

Ten Ways for Dancers and Callers to Keep Dancers in Square Dancing

By

Patrick Demerath

The American Callers' Association in its attempt to be of service to all callers, dancers, and associations provided current, timely, and effective information on new dancer recruitment from 2000 to 2018. ACA really appreciates the positive comments, encouragement to continue, and contributions from callers and dancers all over the country and from abroad to continue these initiatives. ACA will continue to provide information that will help the square dance community recruit, retain and retrieve square dancers as well as encourage the dancers to speak out on the cumbersome dance programs.

This month's ACA Viewpoint offers ten positive actions to help preserve square dancing. The idea came while I was teaching a course in graduate level Marketing. The graduate students were asked what ten items would continue to encourage them to continue their arduous and difficult education. The results were passionate and practical.

Later as a caller I asked the same question to a group of square dance friends. The square dancers also passionately responded with almost the same replies as the graduate students. The square dancers named this article: **TEN WAYS FOR DANCERS AND CALLERS TO KEEP DANCERS IN SQUARE DANCING.**

HERE THEY ARE: These ten items can be applied to national callers, local club callers, associations and experienced dancers as well.

1. Keep refreshing your sensitivity with new dancers by enthusiastically teaching or supporting square dance lessons.
2. Demonstrate a friendly and polite attitude to the dancers.
3. Help and Praise new dancers as they struggle to learn.
4. Show friendship and appreciation to the needs of the dancers by getting them in squares with experienced dancers.
5. Demonstrate courtesy and friendship on the microphone toward dancers.
6. Praise and complement all dancers and visitors.
7. Praise and complement dancers between the tips.
8. Praise other square dance clubs and associations
9. Support the dress code of a particular club or group.
10. Communicate "a we need and want you" attitude with the dancers.

It is ACA's pledge to support these **TEN WAYS** by stating the things that uplift and encourage dancers that all callers, experienced dancers and square dance leaders will take these things seriously and actively communicating them to all dancers. ACA would also like to encourage that all callers, dancers and association leaders to publish the **TEN WAYS** positive items and hopes that this article reaches all dancers, callers and square dance leaders and convince them to stay in square dancing.

ACA believes that the **TEN WAYS FOR CALLERS, DANCERS, AND SQUARE DANCE LEADERS TO KEEP SQUARE DANCERS IN SDQUARE DANCING** can help reduce the **tragic decline in the number of square dancers**. The bottom line is that we as callers, dancers and leaders can do something to keep square dancers in square dancing.

Let's do it!

Any individual, club, caller, or association who wishes to communicate his/her opinions on this subject is encouraged to contact the American Callers' Association at Loulet@aol.com or Dr. Patrick Demerath at pdemerath17@gmail.com

Please visit our website and newsletters at AmericanCallers.com/news

Until next time, Happy Dancing.