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FROM THE CHAIR

By **Patty Greene,**
Chairman

Greetings From Soggy North Carolina!

Hope that our square dance family is surviving the hurricanes, floods, typhoons, and fires that seem to be happening all around the world. I got back from our EC meeting before Florence decided to pay a visit, so that was good!

We are ramping up plans for the 2019 CALLERLAB Convention to be held in Richmond, VA. We checked out the hotel and it will be a nice location for us; right in the heart of downtown with cobblestone roads and walkways, lots of interesting buildings, and things to do close by. Our theme will be “Innovate, Integrate, Motivate”. Our sessions are shaping up to be lively and diverse with a particular focus this year on sociability, smooth dancing, and presenting our best to our dancers.

The official festivities will start Sunday night with a Welcome Reception and a Ways & Means Dance. If you want to arrive early, come in and check out the two private events happening before Convention at the hotel; the Dance Party Leaders Seminar starting at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, and there is a Women’s Callers School this year starting Thursday night.

There will be a Live Auction on Monday night, followed by a New Caller Dance. Tuesday night will be a Beautiful Basics Dance, followed by Zesty Contras. We’ll include some Advanced level squares on Sunday night at the end of the Ways & Means Dance, so there should be something for everyone!

As you have read, we have been advertising for applicants for an Assistant Executive Director position. During our recent EC meeting, we held Skype interviews of

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

- APR 15-17, 2019 Richmond, VA
- APR 6-8, 2020 Sparks (Reno), NV
- MAR 29-31, 2021 Central Region

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8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST Monday - Friday

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INSURANCE QUESTIONS & CERTIFICATES

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1-208-322-8300

the people who submitted applications. All of the applicants were uniquely qualified, and any of them would have been able to do the job. After much discussion and thoughtful consideration of our future, your EC is delighted to announce that **Teresa Berger**, a caller from Indiana, has accepted the position and will become the next Assistant Executive Director. She officially starts December 1, 2018. She'll be providing support to Dana and the Home Office and providing marketing outreach to various organizations to see how CALLERLAB might be of assistance. We are excited to see how the position unfolds and to tap her energy and impressive "smarts" as we move forward into the next few years! We'll be telling you more about Teresa in the months to come, but for now, please join me in welcoming her!

I've been thinking a lot about how we build up our dancers and our peers, and I'd like to leave you with some food for thought.

"The people we surround ourselves with either raise or lower our standards. They either help us to become the best version of ourselves or encourage us to become lesser versions of ourselves. We become like our friends. No man becomes great on his own. No woman becomes great on her own. The people around them help to make them great.

We all need people in our lives who raise our standards, remind us of our essential purpose, and challenge us to become the best version of ourselves."

Take care of yourselves, be nice to the people around you, and we'll see you in a square!

Patty

In Memory

Anthony Casale, New Jersey

The Home Office will be closed on November 22, 2018 observing U.S.A.'s Thanksgiving Day holiday!

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 submitted for publication must be signed by the author.

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.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Members who have been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Governors: **Bob Asp; Bill Boyd; Ray Brendzy; Eric Henerlau; Mike Hogan; Jim Mayo; Bob Riggs; and Ken Ritucci.**

Thank you to those candidates who, although unsuccessful in this election, took the time and initiative to run for the Board of Governors. They are: **Walt Burr; Al Frazier; Paul Henze; Barry Johnson; and Lanny Weakland.** The newly elected Board Members will begin serving their terms at the conclusion of the 2019 Convention in Richmond, VA.

VOTING TURNOUT

Ballots for the 2019/2020 Board of Governors election were sent to all Voting Members on July 31, 2018. This year, 696 ballots were mailed; 312 were returned, resulting in a voting percentage of 45% compared to 49% in 2017. All Voting Members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote. Thank you to all who did just that!

WOMEN IN CALLING COMMITTEE

By Susan Morris, Chairman and Kris Jensen, Vice Chairman

The Women In Calling Committee is for any woman caller. Years ago, any woman caller joining CALLERLAB automatically became a member of this committee. Now, women callers have to take the initiative and ask the Home Office (1-800-331-2577 or callerlab@aol.com) to join this committee. We'd like to encourage all women callers to do so.

Women want to be referred to as callers, not

women callers. However, whether we are callers or women callers, we have some challenges that are unique to women.

This committee is here to help support you with these challenges.

Projects of the WIC Committee:

In 2008, WIC published the "Stages" document. It can be found on the CALLERLAB website (<http://www.callerlab.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=E9BE7dqQN3c%3d&tabid=315&portalid=1&mid=2566>). This year we would like to begin the process of updating it. Women's biology hasn't changed in ten years but there are new ways of coping with any challenges we may face. Also, we are all ten years older so we may be in a different stage of life and have different ideas to contribute.

Periodically, we conduct surveys of the most popular music for women callers. The last one posted on the CALLERLAB website is from 2009. As more and more music is produced in multiple keys or separate female/male keys (thanks in large part to our very own **Shauna Kaaria** and Chic Recordings), our music choices have expanded. If there is interest, we can do another survey.

Most importantly, WIC exists as a place to celebrate, share, and problem solve. At our annual meeting, we discuss issues of concern to women, celebrate our successes, and we share our ideas on making square dancing better for everyone. We maintain a Facebook group so we can stay in touch throughout the year. In large part because of discussions at past meetings, Deborah Carroll-Jones and other WIC members have planned a Women in Calling Institute to be held before next year's CALLERLAB Convention.

Join us to help each other make our jobs easier and to support our beloved square dance activity.

CALLER TRAINING COMMITTEE

**By Betsy Gotta, Chairman and
John Marshall, Vice Chairman**

Many of us have been trying to bring younger people into square dancing. One way to reach

young people is to work in schools. Since not all square dance callers have the education and/or certification to be accepted as a teacher, the Certified Square Dance Teacher Program was started. One use for this Certification is to give a square dance caller a credential (if needed) to help get a caller accepted as a teacher with special knowledge.

When this program was first designed, the work was mostly done by **Jim Wass** and **Virgil Forbes**. Both Jim and Virgil worked with **Mike Seastrom** to update and revise this program. Those persons who have indicated their interest in becoming Certified Square Dance Teachers to the Chair of the Caller Training Committee will have their names forwarded to **Mike Seastrom** so he can start the process. The Caller Training Committee is very excited about the updating of the Certified Square Dance Teacher Program. Contact either the Home Office or **Betsy Gotta** to indicate your interest!

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DANCE (CCTD)

**By Bob Riggs, Chairman and
Mike Preskitt, Vice Chairman**

The Committee for Community and Traditional Dance (CCTD) continues to provide support to dance leaders desiring to conduct community dances, limited basic dances and/or one-night parties. This support comes in the form of an annual seminar provided on the Saturday/Sunday prior to the CALLERLAB Convention, a publication that includes various articles and dance material, and a website that allows leaders to access dance material suited for these events.

Plan to join us April 13th & 14th in Richmond, VA for this educational Community Dance Leader Seminar (CDLS) at the CALLERLAB Convention hotel. Each hour will include methods and materials presented within the framework of the caller training topics. We plan to discuss the methods of choreographic management in the community/one-night party environment, music (both contemporary and traditional), teaching, programming and lots of material choices including squares, mixers, trios, contras and more. Our talented staff will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience.

Publication of “CD Journal” ... Look for the next issue of the “CD Journal”. If you are not a subscriber, contact the CALLERLAB Home Office and ask to be added to the subscriber list. CALLERLAB Members can access the “CD Journal” index to review the content included in the many years of this publication.

Dances Callerlab.org ... This subsite of the CALLERLAB website has been set up to provide anyone with access to dance material that can be used for these limited basic events. Currently, there are Square Dances (Quadrilles, Traditional Squares, visiting couple), Contra dances, Circle dances (couple dances, mixers), Trios and other formations suited to the dance events. This collection of dance material will continue to grow with contributions from you, from material presented at the CDLS and from the worldwide activities of community dance practitioners. Contact **Dottie Welch** or myself, **Bob Riggs** @ bob@SquareDanceEtc.com.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**By Wendy VanderMeulen, Chair and
Tom Rainer, Vice Chair**

The Public Relations Committee wants to encourage our International Members who have never attended a CALLERLAB Convention to take advantage of the International Members Convention Fee Waiver that CALLERLAB has recently implemented. A couple of years ago, when the PRC did a survey on how to encourage Convention attendance (among other things), this was suggested as a solution to our international callers who find the cost to attend somewhat prohibitive. CALLERLAB is taking this step – take advantage of it. You spoke..... We listened!

We would actually like to see *all* Members attend Convention regardless of where you're from. Remember; Convention is more than committee meetings and education sessions. It's about learning and discovering more about the areas where we dance and the people who live there; it's about networking with callers from around the world; it's about making new friends and connecting with ones you see only rarely; it's about recharging your batteries; getting away from your normal routine and doing something DIFFERENT for a change!

And, that “DIFFERENT” can have absolutely nothing to do with calling. It can be sightseeing or discovering the area you might never visit again. It might be visiting museums and, in Richmond's case, the many historical sites in the area. Or it might be just doing something silly with some friends – like the PRC organized “Urban Adventure Quest.” Check the CALLERLAB Convention website for more details and to register. See you there!

MAINSTREAM COMMITTEE TRIENNIAL REVIEW COMPLETE

Harlan Kerr, Chairman of the Mainstream Committee, has announced that the Mainstream Committee has completed their Triennial Review of the Basic Program and also the Mainstream Program. The following changes were approved:

Basic Program Changes:

The Thar Family and related calls are dropped, and as a result are moved to the Mainstream Program list. This includes:

32. Thar Family

- Allemande Thar
- Allemande Left to an Allemande Thar
- Wrong Way Thar

33. Slip the Clutch

34. Shoot the Star / Shoot the Star Full Around

In addition, the Basic Teaching Order is modified as follows:

Double Pass Thru, and First Couple Left/Right, Next Couple Left/Right are moved to follow Star Thru in the Basic Program teaching order.

Mainstream Program Changes:

The Thar Family and related called as dropped from the Basic Program are added to the Mainstream Program. This includes:

Thar Family

- Allemande Thar
- Allemande Left to an Allemande Thar
- Wrong Way Thar

Slip the Clutch

Shoot the Star / Shoot the Star Full Around

The Committee is currently determining where these calls will be placed on the Mainstream Program list.

Also added to the Mainstream Program as a result of Mainstream Program balloting were:

1. 3/4 Tag

2. 1/4 Tag

The Definitions Committee will address creating a Tag The Line Family similar to this:

Tag The Line Family

Tag The Line (Right/Left/In/Out)

Fractional Tag (1/2 Tag, 3/4 Tag, 1/4 Tag)

Thanks to Mainstream Committee members for their work on this project.

PLUS COMMITTEE TRIENNIAL REVIEW COMPLETE

Eric Henerlau, Chairman of the Plus Committee, has announced that the Plus Committee has completed the 2018 Triennial Review. The vote indicated that no changes will be made to the current Plus Program. Whereas the Mainstream Committee moved 3/4 Tag to the Mainstream Program, the Plus Program List has been updated to remove that call. Thanks to the Plus Committee for their input on this project.

MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS EARLY!

The 46th CALLERLAB Convention will be **April 15-17, 2019** in Richmond, VA. Attendees are able to make reservations by dialing 1-800-THE-OMNI or by visiting the group's customized website: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/richmond/meetings/international-association-of-square-dance-callers-callerlab>. Please advise the Home Office if you have problems registering with the hotel. Convention registration forms can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.callerlab.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Bg8zd6YPMEw%3d&portalid=1>.
Please register early!

DONATIONS TO THE CALLERLAB FOUNDATION

Bobbi Goode

Janet Shannon

In Memory of C.R. Boyd

Terre Haute Swingmates

In Memory of Anthony Casale

Callers Council of New Jersey

Lee Kopman Scholarship Fund

Bobbi & Joseph Kurka

Monetta Lockey

Billy Trotter

(This does not include funds donated through GoFundMe. Over \$9,000 contributed so far.)

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

As of October 1, 2018, the total CALLERLAB Membership is 1,457 callers with a few new and renewing Members each week. This compares to 1,461 Members on October 1, 2017. Current membership is broken down as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total</u>
Active Members	689
Associate Members	380
Apprentice Member	113
Life Members	10
Retired Members	22
Licensees	<u>243</u>
Total	1,457

As information, CALLERLAB ended the 2017-2018 membership year on March 31, 2018 with 1,472 Members.

UPCOMING CALLER SCHOOLS

Attached is a list of known caller schools that are planned or may possibly take place during 2018 or 2019. Encourage new callers as well as experienced callers to attend a school next year. Caller schools will always rejuvenate every caller's attitude and skills. Scholarships are available for those with financial needs.

CALLERLAB FOUNDATION

In 1992, the CALLERLAB Foundation was incorporated in Georgia and is an Internal Revenue Service 501 (c) (3) corporation. The Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and Home Office staff of CALLERLAB also administers the functions of the CALLERLAB Foundation.

1) Our Mission

The mission of the CALLERLAB Foundation is to preserve and promote square dancing by providing grants and endowments to support projects that further that mission.

2) What is its purpose?

The CALLERLAB Foundation's purpose is to support the funding of projects that serve to accomplish our Mission. The CALLERLAB Foundation operates through private contributions, public grants, and endowments. Goals and objectives can be met only if funds are made available. In order to ensure that the American folk art of square dancing will continue to flourish, the CALLERLAB Foundation needs your support through your contributions.

3) Our Goals

Goals are: To develop and maintain a national advertising campaign to promote square dancing; develop and encourage educational programs directed toward the mission of the CALLERLAB Foundation; and provide funding through grants and loans to support the mission.

4) Past Accomplishments

Over the past several years, the CALLERLAB Foundation has: funded marketing plans; done demographic surveys; educational grants; callers' scholarships; and provided various educational materials to international countries.

5) Most Recent Accomplishments

During the past two years, the CALLERLAB Foundation has: provided almost \$10,000 in callers' scholarships to attend caller schools; \$3,000 to assist in promoting square dancing in colleges; \$2,000 in square dance lesson grants; \$500 grants to assist in educating callers and dance leaders in Puerto Rico; \$1,000 grant to the San Diego Square Dance Association requesting a marketing research project and consulting report from the San Diego State University (SDSU); and a \$750 grant to assist in expenses incurred in archiving historical materials.

LEE KOPMAN

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Home Office has received word that **Lee Kopman** has had some medical issues including surgery. We ask that you keep Lee, Lilith and family in your thoughts and prayers. **Marty Northrup** has created a GoFundMe account in support of Lee. The fund is named the Lee Kopman Fund and can be found at the link:

https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=homepage_norma/search&term=lee%20kopman for those who wish to make contributions, or you may send to the Home Office noting that it is to be included in the Lee Kopman Scholarship Fund.

It is Lee and Lilith's request that these funds be presented to the CALLERLAB Foundation for use as scholarships. Cards and well wishes may be sent to Steve Kopman, 1021 Bridgestone Place, Knoxville, TN 37919-8188. Please limit phone calls and e-mails, as they are dedicating their efforts to medical procedures and treatments.

INVITE NON-MEMBERS TO CONVENTION

CALLERLAB would like to encourage you to invite dancers and non-member callers to attend the upcoming 46th annual CALLERLAB Convention. First time attendees will not only be very impressed, but also nearly overwhelmed with the wealth of educational material and information, entertainment, and fun available at the CALLERLAB Convention. Convention session topics available to our attendees include complex technical issues, marketing and recruiting discussions, issues of interest to club as well as association leadership, information for caller partners, topics for dancers, and much, much more. One of the most common comments expressed by first time attendees is, "I wish I had attended long ago." Think about the folks you encounter within your square dancing activities and consider inviting those whom you believe would enjoy and benefit by attending our Convention. Contact the Home Office by phone at: 1-785-783-3665 or by e-mail (callerlab@aol.com) for further information or to obtain Convention invitations.

CONVENTION WAIVER PROGRAM NOW INCLUDES OVERSEAS MEMBERS

The Executive Committee has approved expanding the Youth Convention Waiver Program to include overseas Members attending their first CALLERLAB Convention. Those wishing to take advantage of this offer may complete and submit the Waiver Application Form to the Home Office for the Executive Committee review and approval. This waiver provides for the Convention registration fee only. Contact the Home Office if you wish additional information.

**“LEAD FROM THE HEART,
NOT THE HEAD.”**

Princess Diana

Attend the 46th Annual CALLERLAB Convention April 15-17, 2019 Richmond, Virginia

The 2019 CALLERLAB Convention will be held at the Omni Hotel in downtown Richmond, VA beginning on April 15, 2019. There's plenty to do and see for those who decide to arrive early or stay a few days following the Convention.

The CALLERLAB Convention provides tremendous amounts of educational training and materials, as well as great social time and networking with callers from around the world. Come be a part of an unbelievable experience of callers sharing and working together. Inject your thoughts and experiences. Visit with members of the Board and spend time with some of the legends of the activity. This Convention has something for everyone in square dancing. All callers, dancers, and dance leaders are invited to attend.

The Convention registration fee is \$220 for callers and \$210 for non-callers. If you have any questions, please contact us at the Home Office by phone at: [1-785-783-3665](tel:1-785-783-3665) or by e-mail at: callerlab@aol.com.

A dedicated booking website has been created at:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/richmond/meetings/international-association-of-square-dance-callers-callerlab>.

The room rate at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA is \$119 per night. Use the above link or call 1-800-THE-OMNI (1-800-843-6664) and ask for the CALLERLAB rate of \$119.

25 & 50 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Will 2019 be the year you reach 25 or 50 years as a caller? If so, below is the established policy and procedure regarding this very important and historic milestone in any caller's career. The following is the policy for presenting the 25 and 50 Year Certificates:

- 1) During the CALLERLAB Convention, the 25 and 50 Year Certificate will be presented to each Member who becomes eligible during that year and who is attending the Convention.
- 2) Certificates will be mailed to the Members who become eligible in that year but do not attend the Convention.
- 3) Members who became eligible in previous years and are attending the Convention will be acknowledged.

If you believe you will be eligible in 2018 (started calling in 1994 (25) or 1969 (50), please contact the Home Office to verify that we have the correct information within our files.

YOU ARE CALLERLAB!

**Join a Committee and
Voice Your Opinions!**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

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

Scholarships

Jeffrey Kaufman

Jennifer Troy

Congratulations Everyone!

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.



HAKUNA MATATAS By Corben Geis

The Hakuna Matatas HANDICAPABLE Square Dance Club of Altoona Pennsylvania celebrated their 13th Anniversary in September 2018, National Square Dance Month. Over 60 attended and a huge gathering of past, present and future dancers and angels celebrated at The Arc of Blair County.

The Mayor of Altoona, Matthew Pacifico, presented The Hakuna Matatas with a proclamation to the city and the angels with the Golden Spike (Altoona's key to the city due to their strong railroad heritage) because of their many hours of volunteering and steering our dancers in the right direction.

Callers **Corben Geis**, Handicapable Committee, and **Tom Miller**, B.O.G. who started up and have been with this extraordinary group since their very beginning read congratulatory letters from **Patty Greene**, CALLERLAB's Chairman of the Board and **Michelle Mabie**, Past President of The U.S. HANDICAPABLE ASSOCIATION.

Maria Brandt, Director of The Arc of Blair County, told the story of how The Hakuna Matatas originated. Parents, angels, social workers and caretakers prepared a wonderful dinner for the event. Six out of the eight original HANDICAPABLE square dancers were present.

Congratulations Hakuna Matatas!

**"I've failed over and over and over again
in my life and that is why I succeed."**

Michael Jordan

Positive Impact Ideas – Comfortable Connections

By Dottie Welch

Square dancing is a team activity. It involves establishing appropriate connections between dancers. No matter which hand or arm hold is being used, dancers should always be aware of the need to aim for comfort when interacting with other dancers. This idea has been developed in response to many complaints about handholds that squeeze painfully, thumb grips that bruise arms, and connections that are held too tightly and so long that they cause twisted shoulders and wrists.

Ideally, all connections should be easily made and easily released but still provide a sense of unity in the movement. The simplest way to achieve this is to connect using a flat or slightly cupped hand with the thumb adjacent to the hand or relaxed and inactive. Elbows should be bent to provide a springy interaction. Mutually exerted gentle pressure towards the other person's hand or arm should be enough to provide the desired contact while allowing either dancer to disconnect when they desire.

The thumb-lock grip should be strongly discouraged. If that type of hand connection is being used, simply unlock the thumbs and show the dancers how to place their thumb adjacent to their own hand so that each hand cups the base of the other person's thumb.

For those with arthritis, it is important that hands are never squeezed. The human hand has two sets of opposing sides. The palm and back of the hand is one set, the side with the thumb and the side with the little finger is the other set. If opposing sides of a hand are being touched at the same time, that hand is being squeezed. This is independent of the force being applied. The force applied determines how hard the hand is being squeezed.

It is equally important not to squeeze arms because it can often cause bruising. Although there are not clear sides to an arm, squeezing occurs anytime the thumb and the fingers are on opposite sides of the arm.

These factors apply to all of the various regional differences in handholds. Discussing and demonstrating these recommended connections with your dancers and other callers in your area will help promote comfort for all dancers. With awareness and

reminders, most dancers will make an effort to adjust their hand connections. This in turn will increase sociability and improve the dancing experience.

To All Callers: Feedback From a Dancer

By “Cheryl”

As a square dancer I have to say, “The best of square dancing is the National Convention and USA West.” They're the place to reconnect with friends, get your dose of hugs and laughter, hear all the callers that are out there, and above all else, dance those feet off! This past week we had the pleasure of going to USA West and it hit the mark! Laughter, seeing our friends, and enjoying meals with them; but most of all, joining our friends on the dance floor and pitting our eight minds against the callers on the stage! How fun is that!

Have you noticed though, at your local, state and national dances, festivals and conventions how the sound has changed? I have.

I've noticed in the past few years there has been a drastic increase in volume. Not the volume of dancers attending, even though USA West this year topped out at over 800 dancers, but the volume used by callers for their voices and music. I do understand the frustrations of the callers because they can't hear themselves, but how about the dancers? If the music is too high we can't hear the calling; or worse, the music/sound is so loud our eardrums are vibrating and it's downright painful!

One night at USA West, a caller stepped on the stage and was so loud I did not want to dance to him again for the remainder of the convention. As it turned out, he did come back into the hall we were dancing in. I saw him check in like callers do and he took a seat behind the check-in desk. As the next caller began their set, the music/volume/vocal was so loud I witnessed a woman in a square (directly in front of the check-in desk and a speaker) go into a sensory overload. Imagine an autistic child not being able to handle the situation. This woman was in the exact same situation. Her eyes were shut, she's holding her ears, and the other seven dancers could only stand there and try to

figure out what to do. There really wasn't anywhere else for these eight people to move the square because the hall was packed. It was horrible to witness and I wasn't even in that square. As I mentioned, the caller from the previous night saw the entire scene unfold before his eyes. I was VERY happy to see that when he stepped on stage his volume was down to an extremely enjoyable level and the crowded hall could hear every command perfectly. Way to go, mystery caller!

On the last night of the convention we were dancing in the same hall and there were approximately eight squares on the floor. It was not crowded at all and you could pick where you wanted to square up. Our group placed ourselves right in front of the speaker, maybe not the best place not knowing the caller's habits, but it's a chance we all take. As the caller began his set, the volume for music and vocals was so loud my ears hurt from the vibration of the sound in my eardrums. Unfortunately, my partner has even more sensitive ears than I do so it can be really bad for him. The sound was so loud no one in our square could understand the calls. We all agreed to move to the back of the hall where there was more space and hopefully we would be able to hear better. As we were moving to the back of the hall, my partner had his fingers in his ears and asked the caller to turn it down. The next thing we hear over the microphone is, “It's not all about you!” and another comment which I can't remember, but I do remember saying, “That is definitely NOT professional.” To make this situation worse, my partner was labeled a heckler. The music was too loud and painful. Who is right here?

There is a big push now to get dancers into our favorite pastime because our community is shrinking fast, but what about the sound quality. Should these new people have to deal with a rock concert instead of a good time with friends and comradery? If we wanted a rock concert, do you think we should be dressed up to dance?

Something to think about: We as dancers are going to these dances first and foremost to dance and have a good time; but do you as a caller realize you are also being auditioned? We are coming to these

dances to hear your voice, to see how your choreography flows, to observe your stage presence, and most of all, how you react and interact with the dancers on the floor. If your music is so loud we can't hear you, why would we want to subject our fellow dancers at home with the same things? My goal is to bring back great caller's names to the future chairmen of festivals and club dances. Our area has many such events. If the caller isn't thinking about the dancers on the dance floor, should I recommend their name as a good candidate?

In all fairness, we did mention to two additional different callers that the sound was too high. After the tips, they came to us and thanked us for letting them know how the sound was.

I remember a favorite saying "Without callers there is no dance; without dancers there is no caller."

INSURANCE INFORMATION

From time to time the Home Office receives inquiries as to what the membership liability insurance policy covers. There are various individuals who have misinterpreted this insurance to not only cover the caller but also believe it cover the clubs, officers and event the caller is calling. This simply is not true. Our liability insurance covers only the member caller who is calling the dance; not the event; not the club; not the club officers; not the facility; not the dancers; and not even the caller's partner. Coverage, however, is available for partners that cue round dances, line dances, or otherwise share responsibilities with the caller, by paying an additional premium. In short, the liability insurance covers just the caller while performing the responsibilities of being a caller.

Liability Insurance

The general liability, bodily injury and property damage portion of the policy provides liability coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, with an aggregate limit of \$3,000,000 per event. It protects CALLERLAB and *you*, the caller, for any acts, or omissions of acts, that result in bodily injury or property damage while you are calling square dances or related activities. You may obtain a certificate of insurance by contacting Jenny at Jenny@northwestbrokers.com or call 1-208-322-8300.

Medical Coverage

The accidental medical portion of the policy provides supplemental insurance for you (the caller) while you are conducting square dance related activities. Maximum coverage is \$10,000. This coverage is effective only after your primary carrier, Medicare or other health insurance company has settled a claim.

This policy may also cover dancers attending an event that you are conducting individually (not a club operated event).

Accidental Death/Dismemberment

The AD&D portion of the policy covers you (the caller) while traveling to or from a square dance. Coverage for accidental death is \$5,000. Coverage for accidental dismemberment may be as high as \$5,000 depending on the loss.

Policy Conditions

These policies do *not* cover the dancers. Dancers may have their own accident and medical insurance, either through their homeowner's policy or through their club in the U.S.D.A. (United Square Dancers of America).

"Related activities" include regular dances, workshops, classes, one night stands, contra, traditional, round dancing and line dancing. Coverage is available for partners that cue round dances, line dances, or otherwise share responsibilities with the caller, by paying an additional premium. Contact the **CALLERLAB Home Office** *by phone* for details. If a caller is dropped from membership, then the insurance for *both* the caller *and* the partner is null and void as of the date the caller dropped from the membership rolls.

The policy year is April 1st through March 31st of the following year. If dues are not paid by April 1st, the insurance is *not effective* until full payment is received. The insurance cost is *not* prorated for members joining mid-year.

**“Those who don’t believe in magic
will never find it.”**

Roald Dahl

WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

The Executive Committee has approved **Juli Burr** to become the new Chairman for the Ways & Means Committee replacing **Shauna Kaaria** who will now become the Vice Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee replacing **Bill Boyd**.

Thanks to Shauna and Bill for their work on this committee for many years and their service to CALLERLAB. Also thanks to Juli and Shauna for agreeing to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

CCTD VICE CHAIRMAN

Calvin Campbell has resigned as Vice Chairman of the CCTD. Thank you Calvin for many years of service to the CCTD and CALLERLAB.

The Executive Committee has approved **Mike Preskitt** to be the new Assistant Chairman for the CCTD. Thanks Mike for agreeing to serve in this capacity.

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.

SETS IN ORDER

1948 - 1985

The Lloyd Shaw Foundation has obtained permission to copy all of the *Sets In Order Magazines* from 1948 through 1985 and distribute as a two disc set. This includes 444 Issues, in PDF format, on two discs included in one set.

The CALLERLAB Home Office has several of these sets available at a cost of \$20.

Contact the Home Office today to purchase your set—a great idea for Christmas gifts. Phone: 1-800-331-257 or e-mail callerlab@aol.com. PayPal can be used by e-mailing callerlab@aol.com.

NEW ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Home Office is pleased to announce that **Teresa Berger**, South Bend, IN has been selected as the new Assistant Executive Director. Teresa has accepted our offer and will start part-time work as of December 1, 2018. We are happy to welcome Teresa to the Home Office staff.

Thanks to all who applied for this position. There were several very well qualified applicants and the Selection Committee carefully reviewed all applications over a period of several weeks.

CONVENTION ROOM SHARING

If you are interested in sharing a room with another attendee at the 2019 CALLERLAB Convention in Richmond, VA, please contact the Home Office and ask that your name be added to our list of other attendees who would like to share a room. The Home Office offers this service only to help those who would like to share the expense of a room. All arrangements must be made between individuals who will be sharing. If you are attending the Convention as a single individual and would like to defray some of the costs, please contact the Home Office. The staff will be glad to help.