

Recognition and Thanks to Many People

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 1999 to the present. ACA really appreciates the positive comments, encouragement to continue, and contributions from callers and dancers all over North America and abroad to continue these ACA 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 ACA Viewpoints addresses and examines whether square dance active supporters wish recognition for their unselfish participation serving square dancing or serve wishing no recognition. With or without recognition square dancers should be encouraged to take an active participating role in their square dance associations and clubs. It could be argued that there is a serious decline in the number of people who will serve and /or hold office in clubs and associations. Square dancers are may be failing to realize that when they belong to a square dance club or association that they also hold an ownership interest in that organization including the building, land, equipment, good will etc.

On the other hand, there are many people who wish to serve with or without recognition. In square dancing there are many who have done much for square dance groups seeking no recognition. The sad reality is that people may hold offices because no one else will and may not do a good job. Then what is the reason that many square dancers take leadership jobs It may be because they get appreciate that there many benefits from square dancing, and it gives them pleasure to help other people get the similar benefits. Another way to say it square dancers do it because they like people and they like dancing. Perhaps it is fair to say that we must remember that the problems in square dancing aren't unique to square dancing as many groups nationwide are having similar problems because our country has become a nation of "nesters" instead of a nation of "doers."

As a nation of nesters, square dancers may have a dance program saturation point. Perhaps the square dance program needs to be shorter, with one national dance program. Perhaps more nesters may participate and stay in square dancing with a simple entrance program and a one floor national dance program. Although there may an additional mental challenge in the upper level of dancers, it may work against the nester generations do not come or drop out of lessons. One additional idea is for a club to create and activate a dynamic social organization welcoming all dancers.

The American Callers' Association encourages square dancers to take offices of management in square dancing. 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. The creation of a less stressful dance program with seeming the endless series of lessons has been the primary goal of the American Callers' Association since it was founded in the mid 1990's and has been supported by callers and dancers alike

The American Callers' Association will work to create a simple one floor national dance program with the positive conjunction of smooth dancing and the elimination of rough dancing and is pleased to present ACA's views and mission to the square dance community to let them decide.

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.