

DANCERgram

October 2020



THIS &
THAT

... for the latest news in the square and round dance community.

This publication is a sub-set of the *DANCERgram*, which provides Square and Round Dance news for the West Coast of Florida AND is the official Newsletter of the West Coast Square & Round Dancers Association (formerly the *West Coast Dancer*).

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From the Desk of the Editor:

As you may already know, we are re-designing the DANCERgram. You may be wondering why.

The current design has become very cumbersome to work with and read. Just about every issue is between 40 – 50 pages. The idea is to break this down into smaller magazines that are more manageable. Some information is needed weekly, some monthly, and some as needed.

There will be four (4) different magazines, but still under the DANCERgram name and logo. We are still trying to come up with names for each of them, something catchy. Therefore, some of the names may change.

The four magazines will be

➤ **Joys, Concerns, and Sympathies**

This title is self-explanatory. It will include notices on Florida callers and cuers, national and international callers and cuers, Federation Board members, West Coast Association General Council members, officers of the Florida Callers Association and the Round Dance

Council of Florida, Florida Camping Clubs, national officers, Florida association officers, Florida camping chapter officers; Hall of Fame inductees; any Florida representatives to the United Square Dancers of America (USDA); and recipients of the West Coast Distinguished Service Award. This magazine will be published as needed.

➤ **This and That**

This magazine will be the news items such as the West Coast Association President's Message, the Florida Federation President's Message, reprints of articles, news articles, convention information, and any other information of interest to the dances in the West Coast Association area. This publication is published once a month.

➤ **Planner**

This magazine will contain all the dances, conventions, festivals, class schedules for the West Coast Association area; the West Coast Association Area Dance List; meeting dates; and deadlines applicable to our area. This will be published once a week.

➤ **Directory**

This magazine will contain the West Coast Key Contacts List, the SCCA Membership List, and the Links. This publication will be published as needed.

Please keep in mind that the DANCERgram is the official publication of the West Coast Square and Round Dance Association and is for those dancers. Our association covers 16 counties – Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, and Collier Counties. Not every county has a representative as we don't have square dancing in every county. We do need representatives for Pasco, Manatee/Sarasota, and Highlands. If you live in a county that doesn't have square dancing and would like to get it started, please contact the West Coast Association president. There are dancers in other areas who have also requested copies.

Every magazine will contain the DANCERgram logo and copyright information.

If any suggestions, questions, or complaints, please let the editor know.

Penny Green
Editor

Have you heard about hula-hoop square dancing?

Suncoast Squares in St. Pete is doing it, and having a grand time! Go to this link to see videos of the dancing

<https://bradbruner.smugmug.com/Suncoast-Squares/Hula-Hoop-Dancing-Summer-Fall-2020/n-PWf2sJ>

2022 Florida State Convention

LIGHTHOUSE #5 SANIBEL ISLAND LIGHT



Sanibel Island Light is located on the eastern end of the small 12-mile-long island across the mainland of Florida's Gulf coast from Punta Rassa. It is now connected to the mainland by a causeway bridge built in the 1960's.

As early as 1833, the residents of Sanibel petitioned for a lighthouse to be built but Congress took no action at that time. And again, in 1856, the Lighthouse Board requested a lighthouse be built, again. Congress took no action. Then in 1877 a group of government workers surveyed the eastern end of the island. This time these government workers "reserved" a section of the land for the lighthouse project – but – again, no action. It was not until after the Civil War that yet another petition was submitted to Congress stating that a lighthouse would cause a big increase in trade and that boaters and travelers would be able to visit the island more easily. Finally, in 1883 Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the project, and the lighthouse was finally started in February 1884. It was lit for the first time in August of 1884.

The lighthouse is built 112 feet above sea level using an iron skeleton-type tower. It has a focal plane of 98 feet. There is an external spiral staircase that the lighthouse keeper had to climb to service the lamps when needed. There were no provisions made for the keeper to live inside the structure; however, a small home was built beside the lighthouse for his needs.

There have been two recorded big hurricanes that struck the lighthouse, but fortunately, there was minimal damage either time. The first recorded one was in 1944, where it is said that several residents and the keeper clung to the outside spiral staircase after the keepers' home was destroyed – all did survive. The second hurricane recorded was Charley in 2004. The predicted forecasted storm surge of 13 feet never materialized, so nothing was lost.

The State Convention is still being planned for Friday and Saturday, February 19 & 20, at the Daytona Beach Convention Center. Several great different money-making ideas are planned. Of course, there is the usual souvenir shirt, red, with the convention lighthouse logo. Then there will be the two 5-foot-tall wooden Lighthouses to be raffled off. Pictures and tickets will be distributed to each area soon along with more raffle tickets for the beautiful handmade quilt

featuring 10 of “Florida’s Fabulous Lighthouses.” “Florida’s Fabulous Lighthouses” is the title of the coffee-table book where I have taken excerpts for these articles; there are some for sale also.

Stay safe, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and PRAY – PRAY – PRAY

LIGHTHOUSE #6 EGMONT KEY LIGHT

Egmont Key is a small island in the Tampa Bay area. It is known that Spain ruled the Florida area longer than the United States had been a country, but it soon gave way to British rule. It was under British rule that the Key was named. It was named after the Earl of Egmont, Lord of the Admiralty, and a very prominent man in Brittan, John Perceval.

At the time the first lighthouse was being built (1848) a Colonel Robert E. Lee was making a survey of the southern bay coast and recommended some defensive works be built. That was when the first Lighthouse was put on the Key. It lasted less than six months because a hurricane washed over it with huge 15-foot waves. Needless to say, that was referred to as the GREAT HURRICAN of 1848. Even though it was rebuilt, there were many more valiant storms that took its toll on the structure second tower, so it was dismantled in 1857. A second tower was built and lighted in 1858, this time it was constructed with 3-foot-thick brick walls and stood 90 feet tall.

Before the second lighthouse was built, the Seminole Indians were being forced to migrate to Oklahoma, but they were relocated on Egmont Key for a while. Their chief, Billy Bowlegs, was offered \$200,000 to move his tribe westward voluntarily. He refused and led an attack in Big Cypress instead, which started the Third Seminole War. It was this incident that eventually led to the Indians now infamous “Trail of Tears.”

It was during the Civil War that the “light” was removed from the top of the lighthouse by the Confederates mostly to frustrate the Union Navy’s efforts to blockade Tampa Bay. Early in the Civil War, Confederate blockade-runners used the island as a base. Later it was captured (in July 1861) by the Union forces who used it as a base for attacks on the Confederate ships and other hostile positions in the Tampa area.

Egmont Key is steeped in so much early American history; it would be tough to give it justice. The Spanish-American War, Second & Third Seminole Wars,

Civil War, and even World War 1 and World War 2 are all etched in Egmont Keys History. There are many books at your local library that would be worthwhile researching and enjoying. For a lot of this information here, I found in “Florida’s Fabulous Lighthouses” book, which you can order from Carol Douget, Convention Chairman. They will be only \$16.00 each now, and I believe there are still four left. Contact her at cldcpa@yahoo.com or phone: 410-952-7408. This is another “money-maker” for the 2021 Florida State Square Dance Convention.

LIGHTHOUSE #7 CAPE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE

Even though the Florida State Convention is POSTPONED, the chairmen, Carol & Richard Douget, have asked that I continued writing about the Lighthouses around the State of Florida just to keep the momentum going and keep the interest about what is planned around this theme – LIGHTING THE WAY TO FRIENDSHIP AND FUN.

The Cape Florida Lighthouse is located at the southern end of Key Biscayne. It was built in 1812 to protect shipping in the straits of Florida. The first time the lighthouse was built, it was 65 feet tall with wooden stairs. In December of 1825, the lighthouse was lit for the very first time.

In 1835 a major hurricane struck the island, damaging the lighthouse and destroying the keeper's house. The lighthouse keeper, Captain Dubose, moved his family to Key West for safety. Assistant lighthouse keeper, John Thompson, remained to guard the light along with an African American handyman named Aaron Carter. In 1836, the already much-damaged lighthouse was attacked by a fierce band of Seminole Indians. The two men did manage to flee into the lighthouse while being shot at; both were wounded. The Indians kept firing into the structure, which ignited the kerosene oil stored at the bottom. The fire forced both the wounded and burning men up onto the lighthouses platform that ran around the light. Carter eventually died of his wounds. The Indians, after looting and burning the other buildings, left the next morning believing both men were dead. Thompson survived but had no way to get down from the tower since the stairs were burned away. A United States Navy schooner, the *Motto*, heard the explosion of a gun powder keg during the attack and, over the next few days, could rescue Thompson. After this siege, the Cape Florida Light remained extinguished from 1836 to 1846.

The tower and keeper's quarters were ordered rebuilt in 1846. It remains the oldest standing structure in Miami-Dade County. The lighthouse was re-lit in 1847. But in 1855, it was renovated again, and 95 more feet were added to its height.

In 1861 the lighthouse was attacked again, but this time by Confederate sympathizers after Florida seceded from the Union, it remained dark for the rest of that war. In 1866 service was finally restored only to be discontinued, again, in 1878 when it was determined the light was not strong enough to warn ships away from the offshore reefs, its focal was only 100 feet, so that same year, 1878, a lighthouse was built on Fowry Rocks Reef, only 7 miles further south and was lit. The Fowry Rocks Reef has a focal of 15 nautical miles and is still operational to this day.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think would make this unusual convention's format more enjoyable, please contact the Dougets at 321-446-8593 or email cldcpa@yahoo.com.

In the interim, stay safe by wearing your masks when going out - always wash those hands when you come back - still smile even when it cannot always be seen. Surprise a friend by calling them, especially your single friends.

Judy Anderson, Publicity

STATE CONVENTION NEWS

Everyone is aware by now that the 67th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention is POSTPONED – NOT CANCELLED – only POSTPONED!!! But---the dates have been changed. The 67th Florida State Convention will now be held on March 4th and 5th of 2022. Everyone has agreed to remain on board, and everything will stay the same. Carol and Richard Douget have graciously agreed to continue chairing the convention and are carrying thru with their original theme: "LIGHTING THE WAY TO FRIENDSHIP AND FUN," featuring Lighthouses.

They wanted to convey that there is no need to worry about having bought items that are "dated" as they will be not reordering replacements until the current inventory runs out. There are still plenty of shirts available – maybe they will become collector's items, you never know. Also, a reminder that if you have already purchased raffle tickets for the beautiful Lighthouse Quilt and/or the two (2) beautiful 5-foot Lighthouses, don't toss them away as the drawings will still be held at the convention in 2022, but also remember your name and

phone number is on the ticket half that the Dougets kept so you won't lose out either way.

Hotel and campground reservations cannot be made now. Most places will not accept reservations this far in advance, even under normal conditions. We will just have to wait to see what the future holds. There will be more information in the ensuing months. In the interim, please stay safe, as directed. Wear your masks, as required. Keep social distancing, as directed. Wash your hands, as directed. And above all, keep in contact with your friends by phone, Facebook, or email, let them know you're thinking of them and wishing them well. A little LOVE goes a long way---so spread a little L-O-V-E!!!

70th National Square Dance Covention®



Dancing Fun in 2021 in the "City with Soul"

Ultimate fun in 2021
Welcome to Jackson!

Home of the 70th National square dance Covention®

Our Soul Team board was so looking forward to going to Spokane for dancing fun and getting more registrations for our convention. Also, getting to sell all the Ways and Means we have because we must raise money to put on our convention. Dan and I were looking forward to traveling this last year as we have for the previous three years across the USA, promoting the 70th NSDC. As all of you are stressed by all the Covid-19 issues, so is our board. We want to get people registered and have a big "Reunion" dance next year in Jackson.

We sure hope we get to see all of you in Jackson because our board has been working hard to plan you a fun convention. They can hardly believe there are only ten months till our Convention. There are ten great tours planned to take you all over the state. The Everything Elvis tour is a four-day tour before the Convention starts to take you into the life of Elvis that was born in Mississippi. You want to get registered for the Wednesday night special event that has an Elvis Tribute artist that has won Elvis contests. You will thoroughly enjoy his performance, along with the great meal that will be right after the opening ceremony that occurs at 5:00. After the convention, you can make plans for Dancing Fun in the Sun on the "Glory" ship going to Eastern Caribbean with Justin Russell and Mike Hogan.

Our Education Chairman, Barbara Read, has developed a program that you will enjoy. The theme for the Education Program in Jackson will be Educate with Soul. She will help those that started the Leadership Certification Program

(LCP) in Atlanta to get it finalized in Jackson. The Sew & Save program will provide Make & Takes with Beads & Buttons being the theme. Beaded zipper pulls, Beaded T-shirts, Beaded Pictures, and Jewelry. Look for more plans for Education programs in upcoming E-Magazine editions.

Our Convention center will have dance halls for all our regular dancing. There will be a clogging competition in the Hilton Garden on Friday and Saturday. Wood floors will be provided where needed. There are six dance halls on the first floor for different levels of square dancing and round dancing. The second floor has more dance halls for clogging, contra (with a live band at night), line dancing, youth, and more squares and rounds, all the education rooms and storage areas for callers and cuers and exhibitions, the NSDC Archive room, and the Showcase of Ideas. The third floor has more square and round dance halls and the theater that will be used for the USDA meeting on Wednesday, the Round Table on Thursday, the bid session, and Key Note Speaker, Mike Seastrom, on Friday and the Fashion Show on Saturday. Our Vice-Chairman for the Fashion Show, Linda Carlile, has planned National Fashion Shows before so you know you will enjoy it very much.

In the next nine editions of the E-Magazines, you will hear from our different board members all the plans they are making for you so that you can plan the dances, tours, special events, education sessions, and all the other things that will be going on in Jackson the “City with Soul.” So be sure to check out the E-Magazine each month to see what is available at the 70th NSDC.

Psst, have you heard Patsy Cline may be there along with Elvis? Our Soul Team Board looks forward to welcoming you to Jackson for some ULTIMATE FUN in 2021. The “City with Soul” has what you want, and we’ve got the best of it.



Dan and Glinda Torvik
General Chairman 70th National Square Dance Convention®

Everything Elvis

Pre-Convention Tour
June 20 – 23, 2021

Elvis Presley, who was arguably the world's greatest entertainer, was born in Mississippi. His history has been preserved, and you can't miss it! Sunday, we travel to the city of his birth – Tupelo. After checking into our hotel, we will get some dinner. Afterward, we will have some time to walk about town or do some shopping. On Monday morning, we will tour the birthplace of Elvis and other sites where he walked. We will have lunch prior to leaving town and continue our tour by driving to Memphis, TN. We will check into our hotel near Graceland for two nights. After dinner, we will see the unusual pyramid-shaped Bass Pro Shop, with time to shop! On Tuesday, we begin our day with a tour of Sun Studio, where Elvis recorded his music. Next, we will drive past Levitt Shell – where Elvis performed his first paid concert. In the afternoon, we will spend time at Graceland to see Elvis' home. You can also see his airplanes, automobiles, and other Elvis collectibles. That night, we drive to Beale Street, where Elvis spent time with musicians gathered there. This is one of the most iconic streets in America. It is three blocks of restaurants, shops, and nightclubs. You will have time to explore this fun area and to have dinner on your own. Wednesday morning, we will drive past a couple of other Elvis's homes before departing Memphis. On our way back to Jackson, we will stop for lunch. We arrive back in Jackson in time for the Wednesday night special event – an Elvis tribute artist (separate admission).

Cost: \$650 per person double

\$850 Single price

Least at 1 PM from the downtown hotel or convention center.

Be sure to arrive by 12:30 PM.

Includes bus, guide, admissions, and lodging. Meals included: 3 breakfasts at hotels, three lunches, and two dinners.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2020

CALLERLAB Viewpoints

By Mike Seastrom

Staying Connected

As we slowly move in the direction of getting back to dancing, we know that it may be difficult to start a new class and bring new people into an activity with such close physical contact. The one thing we still can do is to stay connected with our brand-new dancers who started last year but were unable to finish their new dancer program. We can also connect with those who were part of our group in the recent past but have drifted away for some reason.

I hope you've been able to keep your club or dance group connected by any of the Zoom type online formats or by a "traditional phone tree." If you haven't, you've been missing an incredible opportunity to keep your club and your new dancers together. The "traditional phone tree" that clubs have used for many years is still a winner.

Members of your board or leaders in the club volunteer to divide up the phone numbers of all the members, friends, new dancers, and anyone affiliated with your club and periodically calls them. So many in our groups have been alone or have had minimal outside contact in the times we've experienced this year. Calling and touching base with them yields some great, lengthy conversations that are often fun and rewarding for both parties.

If your group is not using this tool, get it organized, and start calling. Sharing stories and time with individuals and couples in your group is a real key to keeping everyone connected. Those that are good social facilitators in your "phone tree" will even be able to connect those that are in their "tree" by sharing like stories and encouraging others to call each other. Social connections between our dancers and even former dancers are what sets us ahead of so many other recreational activities, and supporting those connections will tremendously help our activity bounce back from these times of isolation.

For those that have a little more computer experience, online forums like Zoom have been a terrific way to connect socially and dance too. These online video platforms have been available for years, but most of us haven't had the need or knowledge to use them. The COVID crisis has changed that.

Many of us found for the first time that we could connect with others with an email link. We could download an app and/or get into the “meeting” with our cell phones, computer tablets, laptops, or desktops. Some of us had never even used our computer cameras and microphones and didn’t realize we had them.

There is a little bit of a learning curve and a few icons to find, check and adjust, but there is always someone on the “call” to coach us through the snags we may be having. Many of us remember what it was like to be new to dancing. When you are new to a Zoom platform, it invites others to be like “angels” and help you navigate the very few things that can cause issues.

My first exposure was a link my wife found on Facebook. A caller named Mike Dusoe from Maine was having a “Virtual 2-Couple Dance” with his club, and the notice said there might be a few spots open for others to join. Lisa and I decided to try.

When the time came, we clicked on the link, and after a couple of minutes of clicking on some icons, we clicked into a computer screen with about 20 other small screens. Mike had enough spots for others to join, and we found that other west coast dancers we knew were also linked in, and it was fun to see them. We also saw other callers and their partners attending from all over the United States and even a couple of dancers from Germany.

Mike explained that we would be dancing in two couple squares, and if we were a couple attending, like my wife and I, we would be dancing with an invisible couple or “Phantom couple.” If you were attending as a single dancer, you would also have a “phantom partner” as well as a “phantom couple” opposite you.

Challenge square dancers are used to dancing with “phantoms,” but to most dancers dancing Basic through the Advanced Programs, this is a whole new ball game.

The first session, we dance only patten alls, but we had a blast, and it was fun just to see other dancers and people we knew. It was also fun dancing with my wife, and even though we made some mistakes, we laughed and had a great time. The session lasted a little more than an hour, but that was plenty, and it planted a seed with me.

There was another couple from my club there, and we talked by phone about putting a session together for our club. After a few phone calls to our president and others in the club, we decided to schedule a session.

At around the same time, Jeremy Butler, a caller from Virginia, contacted me about being part of a caller training group using the Zoom format. He had already contacted Tony Oxendine, Ted Lizotte, Jack Pladdys, and Ken Ritucci about it, and we several times to organize and plan the training sessions. Jeremy titled the sessions, Corona Learning Assistance Seminar Series or C.L.A.S.S., and those recorded caller seminars are excellent caller education tools and are replayed at your convenience at www.gsicallerschool.com. Look for the CLASS Videos tab. Thanks, Jeremy, for a great idea!

Being part of the C.L.A.S.S. effort helped with my training in the Zoom format. After further mentoring and help from Mike Dusoe, Paul Cote, and Ted Lizotte, I learned how to connect calling sound equipment into another separate laptop computer my wife owned; I was ready for my first session.

We invited everyone from our club and our new dancers too. Word got out to other clubs in the area, and we had almost a hundred screens going. I had decided to use my headset microphone and dance with my wife while calling so that my timing and flow would be as good as it could be.

I started the session as if we were beginning to dance the first night. We did very basic figures, the first tip, and everyone seemed like they were catching on well. The entire session lasted a little more than an hour, and I increased the difficulty a little each tip.

I made a big error in judgement and regret it to this day. I was able to do a good intro tip, but by the second and third “tip,” I quickly made it too difficult for my new dancers. They had danced the calls before, but dancing with a “phantom couple” is a very different way to dance. In my effort to provide something for everyone, I made it too difficult for the new dancers and even some of my experienced club members.

Most of my dancers laughed a lot, but since that first fateful “Zoom Dance and Social Gather,” I have learned ways to cue and call differently. We continue to hold “Dances and Social Gatherings” once a week for my new dancers and once a month for our club. We have even mentored other clubs and callers in the process, as we were unselfishly mentored. There is even a Facebook group called Virtual Square Dances that lists many dances throughout the week. Check it out!

We just received a notice from the Community Center where our cub dances will not be open until January of 2021. If you have the same circumstances, seriously consider asking for help, and start organizing Zoom events with your

group. You'll have a wonderful time. You socially connect, entertain, and safely provide dance and social gathering for your club or dance group.

Staying connected will make it easier for everyone to return when it is safe again. Step up and provide that leadership to organize these events. You won't regret it, and your dancers will appreciate it more than you know.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2020

USDA Introduces "Beyond The Dance Floor" series of Zoom-based square dance related webinars.

From Bonnie Abramson...

Most of my friends know I'm a square dancer, and I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the United Square Dancers of America (USDA), a national square dancer's organization. USDA is proud to Introduce "Beyond The Dance Floor" series of Zoom-based square dance related webinars. Please join us and share with your friends. Our first workshop, "Who Is USDA and What Do We Have to Offer," will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2020; 2:00 pm Eastern, 1:00 pm Central, Noon Mountain, 11:00 am Pacific 8:00 am in Hawaii. Complete schedule and general information online. United Square Dancers of America (USDA) Zoom log in info will be provided next week. Please share it with your dancing friends.

Looking for Another Book to Read?

With our extended time at home, this is a good time to read about the life and times of Marshall Flippo. Did you dance to him? See him do one of his famous after-party skits? Have you heard any of his hilarious stories? How about stories about him from caller, cuer, and dance friends? Would you like a personally autographed hardback or paperback copy of the newly released biography? With our extended time at home, this is a good time to read about the life and times of Marshall Flippo. Did you dance to him? See him do one of his famous after-party skits? Have you heard any of his hilarious stories? How about stories about him from caller, cuer, and dance friends? Would you like a personally autographed hardback or paperback copy of the newly released biography of Marshall Flippo—Just Another Square Dance Caller? You have a couple of options:

PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD

Go to my website at <https://laradasbooks.com>, and you can pay through PayPal on my homepage!

PAY WITH A CHECK

Price: Paperback - \$24.95 + Tax of \$1.75 + Shipping of \$5.00 = \$31.70
Hardback - \$34.95 + Tax of \$2.45 + Shipping of \$5.00 = \$42.40

If you pay by check, email me so I can reserve a copy for you!

Mail your check to Larada Horner-Miller, 14 Asher Lane, Tijeras, NM 87059

If you want an e-book, it's available for Kindle, iBook, Kobo, or Nook format at their providers.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to either email or call me!

Larada Horner-Miller

Author

Just Another Square Dance Caller: The Authorized Biography of Marshall Flippo

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Larada.author>

Would you like to hear an interview by Larada Horner-Miller, author of *Just Another Square Dance Caller*, regarding her recently released book about Caller Marshall Flippo?

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/474541/4554098>

Marshall Flippo was famous for his After Party Skits. Here's a sampling of some of his popular ones:

<https://youtu.be/X8u90uFCL4w>

All Things Considered

By Ed Foote

SQUARE DANCING VIDEOS ON THE INTERNET

Interesting fact. At the Opening Ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 960 square dancers from 24 local square dance clubs danced for five minutes in the stadium where the ceremonies were held. The callers were Wilf Wiladal and Ron Refvik, and they called Plus.

Included were Kaleidoscope Squares, created by Gloria Roth from Nova Scotia. One of the announcers on television, Peter Jennings, was a former caller, and he gave a brief example of calling.

All of this is available on the Internet. If you Google the above information, it will come up. But the video is blocked on Google. To see the video, there is a link on Google to YouTube, or you can go directly to YouTube. It is well worth seeing.

By the way, the full Opening Ceremonies and Closing Ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics are available on the Internet and are way impressive.

Square dancing on the Internet. Many exciting items are available for viewing on YouTube. Click on YouTube and then type in the name of a particular club in the Search Box. You may find that someone has put dances for that club online

You can also see numerous callers calling for a variety of clubs. The more popular the caller, the more likely it is that he/she will be online. Google the caller's name and/or go to YouTube and type in the caller's name in the Search Box.

You can also see many callers giving panel discussions at various Callerlab Conventions. The best way to see this is to go to YouTube, then in the Search Box, type the name of the caller followed by a dash followed by the words Callerlab Convention panels.

Note: If you go to YouTube and type in the caller's name, you may be referred to that caller's lectures at CALLERLAB and not to that caller's dances. If that happens and you want to see that caller calling a square dance, start over and type the caller's name followed by the words calling square dances.

Virtual square dances. With most square dance clubs being temporarily closed, many callers have been calling online. The calling is for one couple to dance at home, and covers every Callerlab program. Often this involves working with one phantom couple, and the directions for doing so are quite easy,

If you Google virtual square dancing, you will see a wide range of options to experience this.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2020

Social Square Dancing

By Mike Gormley

If you are not familiar with what the Social Square Dancing (SSD) “destination program” is, then watch this, because it is a fast-growing concept. Educate yourself and consider having the program introduced in your area. It has great potential towards solving square dancing’s decline over the past 40 or more years. We all know what we have been doing for 40 years has not been working to keep our numbers up.

This video is being done by Noah Siegman, son of the late Caller Len Siegman and Cuer Ruth Siegmann, who called and cued in the Port Charlotte area. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E1RCvZ5o0Y&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0HeAckT5Zlj7GNYIq1ANIkZ27D3k0aMsCxL-Ts31K6MxNEzfYhkYH88I>

Preview YouTube video Square Dance C.L.A.S.S. - 08.19.2020 - Noah Siegmann - SSD (Social Square Dancing)



Square Dance C.L.A.S.S. - 08.19.2020 - Noah Siegmann - SSD (Social Square Da

West Coast Association

President's Message:



I know everyone struggles with the isolation of being stuck in your homes, not being able to dance and hug your friends. I keep telling myself this will make us stronger and closer to each other.

On the evening of August 12th, the West Coast Association Board held a Zoom business meeting. We have several people who live too far away to drive to a 90-minute meeting. Having a Zoom meeting is the best way to address that concern. No matter where you are, you can still participate in the call. You can either use a computer, tablet, or (even a landline) to connect. During the meeting, you will see everyone's face on the monitor, and everyone can speak, so it's just like having a face-to-face meeting, but we're not near anyone where we could become infected with the virus. Hopefully, the attendance will improve as we have more of these meetings.

We have canceled the President's Ball in September and the Fall Fun Fest in November; in other words, there are no dances scheduled at the West Coast Association level until the end of the calendar year.

We will have another Zoom meeting in January to evaluate the dancing situation, the West Coast Association's future, and any other business that comes up. I encourage you to consider appointing a representative from your club to represent your club at the West Coast meetings. Our Bylaws state that every club can have a representative on the General Council and vote. If you already have someone in your club on the Board and already has a vote, please consider appointing someone else to be the club rep. Hopefully, using Zoom will increase the meetings' attendance and mean more voters participating in the decision-making.

In the ordinary course of events, we would establish a nominating committee to present a slate of officers for the new year. Since there will not be any dancing for the next few months, we agreed to leave everything as is while we see how things fall out. The officers will remain in their current positions until the next meeting. We also decided that we will not start accepting membership renewals until after the first of the year.

Penny Green, President

2021 West Coast Association Fall Fun Fest

The 2020 Fall Fun Fest has been canceled. If you have registered for the 2020 Fest, you can rollover your ribbons to the 2021 Fest. If you would rather receive a refund, please contact Ann and Don Slocum at adsloc8@gmail.com.

Tom Miller and Keith Stevens will call for the 2021 Fest on November 12th – 13th. We currently do not have a contract with a cuer. The dates are November 12 – 13, 2021. These contracts were negotiated before we canceled the 2020 FFF. So, we are in the process of writing new contracts for Ted Kennedy, Jack Lewis, and Earle Collins, for the 2022 Fall Fun Fest.

Re-establishing the Cohesiveness of your Club

By Penny Green

Do you feel that your club is no longer as cohesive as it used to be six or seven months ago before we had to shut down all of our dances? Some clubs had such a cohesive group, they went out to eat together, traveled together, and planned their vacations around their trips to the National and State convention. I know that 30 or 40 years ago, my home club, Buttons & Bows of Lakeland, was so tight we were like extended family, and in some cases, we were the only family they had. And I have to point out Suncoast Squares in St. Pete as a good example.

In Buttons & Bows, we had a core group of people who took lessons together and became good friends. The few that are still alive are still close friends. As you know, Buttons & Bows was known for their special events, and back in the day, you had to be a member to attend the events. We had a lot of events at each other's houses. We had a box dinner, bonfire, and hayride at one of our members' ranch one time. I had a luau at my home, with a covered dish and grilled meat, and we also had an outdoor talent show! Another time we had a progressive dinner. Different couples took one course of the meal and fixed it at their house. We had a motorhome and some vans to transport everyone. We started with appetizers at one home, then salads at the next home, all the way through the meal to dessert. When we chartered busses, we would have two full 45-seat busses of Buttons & Bows members!

We used to get together once a month for lunch to celebrate birthdays that month. Everyone took a turn making the arrangements. We started as just women participating, but the guys felt left out, so we started including them. When we danced in Mulberry, we went to the Mulberry Restaurant for dinner

or breakfast after every dance. When we went to the Knothead Konvention in Tampa, someone would block a section of a floor for Buttons & Bows so that we were all together. Everyone left their doors to their rooms open, and everyone just walked in and out. We ate together and shopped together all weekend in between the dancing.

At Orlando Singles, whenever anyone had a birthday or anniversary, they were called to the front of the room and given a card signed by everyone. We all sang Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary, and then everyone went up to give them a yellowrock. I always wondered how many of them only received that one card and all those yellowrocks for their birthday?

Even though Suncoast Squares hasn't danced since March or April, they have been in contact with each other every week with Zoom, and sometimes more than once a week. They have themes for each night, and they dress up in costume for the call. They have dinners at each other's houses, celebrate birthdays at different homes, or meet at a restaurant. They go to concerts when a member is in the show. One time a couple had dinner at their house. They lived on the water, and everyone was invited to bring their boats. They have a Trivia Night planned for one of their calls. Each person is asked to give three facts about themselves, one false and two fake. They have had several Carona Alona Scavenger Hunts. A few times, a member has invited everyone to their house for a pool party called The Great Splash. Their latest thing is to dance with hula hoops, and they're going to do it at a park. How much interest do you think that will generate? They travel together to dance conventions, but a group will get together and go to Europe, the Far East, etc. When they have their Annual Fly-in, homes are opened to the out-of-town guests, so they don't have to stay in hotels, and they include a few meals in their registration fee.

Shufflin' Squares in Lake Wales has been having Zoom meetings every week too. They talk for a bit, and they practice phantom dancing. What is phantom dancing? You have a person or couple, and the other couple is "phantom." You are dancing by yourself, but you have to know where the other people would be and pretend to dance with them. Everybody on the call gets up and does the calls right there in their kitchen, den, whatever. They are getting to keep in practice with their dancing and talk to other people.

Space Trackers in Melbourne was having Friendship Dinners once a month before the pandemic. It started as a brown bag meal while decorating for Christmas; then it became a once a month dinner for members. Each month a group of people is in charge, and they do all the cooking. After a while, they started inviting visitors because they always had a lot of leftovers. They have anywhere from 18 – 27 people at these dinners each month.

Does anyone see the recurring theme with all of these? Just about all of these events weren't at a dance, they weren't at a theme park, they are held in a quiet place where everyone could sit down and enjoy a meal with their family. In some cases, they met someone new; in other cases, they updated everyone

on children, grandchildren, weddings, etc. Sometimes, it was just a general conversation. They saw both of my daughters grow up, I either met or knew about most of their children, what careers they retired from, their hobbies, and in some cases, I could tell about their golf game! LOL. Again, I always wondered if any of these people lived and ate alone. Did they miss having that big Thanksgiving dinner every year with the whole family sitting around the table? They were just like Thanksgiving dinners.

With not being able to hold dances and not seeing each other for approximately seven months, what's happening to our dance family? What are you doing to keep your club together? Have you been keeping in touch with everyone, especially those that live alone and are confined to their homes? Are they ok? Is anybody sick? Are you still remembering birthdays and anniversaries during this time? These are the things that keep a family together. Are people not going to return to dances because they have been forgotten over the past seven months?

Strawberry Square Social Dancing

We will be dancing at Strawberry Square every Saturday in August. Until further notice, the maximum number of people at all dances is 46, and reservations are required. Make your reservations by calling me, replying to emails, and letting me know which dances you will be attending. We are now getting several people from Zephyrhills, so the music will be a lot of country-western dancing.

From 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., there will be ballroom music for ballroom dancers. The ballroom music will be quick step, west coast swing, Viennese waltz, night club two-step, and Argentine Tango. This is temporary due to not being able to have dance lessons.

My website: djkenmiller.com

Face masks might be available for sale at \$3.00 each.

What we will be doing to promote safety:

1. We will only use every other table. The tables that we will not use will have a couple of chairs on top of them.
2. Strawberry Square will provide hand sanitizer. There will be 2 locations for the hand sanitizer. One location will be the desk where you pay; the other is the counter where the water was located.
3. Water and ice will not be available at this time, so bring your own.
4. I have bought an FDA approved no-touch temperature scanner to scan everyone.
5. Dance lessons at this time will be no-touch by the dance instructor.

These dances will be social dancing, where we have a 3,000 square foot floating wood floor to dance on. Social dancing includes slow dances, waltzes, line dances, cha-cha and rumbas, two-step and country slow, swing, freestyle, and some Latin dances. Ballroom dancers can dance to most of this music also. Singles and younger generation people are welcome. Come dance to the music by DJ Ken Miller. This event is now posted on Facebook (friend me on Facebook) and in the Nextdoor app.

The complementary dance lessons are suspended for the present, from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Beginners to advanced, basic fundamentals of social dancing to advanced social dancing.

The fee for the dance and dance lessons is \$6.00.

The dances will be at Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Blvd., Plant City, Fl. 33563. Their website: strawberrysquaredancing.com.

Dance time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Cost, \$6.00 per person

Water and cups are not available at this time. Please bring your own snacks, drinks, and the table service you will need.

From Lakeland or Plant City

Set #1, US 92, (this is the best way because I-4 is prone to accidents) US 92 west through Plant City. After you go past the Strawberry Festival grounds, go to the flashing yellow light and turn right onto Whitehurst Rd. You will go past the Whitehurst Baptist Church on the left, then go past a 55 plus MHP on the left. Watch for a paved road on the left, and turn left onto Boot Bay Rd. They are on the left, and the building that we dance in will have big red letters on the front of it that say Strawberry Square.

Set #2, I-4

Go west on I-4 to exit 17. At the end of the ramp, turn left. After you go under I-4, you will see a fruit stand on the left. At this point, turn left onto Beauchamp Rd. They will be on the right.

Ken Miller
863.409.7714
pcsocialdanceclub@inbox.com
Website: djkenmiller.com



What a year 2020 has been so far! Warm summer days usually mean the annual convention is upon us. Yet, this year is decidedly different. Clubs stopped dancing in March. Fly-ins, club nights, A/C week-ends, and even our beloved annual convention – all canceled. Most of us are working from home if we are lucky. Wearing a mask and physical distancing is the new normal.

As science works on a vaccination, we know in our hearts that square dancing, the activity we love, will eventually come back. We will be able to dance together again, laugh together again, and be together again. Rebuilding our clubs will be a challenge, and All Join Hands is here to help.

All Join Hands and All Join Hands Canada have established a COVID Relief Fund specifically designed to help clubs get back on their feet when we can reopen. There will be a need to rebuild our memberships, book halls, contract with callers, and get the word out that we are back. The details are being worked out now, but the vision is to assist clubs with hall rentals, paying callers, placing advertising, and public relations information to get dancing up and running again. The COVID pandemic has also had a devastating financial impact on our dancers and callers. The All join Hands COVID Relief Fund can also help dancers that are not able to pay club dues or dance fees.

We urge you to consider donating to All Join Hands today. A generous matching donation challenge has been offered. For every \$1 you donate, it will be matched up to \$5,000. We need to build capital in the COVID Relief Fund now to help clubs recover. As a 501c3, your donations are tax-deductible. All Join Hands is fully committed to helping clubs rebuild and grow.

Want to help your club? Donate to the COVID Relief Fund and name your club. We will send your funds directly to the designated club.

Please join us in supporting square dancing by donating to the All Join Hands COVID Relief Fund by mailing a check or donating online at our website.

Yellow rocks,
Gordon Macaw, President

P.S. Under the CARES Act, taxpayers who choose the standard deduction can take advantage of a brand-new “above-the-line” tax deduction for the 2020 tax year. This means you can write off up to \$300 in cash donations in 2020 (\$600 for joint filers) to qualifying charities, and you don’t have to itemize deductions to take this charitable deduction.

Florida Federation

2021 Florida State Convention

By now, you have probably heard that the 2021 Florida Convention is canceled due to COVID-19. We regret having to make this decision. The future of COVID-19 is unknown to all of us, so we have no way of knowing if we will even be dancing by January. A lot of planning and work goes into putting a convention on. Part of that work is visiting dances, conventions, and festivals to promote and sell ribbons and fundraisers. Since all of our dances are closed indefinitely, and we don't know when they will reopen, there won't be enough time to catch-up with our efforts. Rather than continue with our plans for a convention in 2021, have only say 200 registrations, and lose thousands of dollars, we feel it's best to postpone the convention.

The Florida Federation, Florida Caller Association, and the Round Dance Council of Florida agree with this decision.

The 2022 convention will have the same theme, fundraisers, raffle tickets, and ribbons on March 4 – 5, 2022. Ribbon refunds are paid upon receipt of a written request, including name, address, and phone number. There are no refunds on shirts, buttons, or raffle tickets.

**(Editor's note: Please send a self-addressed postage-paid envelope for quicker processing.)*

CALLERLAB Viewpoints

By Mike Seastrom

We have just experienced some of the most challenging few months that most of us have known in our entire lifetime. To be isolated and away from others for six and more weeks has been trying, to say the least, and a huge change in our lives.

Many of us were lucky enough to find a little silver lining. We've had more time to catch up on projects that we've been putting off, more time to be with family, time to binge-watch something on television, or even catch some movies that we've always wanted to see. Having more time with our family, cooking meals at home, and even learning some new tricks in the kitchen has been an unexpected blessing. Some of us were finally able to take care of yard work that

needed to be done, enjoyed spring days with family, and even took some walks and met neighbors we didn't know we had.

Many of us found new ways to enjoy our dance activities through online video platforms. Some clubs were even activating phone trees to keep in touch with everyone. Although we've had a huge shift in gears, many of us have had positive experiences and have also learned some interesting life lessons.

I've learned that I miss people, dancers, and being in a room with so many people celebrating. What I mean is that our dance, like many other dances through the ages, is a celebration of life, and I've deeply missed that. Don't get me wrong. I have enjoyed evenings at home with my lovely wife and have cherished every minute we have spent together. But I miss dancing and seeing everyone. I have also missed a few good old-fashioned hugs from longtime friends. That touch is more important than most of us realize. It is therapy!

It will be a different world when we return to dance again. We may see more use of hand sanitizers and even for a while, food that is individually packaged or maybe no food at all. There may be some additional changes in our transition, but I think all of us have learned more things about washing our hands and keeping others safe as well as being safe ourselves.

Watching this whole pandemic unfold has made me immensely proud to be a member of the human race. It makes me proud to see so many people that have stepped up to the plate to help the less fortunate and to care for those that can no longer care for themselves.

One of the most important consequences of all this is that many of us have learned what a precious social activity we have and how enjoyable it is to share an evening with others who are also attempting to stay active and have fun. The ability to have courteous contact with other people from all walks of life is a precious commodity that we may have taken for granted in the past. The ability to share a potluck meal or just sit down and break bread with friendly, active, fun-loving people is a joy that had been easy to not greatly appreciate.

I am looking forward to getting back to our dance activity in whatever form we must take to keep everyone safe. I look forward to seeing my new dancers and to making it easy for them to continue to dance and to have fun as new members of our club. I'm also looking forward to traveling again to weekends and festivals. We'll figure it all out, and square dancing will continue to evolve as it's been done for hundreds of years.

Our community is so much more than just dancing. The friendships, the camaraderie, and the fun that we share with others is like no other activity I know. When you put all that social capital to music, it truly is a celebration of life.

I'm looking forward to each class, dance, and festival celebration again, and I hope to see all of you soon!

Reprint *American Square Dance* – July 2020

All Things Considered

By Ed Foote

Identifying Head or Side Girls During a Tip

The following question was received from a caller: “How do you know the designation for a girl if she is not with her original partner or her original opposite?”

For example, if a side girl is with a head boy, is she still a side girl, or is she now a head girl?

The “rule” is that at Mainstream and Plus, the girl always assumes the identity of the boy who is her partner. So from a static square, after the ladies Chain 3/4, the caller can now say “Sides Flutterwheel,” and those at the side position will do the call. The original head girl is now a side girl.

Likewise, after the ladies Chain 3/4, if the caller says: “Promenade, don't slow down, Heads Wheel Around,” it is the head boy and the girl who is with him (who previously was a side girl).

This rule has been in effect for over 50 years.

It becomes trickier from other setups. For example, after ladies Chain $\frac{3}{4}$ and the caller establishes standard lines facing out, let's say the caller wishes to have two couples Wheel Around to form two-faced lines. If the caller says, “Heads Wheel Around,” it would automatically be each head boy and the girl with him.

But this puts more pressure on the girl because this more of an involved situation. So to have less pressure on the girl, it might be better for the caller to say: “Head boy and the girl with you – Wheel Around.” It is not a rule that the caller needs to say this; it is just a suggestion, hopefully, to make for less confusion.

But the rule makes a change. At Advanced and Challenge, the original rule no longer applies. Now everyone, including the girl, keeps his or her original identity throughout the tip, no matter whom a person has as a partner.

This rule change is not written anywhere, but it is the way these programs have always operated.

So at Advanced and Challenge, if the side girl is with a head boy, the caller must always say: “Head boy and the girl with you...”. This applies everywhere, including a square set, from a Promenade, and all other situations where the caller wishes to designate two particular couples. If the caller knows that each boy has his original partner or opposite, then the caller can just say Heads or Sides.

As a result, if a caller is sight calling at Advanced or Challenge and is not sure who has whom, the caller should say: “Head boy and the girl with you...” as insurance, everyone will operate smoothly.

If a caller who calls a lot of Advanced and Challenge is calling a Mainstream or Plus dance, that caller may say, “Side boy and the girl with you...” from a square set or a Promenade. The caller is so used to saying this that it just comes out automatically. It does not hurt anything and may make it clearer for some.

Reprint *American Square Dance* – July 2020

Inspirational Quotes

By Ed Foote
(from the collection of Ed Foote)

“The desire to reach for the stars is ambitious. The desire to reach hearts is wise.” ...Maya Angelou

“You will never be perfect, but if you chase perfection, you can catch excellence.” ...Vince Lombardi, football coach

“When you’re born to do something, and you do it, you’re truly alive.” Michael Flatley, Irish dancer

“Doing things well is more important than doing things fast.” ...Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet

“Anything essential is invisible to the eyes. One sees clearly only with the heart.” ...Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince*

“If you would be wise, be loving.” ...Donald Craig, author

“Make today and tomorrow so awesome that you make yesterday jealous.” ...Joan Lunden, author, tv host

“The time to relax is when you don’t have time for it.” ...author unknown

“Home is something you take with you.” ...Jean Butler, Iris dancer

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink. You can lead a man to knowledge, but you can’t make him think.” ...author unknown

Reprint *American Square Dance* – July and August 2020

“Laughter is an instant vacation.” ...Milton Berle, comedian

“A smile is like a window that shows the heart is at home.” ...Irish saying

“No one needs a smile so much as those who have none to give.” ...Hal Roach, comedian

“There is a luxury in being quiet in the heart of chaos.” ...Virginia Woolf, writer

“When you find peace within yourself, you become the type of person who can live at peace with others.” ...Peace Pilgrim

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2020

REVIVING SQUARE DANCING IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (JULY 2020)

Guidelines for CALLERLAB Members (June 2020)

Dancers and callers love square dancing and miss the fellowship, social engagement, and shared community that the COVID-19 pandemic took away from us. We now need to regroup and start planning on how to positively move forward following this extended period of isolation. To this end, CALLERLAB wishes to provide its Members with the following guidelines to use as we approach reopening square dancing.

Staying Connected:

Before restrictions are lifted, CALLERLAB Members can collaborate and share ideas for keeping the square dance community connected and interactive. Many CALLERLAB Members are using creative approaches for engaging dancers and staying in touch with them. This includes:

1. Zoom meetings so club members can check in with each other.
2. Virtual dances, one-couple, and two-couple online dancing events.
3. Sharing videos of square dancing.
4. Sharing square dance word searches, crosswords, and other puzzles.
5. Checking in with dancers to let them know we will get through this and dance again.

Callers can brainstorm many other ideas in their individual areas.

Conditions for Resuming Square Dancing:

CALLERLAB recognizes that local guidelines will dictate how reopening will actually take place in various locations. In some places, reopening may occur relatively soon, while in others, the easing of restrictions will take place much more slowly. As we plan to reopen square dancing, we must respect local guidelines and requirements. Therefore:

1. First and foremost, be aware that your personal health and well-being and that of your dancers are of the utmost importance.
2. Carefully follow all federal, state/provincial, and local government regulations that are in place in your immediate area.
3. Communicate and cooperate with local square dance groups and organizations regarding plans.
4. Above all, use good judgment and common sense.

Strategic Plan for Returning to Dancing:

CALLERLAB is providing the following guidelines for Members to use in developing a local strategic plan to get dancing up and running quickly. Callers should work with regional associations and clubs in understanding how and when their area is opening up and use that information to plan and prepare for the resumption of square dancing.

This will include:

1. Startup Planning:

- a. Communicate with dancers regarding the startup calendar, including times and dates.
- b. Ensure that halls are available and ready to accept dancers.
- c. Coordinate all aspects of the required physical distancing requirements for your location.

2. Hygiene Considerations:

- a. CALLERLAB Members are encouraged to work with their local clubs to put recommended local hygienic practices into place. This includes honoring local government guidelines and those developed by regional and national square dance organizations, such as the USDA.
- b. Hygienic guidelines are readily available from many square dance organizations, and may include:
 - i. Sign in and payment procedures.
 - ii. Wearing protective gear such as masks or shields.

- iii. Cleansing hands by appropriate washing or using certified antivirus sanitizers.
 - iv. Not sharing food.
 - v. Using personal beverage containers.
 - vi. Respecting local physical distancing guidelines to the greatest degree possible given the nature of the activity.
 - vii. Other protective options.
- c. Everyone involved needs to collaborate to make appropriate hygienic practices a priority.

3. Caller Considerations:

As we return to calling, callers may:

- a. Elect to wear protective hygienic gear based on local guidelines and regulations. If wearing a mask makes it difficult to be heard or understood, set up the hall to allow significantly extra physical distancing from any dancers while calling.
- b. Consider not sharing the stage and personally making all announcements unless a club officer has a separate microphone and can physically distance on stage.
- c. Elect to carry their own antivirus hand sanitizer while calling.
- d. Consider using a shorter program or modified choreography to support dancers in being successful and having fun as they come up to speed following this long break from dancing.
- e. Consult with club leaders or dancers regarding limiting dancer mixing and contact by assigning squares for the evening or using variations such as two-couple choreography.
- f. Focus on high energy, successful, and fun dancing.
- g. When the time comes where new folks feel comfortable trying the activity, consider aiming for a shorter entry list. Some possible options are the Community Dance Program, part or all of the Basic Program, or Social Square Dancing (SSD).
- h. Remember that our primary goals include promoting social interaction, enjoying dancing together, and ensuring that dancers are successful and come away with smiles on their faces.

4. **Fiscal Considerations:**

- a. Dancers may be physically stressed from decreases in income due to Covid-19.
- b. Local restrictions on the number of people who may gather in a specified space might spread the cost-base over fewer participants.
- c. There may be significant changes in hall rental fees as locations try to make up for lost revenue and increased cleaning costs.

As we navigate these uncharted times, it is more important than ever to share our ideas, stories, and experiences to help us successfully address the challenges we face. Callers and dancers are urged to share their stories via the CALLERLAB Square Dance KnowledgeBase. For information on how to contribute material, visit the site (<http://knowledge.callerlab.org>) or send an e-mail to info@callerlab.org.

These guidelines were written in June 2020. As the reopening process evolves, there may be a need for modifications or additions. They are a starting point for Members of CALLERLAB to use as they work with clubs and dancers in developing local plans allowing us to “Square Up” once more.

We thank you for the coverage you have given us in the past and for your continued support in the future.

THE CALLERLAB BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

By Ed Foote

Give to Square Dancing and Take a Tax Deduction

A group of dancers was discussing charitable contributions and what groups they give to during the year, such as the United Way, Salvation Army, and churches. Someone made the comment that they wished they could make a charitable contribution to the square dance activity and get a tax write-off, but that there was no way to do this.

YES, THERE IS! The CALLERLAB Foundation for the Preservation and Promotion of Square Dancing is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the heritage of the square dance activity. The Foundation was established in 1990 as a way to safeguard the history of square dancing and to promote its growth.

The Foundation is the legal entity through which money is raised to carry out the specified goals of the organization. It is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)(3) corporation, and donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

The mission of the Foundation is to “preserve and promote square dancing through the preservation of the heritage of square dancing, the establishment and enhancement of a positive perception of square dancing, and education regarding the benefits of square dancing to the general public.”

Goals of the Foundation are to “develop and maintain a national advertising campaign to promote square dancing, develop and encourage educational programs directed toward the mission of the Foundation, and provide funding through grants and loans to support the mission of the Foundation. A major goal is to promote the wholesome nature of the activity.”

The Foundation has already accomplished much in support of its goals, such as (1) publishing and distributing one million brochures to promote square dancing, (2) producing and distributing over 4,000 promotional videotapes containing television public service announcements to be used in recruiting new dancers, (3) providing a grant to the New England Foundation for the preservation of square dancing, (4) providing square dancing educational materials to the Czech Republic, (5) funding an education exchange between master dance instructors from the People’s Republic of China and square dance leaders in the United States, and (6) funding a variety of projects all aimed at promoting square dancing.

The Foundation has numerous future projects under consideration, but funding is needed to make them a reality.

A sample codicil for last will and testaments for those who would like to bequeath money to the Foundation has been developed and is effective in all 50 states and Canada.

Individuals, square dance clubs, dancer organizations, and caller associations may wish to consider making a donation for this ongoing preservation of square dancing. Checks can be made payable to the CALLERLAB Foundation and sent to CALLERLAB, 200 SW 30th St., Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66611.

For additional information, CALLERLAB can be contacted by phone at 785-783-3665. Web site is www.callerlab.org

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – August 2020

The DANCERgram magazines presented on this website are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include *Planner* (weekly), *This & That* (monthly), *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and *Directory* (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the *Flash*.

The Editor reserves the right to edit, condense, or rewrite any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine or on this website are not necessarily that of the Editor or the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow.

Distribution of the DANCERgram magazines is encouraged via forwarding or hard copies. All of the Magazines, as well as additional content, can be found at www.dancergram.com.

If you would like to receive the DANCERgram Magazines via email or you would like to submit information to any of the magazines, please contact the Editor at sgdncfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393.

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Editor: Penny T. Green Webmaster: Cliff Reiss

DANCERgram Magazines

Planner (weekly)

Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies (as needed)

Directory (as needed) • WC Key Contacts • WC Dances • SCCA • Links

This and That (monthly) • WCA president's message • Federation president's message • Club News • Reprint of articles • New Articles