timing. At first a caller who uses the recommended timing may seem to be calling slow, but watch what happens over the course of the dance as the caller keeps the dancer moving through sequence after sequence with no pauses. The dancing is smooth and more difficult choreography can be called because the dancers are always at the right place at the right time.

Use the music! It is a caller's and a dancer's best friend.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Butch Adams

Sunday Oct. 11, 2015
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Herndon Senior
873 Grace Street
Herndon, VA
Info call: 571-424-1973

In Memory

**Lucille Ims-PA
Gene Fitta-MD
Dean Ferguson-SD**

**2015 USA WEST
SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION**

August 13 - 15, 2015

Red Lion Inn

Helena, Montana

Head on out to your next USA West destination, Helena Montana, in August of 2015 for the 14th USA West Square Dance Convention where we will be featuring square dance, round dance and contra dance to keep your feet tapping. Click on the registration link to sign up now.

We are so excited to be hosting the 2015 USA West convention in Helena, the State Capitol, at the Red Lion Inn as our dance center and host hotel. The Red Lion boasts 15,000 square feet of function space and offers a flexible and beautiful space to host meetings and events. Each of the meeting rooms have been carefully outfitted with modern equipment so that every presentation is a success. The ballroom is our largest space, accommodating receptions of up to 500 guests. We will be placing wood down on all floors for your dancing comfort. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact us at: MontanaChairman@USAWest.net

You can also visit our [USAWest 2015 facebook](#) page.

Make Plans to Attend!

“Conformity is the jailer of freedom and enemy of growth.”

John F. Kennedy

2017 CONVENTION THEME

If you have an idea for a theme for the 2017 Convention, please submit it to the Home Office no later than May 1, 2016. The write-up should include a brief explanation as to the general nature of the theme and how interest session topics could relate to the theme. The location will be Mesa, AZ in 2017.

A theme will be selected by the Executive Committee at their spring meeting. The author of the selected theme will receive free dues for one year. Insurance and BMI/ASCAP license fees are not included.

CALLERLAB FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Foundation

Jim Wass Carrie Masters
Henry Ferguson Lisa Schreiber

Scholarships

Anthony Egan Marty Northrup
Carrie Masters

Memoriam

Deborah Carroll-Jones and Jon Jones in
memory of Butch Adams.

Thank you to those who have donated to the
CALLERLAB Foundation!

DONATIONS TO CALLERLAB
Herschel Tolson



PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

The Executive Committee has approved the establishment of a Public Relations Committee to:

- 1) Assist the Home Office in external promotional communications.
- 2) Establish and maintain an external e-mail mailing list through the Home Office.
- 3) Interact with other committees to locate news items for promotion.
- 4) Interact with Convention location areas to provide publicity about Convention activities to surrounding organizations, dancers, and also provide area information to our Members.
- 5) Assist in providing value to Members via regular communications.

Additional information regarding this Committee will be provided very soon.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

If you are needing a new Membership Roster, please contact the Home Office. The cost for postal mailing a hard copy of the roster is \$6. You may also ask that a pdf copy be sent to you via e-mail.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CALLERLAB committees need your help! Here's your chance to get involved with the internal workings of CALLERLAB. Use your knowledge and expertise to help a committee make the right decision. Make your opinions count by taking an active part in committee actions. Remember, all Members *except* Apprentice Members may serve on committees and vote on committee business. Committees identified with an asterisk (*) require qualification. Please contact the Home Office for information or to join one or more committees. The following standing committees solicit your participation:

- Advanced*
- Caller Training*
- Callers Partners**
- Challenge*
- Choreographic Applications (CAC)
- Committee for Community and Traditional Dance**
- Definitions**
- History**
- International Advisory Group**
- Mainstream*
- Marketing**
- New Initiatives**
- Plus*
- Public Relations **
- Ways and Means**
- Women In Calling*
- Youth Activities**

*Committees with Prerequisites**

*Committees that Caller Partners May Join***

***YOU ARE CALLERLAB—
JOIN A COMMITTEE TODAY!***

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2015—2016

Please Vote !!!!

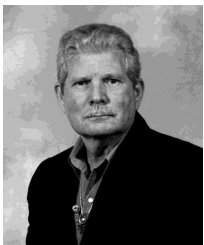
Ballots must be returned by September 15, 2015



Bob Asp: Bob started square dancing at eight years old and danced with his parents for several years. College, the Army, and family took him away. He returned to dancing in 1976, started calling in 1977 in Illinois, then Virginia after moving there. After returning to Illinois, Bob met his wife, Cinda, at a square dance convention. Shortly after, he joined CALLERLAB and began calling throughout the Midwest. This, along with being a club caller for two local clubs and working full-time, kept him busy.

Bob calls Mainstream through A-2, runs two beginner classes (one A-1 class, one A-2 class), and a DBD workshop weekly. Bob feels this helps him keep in touch with dancers. “If we don’t have dancers, there is no need for callers”.

Bob is President of the Illinois Callers Association and Vice President of the Wisconsin Southwest Callers Association. He and Cinda were Chairs for the 2014 Illinois Convention. Bob records on Solid Gold Records and is co-owner of Solid Gold Sound. Bob also serves on CALLERLAB’s ARC Committee. He has recently retired from his full-time job and feel that he will have time to commit to CALLERLAB.



Bill Boyd, Altamonte Springs, Florida, has been involved in square dancing for 30+ years; is a current member of CALLERLAB’s Board of Governors; publishes the *Florida State Square and Round Dance Magazine* (for over 20 years); publishes *American Square Dance* (the International Magazine of Square Dancing); currently calls for two clubs in the central Florida area, several area festivals, the Florida State Convention, and numerous one night parties. Bill believes that square dancing is a recreation and that dancers should have fun. “Dancers interpret fun in their own way. Some like complex puzzle solving and many prefer simple choreography even at the basic and mainstream programs. As callers, we must identify the need and fill that need.”

He is also a strong believer in dancing to the music. He frequently mentions that it is square dancing, not square walking. “If dancers .dance to the music, it will increase their enjoyment and the caller's .”

Bill has been in the printing business since 1979 and has served on the Board of the Apopka Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Board of Directors, and worked with small business groups throughout central Florida. He currently serves as Assistant Chairman of the CALLERLAB Ways and Means Committee.



Walt Burr started square dancing in 1976 when he joined a Mainstream class offered by the International Squares in Kaiserslautern, Germany. His calling career began in 1980 when the Air Force stationed him in Macon, Georgia. He has called in 28 states and 11 countries, including Germany, Sweden, France, Czech Republic, England, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Japan, and Canada.

In 1995, Walt retired from the military while in Great Britain. He remained there working as a civilian and calling for several clubs. Walt calls Basic A-2 for his own and other clubs in the Munich area and is on staff at A&S records.

Walt played a key role in starting the Grand Square International-UK team. He was team leader from 2003 to 2009, leading the team through two very successful callers' schools and festivals. He was also President of the Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain from 2007-2010. He is a strong believer in quality, ongoing training for callers, and has been a staff member at GSI schools in England and Sweden. He has taught seminars for the European Callers & Teachers Association.

Walt is an accredited member of ECTA and CALLERLAB, and an Accredited Caller-Coach.



Deborah Carroll-Jones has been a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller since 1985, having attended 29 Conventions. “I have been very fortunate to experience this activity from many angles over the past 33 years; as a local caller, a regional caller, a traveling caller, a recording artist, Accredited CALLERLAB Caller-Coach since 1995, and now as a club caller. I am also currently serving on the Executive Committee as Vice Chairman. This has given me the experience to understand and value the faceted viewpoints of our Members. I am deeply committed to this organization, the continuation of this activity, and I am very happy to state that my club has tripled its membership in the last two years. I would appreciate your continuing vote of confidence for the Board of Governors.”



Gary Felton: “I received my first paycheck for calling a square dance in August 1972. My day job has taken me to Maryland, Texas, and Kentucky where I called locally. I have been a local/regional caller in MD, PA., DE., VA, DC, and NJ. In each location, I was a member of the local callers association. I call Plus and Advanced in our region. I have a caller-run Advanced club, share a Plus club, and call for most of the “guest caller” clubs in our region.”

“I joined CALLERLAB in 1977 and have served on the Advanced Committee, the Definitions Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee, which I currently Chair.

My day job is a Professor and Agricultural Engineer at University of Maryland. I regret that being a faculty member at a university is good training for participating in long meetings that cover important topics but may not be filled with excitement; (i.e. our BOG) meetings. A few years ago, I attended a BOG meeting to see how our organization was run. In spite of that experience, I decided to run for the BOG in order to serve my professional organization. My goal as a BOG member is simply to make our organization better.”



Al Frazier began calling 25 years ago. He is currently a Member of CALLERLAB, ROUNDALAB and the Texas State Callers Association (TSCA). He has served on the TSCA Board and been Past President. He has served on CALLERLAB's Mainstream and Plus Committees and various committees with TSCA. He has been the club caller for various clubs in the Austin area as well as guest caller at other club's in the area. He calls full-time nationally and has called dances in over 20 states. He has attended over 4 caller schools and continues to learn to improve his skills. He has called at over 20 National Conventions including the Hawaii State Convention and over 5 USA West Conventions. If elected he would work with CALLERLAB to help grow and preserve the activity.

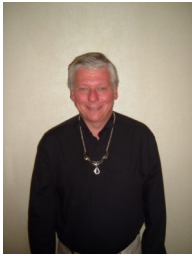


Eric Henerlau has been calling for 35 years and has been a Member of CALLERLAB since 1982. He is Past Chairman of the Advanced Quarterly Selection Committee and is currently Vice Chairman of the Plus Committee. He is a member of the Board of Governors and has served on the Executive Committee. He is also a member of the Marketing, Mainstream, Advanced, Challenge, and Definitions Committees. He has served as moderator and panelist at several CALLERLAB Conventions. Eric calls throughout the United States, Japan, and Europe, and teaches two beginner classes each year.

"No greater issue faces the activity today than getting more people to dance." Eric is a strong advocate that the mission of CALLERLAB, through its committees, initiatives, and relationships with other dance organizations, should be directed toward increasing the number of people square dancing. These initiatives include shorter entry programs, youth programs, marketing square dancing, and caller training and support. Eric is excited to continue his work on the Board in moving the activity forward, with a vision of where square dancing will be 10, 20, and 30 years from now.



Mike Hogan: "I am from La Vista, Nebraska where I work full-time as an Account Executive for iHeart Media. I have called for 39 years, calling Basics thru A2. I joined CALLERLAB in 1986 and have served on many committees. I am currently serving my third year on the BOG, am Chairman of the Marketing Committee, and serve on the Mainstream and Ways and Means Committees. I have called in 30 states, and travel extensively, calling 130 dates per year with two-thirds on the road. I have a home club and teach 4 classes annually. I am a regular presenter at CALLERLAB and National Square Dance Conventions. I record on Hi Hat. I am a member of the Omaha Callers Association., the Nebraska Callers Association., the ARTS, and Chairman of Square Dance Omaha. As more dance groups and committees work to grow the activity, I can draw on 39 years of calling and 25 years of professional marketing experience to assist the Board of Governors as we make critical decisions affecting square dancing's future. I would appreciate your vote to serve on the Board of Governors."



ROBERT HURST, West Sussex, England, has served three terms on the Board and welcomes your support for a fourth term. "Being on the Board is a commitment which I make fully." As an active Board member, Robert participates in discussions, decision making processes and fully supports the policies. Robert is prepared to speak up and be counted for his actions.

Robert offers the Board, and membership, over 27 years of International calling experience from clubs to festivals with a global view of what is happening in square dancing around much of the world. Robert has much more to offer the Board and the membership. He calls from Basic to C-1, beginners classes, and loves calling for the Handicapable dancers.

Robert feels there are many small building blocks, which create a firm foundation so that we and many generations to come may continue to enjoy what we do and love--square dancing.

Robert had to stop travels to the USA until 2015 because of his job, but his attendance at CALLERLAB renewed his want to assist in the continued development of our fantastic activity. Robert requests your vote.



Jeff Palmer began calling in 1980 and teaches classes alongside his home programs. Jeff guest calls regularly through out Colorado and also calls out- of-state. "I am very pleased where CALLERLAB has gone since first attending Conventions in the 1980s. The turnaround in attitude and purpose is more than evident". Being a third generation caller, Jeff has a true passion for the activity and hopes to, with your vote, bring 30+ years experience and evaluating what has worked and what hasn't to the table. Doubling the size of his mainstream club, Jeff feels like at least some of what he is doing is bearing fruit. If elected, Jeff hopes to work with CALLERLAB not only to keep what we

have done successfully, but work to increase class sizes and attract a broader clientele. Being employed at a local school district, Jeff wears many hats along with being called in to "defuse" personnel issues. "I realize that not having a 'nationally recognized name' might cause an issue with your voting decision; however, please consider that overall we probably want the same thing, and I am willing to work passionately with you to get it".



Bob Riggs, Centennial, CO began dancing in 1974 and calling in 1975, joined CALLERLAB in 1984 and has attended 21 Conventions. He is engaged in events from one night parties, community dances, and dances from Basic through Plus. As Co-director of the Colorado Dancers, his leadership allows demonstration of the history and variety of our activity. For more than 30 years he has held square dance classes for clubs in the Denver area resulting in a healthy square dance community. As a CALLERLAB Member, he is an active member of the Mainstream Committee, Definitions Committee, and the Plus Committee. He is currently Chairman of Community and

Traditional Dance. For 17 years he has co-directed the Beginner Dance Party Leader Seminar (now known as the Community Dance Leader Seminar) held annually prior to the CALLERLAB Convention.

"Our activity is in need of optimism and leadership to bring entertainment to the world." To this end, Bob believes he can contribute to the dialog and actions necessary for the organization and its Members to provide leadership to the activity. "Recruiting, teaching and entertaining a wide variety of audiences should be our purpose, and I would like to contribute to that purpose."



Ken Ritucci began his calling career in 1975. He has taught beginner square dance classes since 1975, as well as workshops in all programs from Mainstream to C-3B.

Ken has a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and English. He received a Master's degree in Theology in 2006 and a Post Master's degree in Theology in 2007.

Since 1983, Ken has been instructing callers how to learn the calling profession. He is an Accredited CALLERLAB Caller-Coach, receiving his accreditation in 1991. He owns and operates his own callers schools

Ken is a Member of CALLERLAB and is currently a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors, serves as Chairman of the Plus Committee and is a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller-Coach.

Ken calls through the C-3B level and has traveled all over the United States, Canada and Europe calling for clubs and festivals. Ken has trained literally hundreds of callers to call in our activity. He calls at the National Convention each year and helps staff some CALLERLAB's seminars. It is Ken's desire to continue to serve the CALLERLAB Members as a representative on the Board of Governors for the betterment of the organization.



Al Stevens: "I have been a proud and supportive Member of CALLERLAB since 1976 working on many committees over the years, and have had the pleasure of serving on the BOG for 14 years. I have been calling for close to 60 years (most of which was in the overseas area) as part of the USAF for 21 years, then as a full-time caller living in Germany for the past 37 years. In short, our organization is widely known and mostly respected in areas of the

world outside the United State, where square dancing is accepted and enjoyed. I feel with my vast knowledge of square dancing in foreign countries I can provide an insight to the remaining Board members that might be beneficial in arriving at decisions that affect the entire world of square dancing. I would appreciate your faith and trust in me to serve on your Board Of Governors, and I solicit your vote."

GOT TALENT



ATTENTION!!! CALLERS & PARTNERS

*The Ways and Means Committee is planning a fund raising
Talent Show for Sunday evening March 20th
at the 2016 CALLERLAB Convention in Norfolk, VA.*

WE NEED YOUR TALENTS!

We are looking for singers, musicians, dancers, comedians and any other talents to show off a little for the public.

We will be inviting the general public and local dancers to attend, so bring your A-Game and make sure all humor and acts are in good taste (Rated G for Families). This is a great opportunity to raise money and, hopefully, introduce non-dancers to the talent and fun that comes with square dancers and square dance leaders.

We know you can sing, and some of you play musical instruments, or have developed other talents you can share. We will have about two hours to Impress the public. We have the talent, skills, and capability to put on an awesome show! This has the potential to be a great fund raiser, bringing in money from the general public and local dancers, rather than simply raising money among ourselves.

If you would like to perform, please send information about your singing, comedy, or other talents to the Home Office. Be sure to include the name (s) of the performers, types of act, time needed, and list any special audio/visual necessary (or whether you will provide). The Home Office Talent Agents are waiting for your call 1-800-331-2577 or 785-783-3665

LET'S SHOW NORFOLK VIRGINIA, WE GOT TALENT!



CALLERLAB



43rd CALLERLAB Convention “AGENTS OF CHANGE” Norfolk, Virginia March 21-23, 2016

We will be staying at the beautiful Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel,
777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA

Save your spot. Save the date. Save your price.

Caller First & Last Name _____

Partner's First & Last Name (If attending) _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country _____

Email _____

Phone: _____

Callers (\$210.00 each)..... \$ _____

Partners (\$200.00 each)..... \$ _____

BDPLS (Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar)(\$50.00) \$ _____

Session Recordings in MP3 format (\$25.00) \$ _____

Minimum deposit is \$100.00 per person

Total \$ _____

Deposit Amount \$ _____

Balance Due \$ _____

Payment in full due by March 1st 2016

MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Visa Card#

Expiration Date _____ (CID#) _____

Signature _____

Return to: CALLERLAB, 200 SW 30th Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611

If you have special needs (ex: dietary) please write below, continue on back if needed.

*Register Before
September 30, 2015
To be eligible
for door prizes*