

Getting Down to Brass Tacks

By

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The American Callers' Association in its attempt to be of service to all callers, dancers, and associations has provided current, timely, and effective information on new dancer recruitment, winning ways to retain club dancers, and pitfalls that drive square dancers away from 2000 to 2018. . ACA really appreciates the positive comments, encouragement to continue, and contributions from callers and dancers all over North America and 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. ACA strongly and continuously encourages square dancers and callers to take active roles in their square dance associations and clubs.

ACA has witnessed that there is a very serious decline in the number of people who will serve and /or hold an office in clubs and associations. Square dancers must remember that when they belong to a square dance club, square dance association or callers' association that they also hold an ownership interest in that organization including commitments to dancers, the building, the land, equipment, and good will etc.

The apparent problem is that some club members do not want to serve their club or association. One might ask "Who are they?" meaning the ones who are not self motivated ed to participate. It can be argued that people have done much for square dance groups and most do not expect recognition. ACA understands that good people serve in offices because no one else will do the job. It can be stated or accepted that the best officers who take management and leadership; positions do so because they get a lot out of dancing and it gives them pleasure to help other people get the same benefits. These great people do so because they like square dancers and like dancing. Just getting a person to fill a slot doesn't help. ACA purports that the problems in square dancing aren't unique to square dancing as many social, fraternal, and aid and assistance groups nationwide are having similar problems because our country has become a nation of viewers not a nation of doers.

ACA argues that cumbersome dance program is at a saturation point, meaning that the introduction to dancing needs to be shorter, and that a national dance program should be shortened with only one program nationally with everyone dancing together having fun. Club callers and leaders must continuously stress the importance of people dancing and not jerking others around during the movements. ACA argues that many people will stay enthused and interested if they are exposed to one a one floor dance program with callers presenting more variety within this program. Another way to say it is to "Doing More Variety with Less Calls."

ACA encourages people take offices of management in square dancing and calling. These are personal decisions made by dancers and callers. Rough dancing may be correlated with two causes : The first is boredom with too many calls presented in the same methodological boring repetitions which soon become unconsciously memorized with rough and rowdy dancing surfacing. Rough and rowdy dancing is not "enthusiasm". The second cause or rough and jerky dancing may be that dancers associations, club officers, and callers do not address this problem and attempt to minimize and convert rough and rowdy dancing into smooth flowing square dancing. This problem of rough dancing may contribute more dancers leaving square dancing along with the segregating and stressful dance programs. A word to the wise is to remember that when dancers quit square dancing, we not only lose them as dancers but we also lose any new people that they might have recruited.

Any individual, club, caller, or association who wishes to communicate his/her opinions on this subject is encouraged to contact the American Callers' Association Loulet@aol.com or Dr. Patrick Demerath at pdemerath17@gmail.com. Please visit our website and newsletters [@American Callers.com/news](http://AmericanCallers.com/news).

Until next time, happy dancing.