



American Caller's Association

P.O. Box 2406 Muscle Shoals AL. 35662 PH 256-383-7585
Email Loulet@aol.com or Website www.americancallers.net

Newsletter-April-May-June 2023

By now you should have received your new membership card for this year, as well as a copy of your liability insurance certificate. We thank you for being a member of American Callers Association and for supporting the square and round dance community. Licensing and insurance are an expense for us but not as expensive as can be if we are not compliant. Do you know a caller that is not a member of one of the national callers groups? Refer them to the ACA for compliance with the required licenses and Insurance to protect them.

I love working with new callers and watching them progress into very capable callers. Most of us will never be nationally known traveling callers, but there is a real need in the cities and rural areas for people to start square dance clubs and help spread the word about our great activity. If you know someone you think would make a good caller, encourage them to try it. I still think the best way to keep us going forward is reaching out to the churches, civic clubs, private schools and benefits coordinators at large companies offering to teach a group to dance. We used to wear our square dance clothes out in public and that drew some attention to the activity. With the relaxed dress codes, what can we do to attract the outsiders? Maybe just wearing a badge will help. What do you think?

I have talked with a few of our members around the country and some will be in Mobile for the national convention in June. Mary and I will be there and hope to meet many of you. Mac has arranged for a booth in the vendor area for ACA. Please make it a point to stop by. We are also participating in some of the education and round table discussions. Join us in Mobile and say howdy to us. This also would be a great time to wear your ACA badge and spread the word about our great organization.

I like to include a moment of technical talk in my articles so here is a little food for thought. Do you record a dance or a tip occasionally and then dance it by yourself and make judgments about flow, timing, enthusiasm etc? Have you developed habits and patterns that you use repeatedly? Are you using all the calls at the level you are calling? We are probably the most critical person on our own calling so you might try it.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the ACA and all callers. Let me know if you have thoughts on anything in my articles. I want to learn from you.

Mary and I look forward to meeting you personally.

Keep 'em square and in case you forgot, wash your hands.

Bill Chesnut
billchesnut4@gmail.com
352-475-2550

The Purpose of starting a new square dance class is to teach people to square dance in a way that will lead to many hours or even years of dancing fun and enjoyment and to encourage them to bring all their friends into Square Dancing. They will if you let them have FUN and don't keep them in class till they are old enough to draw social security.

Remember the time when you started Square Dancing? And how nervous and inexperienced you felt? We should never have people feel apprehensive about joining a Square Dance Class.

We should explain that Square Dancing is one of the easiest forms of dancing in the world to learn, because you learn a few calls then dance them for a time and then add two or three more calls. The learning process is FUN.

We believe that this method of teaching will allow classed to be taught in less time with fewer lessons plus a better and more capable dancer for the future of Square Dancing.

We have gone through the experiences of starting classed for many years, more that we would like to count and hope that by sharing with you our experiences and insight that will have had for some many years we can make your class experience more pleasant, satisfying and enjoyable for you and your new dancers.

Some callers will use the big circle and you can teach many calls from the big circle.

I think the quicker you can get people into the square formation the better off you are because they will do very little dancing from the circle after they become dancers. If you have a better way uses it.

Good Luck with your new classes
Mac Letson

[Reminder: All future ACA newsletters will be posted on the website only!](#)

BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF MOVEMENT

Let's review some problem areas in our understanding of similar moves from different starting formations. We will start with the move Pass Thru. If you are in Facing Couples, just pass the dancer in front of you right shoulders. If you are in an Ocean Wave, just step thru ending back to back. There is a rule for these two actions. It goes like this: Anything you can do from Facing Couples you can do from Ocean Waves.

As a caller you need to remind the dancers frequently during class until they remember that rule.

Now think of how many moves these two moves affect: Slide Thru, Swing Thru, Touch A Quarter or Single Hinge, Spin the Top, U-Turn Back, Courtesy Turn, and Box the Gnat. As you can see you have a lot of combinations just from this one rule.

Now let's look at Reverse. How many callers call the Reverse moves? You should really try hard to use them on a regular basis. Reverse: Wheel Around, Flutter Wheel, Dixie Style to an Ocean Wave. You also have Left Handed moves to use: Left Square Thru, Left Swing Thru, Left Turn Thru, Left Touch A Quarter, and Left Single Hinge.

These examples followed with another good body flow move would be a very comfortable action. Take your time and use those checkers when building your choreography. Your confidence will grow considerably.

Happy Calling,

John Carlton

C OMMITMENT

- To be a Caller involves discussion & agreement between caller & partner. It requires commitment to excellence which requires much time for studying and working toward improvement. It requires commitment to do your best each time you pick up the mike. Calling requires establishment of goals, commitment toward accomplishment of these goals.

A TTITUDE

- Attitude must be the best in all aspects of the activity, which includes caller/dancers, caller/club officers, caller/beginner classes and caller/fellow callers. Remember that we are all in this activity together and attitudes (both good and bad) are contagious.

L EARNING

- Will increase your enjoyment, not to mention the dancers enjoyment. Learn by all available methods, such as books, self study, callers' colleges, from other callers.

L EADERSHIP

- Good leadership is probably the most important inherent responsibility of a caller. Good leadership is synonymous with the title of *Caller*. Be prepared to exercise unbiased judgment and give objective positive advice.

E THICS

- Strive to always exercise the Golden-Rule "*Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You.*" Always keep your word and your commitments. Make sure that all your actions with dancers and callers are honest and upright.

R ESPONSIBILITY

- Calling requires responsibility to dancers, to fellow callers, and to yourself. It carries the responsibility of honoring all commitments and last but certainly not least, the responsibility of giving back to the square dance activity - don't take from it more than you give.

ACA

Will be attending the

72nd National Square

Dance Convention

In Mobile Alabama

June 21-24, 2023

BOOTH #4