



American Callers Association

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Newsletter-April-May-June 2022

We have had several questions about the levels and teaching order. When the membership tells me they want to change the teaching order or element some of the calls on the basic and mainstream list. Then we have to come up the way we are going to do that. Which every way we go on this will have to be decided by the membership. There are a lot of calls that could be removed from the list the way we have tried to do this in the past and found out that some callers have special call that they just could not make it without that call and 90 per cent of the time that call could be called directional. Its time to stop crying about what will happen if we have only one level. That's all we will have until we can rebuild the Mainstream Level

One level is all that we had for many years that was back when the dancers were running everything and it was the dancer activity. Today the dancers have no say in what the Square Dance activity should be and that's what has killed square dancing when this Covid-19 hit.

They are not even allowed to have any say in what calls they should have or what calls they like are do not like. "Don't worry bout the mule just load the wagon" after all this is a dancer activity yet they do not have a say it. The callers do. How long has it been since you ask the dancer if they liked the call that you just did or if it danced well.

They are told this is your activity, NO IT IS NOT! It's the Callers that think he or she will tell everyone in square dancing what they can dance and how to dance and how they are in charge of everything. If they are why should they not have to pay themself?

Folk's callers are still paid employed of the dancers. Yet they are paying for a music performance License to Public Perform Music at a Dance that is the response ability of the square dancers CLUB. If the club is a caller run club then it becomes the CALLERS responsibility to buy the Music Performance License

The Copyright Law states that The Sponsor of the event shall obtain a Music Performance License to comply with Federal law for Public Performance of Copyrighted music.

It did not say if you want to it says if you cause Music to be used in a public performance you must have a public performance License from BMI /ASCAP. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU OR I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT IS THE LAW, A FEDERAL LAW.

This is just my opinion and I don't care if you agree with it or not. We Callers are going to find out that the dancer are still the one that runs the show and we are paid by the dancers and if no dancers show up and we have no one to call to. In all the 60+ years that I have Called, we all ways had enough Dancers and now we have to rebuild and Mainstream First.

The purpose of starting a new square dance class is to get more people into square dancing in a way that will lead to many hours or even years of dancing fun. If they have been taught their Basic Calls from more than one position. The problem with today's new dancers is simply that they have been taught the calls but from one position. I had a lady walk up to after a tip and informed me that you should never call Spin the Top and then Swing Thru it should be Swing Thru and then Spin the Top that is the way our caller taught us to do. If we as callers would teach dancers that a call can be done ONLY by the written Definition of the call. Take the time to show them the different positions that the call can be danced from and let them get the feel of the different positions that you can dance it from they will enjoy the call much more.

Regardless of which list are how long we teach new dancers we need to go back to being **Square Dancers**, start back to dress and look like Square Dancers. Today we all need the new dancers to stay in mainstream after they have completed Mainstream. To give them time enjoy what they have learned, and to let them know that since you were there to help them learn to dance they will need to be there for the next Class of new square dancers, in my opinion we need to spread the word about the fun we have as **Square Dancers**, this will make people want to join our activity. We need to put back the rule that you **MUST STAY IN MAINSTREAM** for one year OR until YOU help with the next class Before going to the next level.

Many dancers think this will prevent them from getting to dance Plus this is not true to enjoy you should be a good mainstream dancer. First since this is the foundation of your further in Square Dancing you should be able to understand and do the calls in mainstream before you become a Plus Dancer. Believe me if you do it this way you will be a much better plus dancer and you will enjoy your dancing much more.

You will be surprised how much more you will enjoy your dancing and being a part of Square Dancing if you do this. Plus getting to know the dancers that helped you, whose friendships will last a lifetime. This is the way you pass on the friendship that was extended to you.

We had more people interested in Square Dance Classes when we went to a restaurant after the dance in our square dance dress, and we got more people in square dancing from doing demo dances at Malls and special events in our town.

So today because dancers we will not even wear Square Dance outfits to a dance, they look no different to anyone else off the street. Believe me when we look like Square Dancers we get more new dancers from that than anything we have ever done.

On the next page you will find a flyer from the National Square Convention in Evansville, IN. This will be much better than the Nationals this past year In Jackson, MS last year. The dates are June 22-25, 2022 register at www.71nsdc.org

From now on all ACA newsletters will be posted on the web page at www.Americancallers.net and emailed to the current members.

National Square Dance Convention [®] The Torch Has Been Passed

70th NSDC



71st NSDC



**See you in Evansville, IN
June 22-25, 2022
Register at www.71nsdc.org**

WHO SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DANCE?

Is the enjoyment of square dancing for the average dancer across the country? Why do so many people stop dancing after completing a class and do not stay in the activity? Let me preface this by saying that I'am not talking to the "Advance" and "Challenge" dancer, but to the majority of the Callers and Dancers in most of the clubs across the country.

People square dance because they enjoy it. They may enjoy just having an inexpensive night out or it may be that dancing helps them forget the worries of the day, or it could be the good feeling that they get from moving to the music.

Most dancers will tell you that they like being challenged a little now and then, but what I think they mean is they like variety and not challenge and if someone must lose to a challenge, they sure do not want it to be them. Let's assume that a caller has the ability to call choreography with varying degrees of difficulty. The degree of difficulty is determined by the way a caller puts the calls together and the ability of the dancer to interpret the material. The material can be just a little difficult and the more experienced dancer may enjoy it, but the new dancer may not win. If a caller has the ability to place the difficulty anywhere in the choreography that he or she wants, then where should the the line be drawn.

A caller may want to go over that line at least once, just to find it. Dancers will tolerate once in an evening as long as they know the rest of the evening will be fun. The answer to letting the dancer win is the composite capability of the floor; this is the only level a caller has.

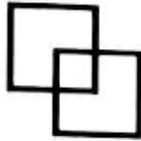
Why are so many dancers lost shortly after graduation. We lose more than we keep; numbers as high as 80% are quoted. Couple this with the fact that 35% of the clubs have not had classes for the past three years and we realize we need to do everything we can to keep new dancers.

Maybe we should have less variety, less challenge, and alot more just dancing and having fun and relaxation. How difficult should a caller make the dance? The caller's main purpose in being there is to provide an evening of fun for all. How difficult should a dance be for the dancers to get the most enjoyment out of it? Is a caller less capable if he or she calls a dance within the ability of all dancers on the floor, so that all of them can have an evening to enjoy? Whose responsibility is it to provide a place for new dancers to dance?

One of the most critical questions in the square dance activity today is: "Who should be allowed to dance?"
Anyone that want's to.



Bob Fisk, President



Square Dancing Fun
CALL

"ALLEN"

ALLEN FINKENAUER-Caller and Teacher
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February 13, 1996

Dear Mac,

Have been a member of CALLERLAB for a number of years. Over the past several years I have been after CALLERLAB to substantially decrease the number of choreographic calls in Mainstream and Plus. A number of people I know have not taken classes or have dropped out of class because it takes too long to become a club member and really dance. (I teach two three classes each week so have much experience in this area.) I think the ACA has thought of this problem and moved somewhat in that direction.

There is a final solution to this problem.

1. First reduce the lists to the majority of calls used at conventions. This first cut will eliminate many calls which callers might have as favorites and it is a way to do the elimination with the least hurt feelings.
2. Eliminate all duplicated calls. As an example keep Slide Thru but eliminate Star Thru. Eliminate Dive In and keep Pass to the Center.
3. Eliminate choreography that can be done using other choreography or choreography that can be called directionally. As an example eliminate Linear Cycle and use Recycle and Sweep a Quarter. I call All 8 Spin the Top to my beginning classes directionally.

When these changes are made, I fully agree with the ACA, - Call it Square Dancing without any other designation. Any other level should not be called Square Dancing but anything else they want to call it. With these changes I can teach through Plus between September and Christmas.

No need to answer and thanks for listening.

ATTENTION PLEASE HELP

The USDA is in need of someone to fill the vacancy for the office of Vice President of the Eastern Region.

No experience is necessary, very easy job to fill with many rewards. The Executive Committee consists of many individuals who are very easy to work with and always willing to help. We have two meetings a year, one the 3rd week of January and one during the national convention.

**If you are interested please contact Presidents Mark – 701-320-9079 or Bina – 701-320-5182.
krebsbachmabi@gmail.com.**