

# DANCERgram

July 2021



... 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*).

# Table of Contents

2	West Coast Association
2	President's Message
3	Florida Dancer Receives USDA Recognition
4	Awarding the Best
8	CALLERLAB Viewpoints – Part 1
11	CALLERLAB Viewpoints – Part 2
13	On the Record SQUARES – Square Dance Audio for Everyone
15	On the Record SQUARES – Social Square Dancing for the Dancers and Caller
18	All Things Considered – Being in Control at Plus and Advanced
19	All Things Considered – Remembering Ron Libby

## West Coast Association

### President's Message:



Greetings from the west coast of Florida!

Just as the clubs started opening, it was the end of the dance season and several of them closed for their summer break! We have high hopes that all of them will open in the Fall.

In the past, all the dancing at Strawberry Square ended in April. This year, the Friday night advanced dance went until early June. The Wednesday night Mainstream and Easy Plus dance went until the end of June. They started a class on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and it is continuing.

When Suncoast Squares in St. Petersburg was ready to start, they found out they had lost their spot at the facility they have used since their inception. They started up on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Drive South, St. Petersburg. Their caller, J.R. St. Jean, moved from Orlando to St. Petersburg just to call for this group! With the move to the new location, they had to change their Tuesday night Mainstream/Plus dance from Tuesday night to Monday night. Their Plus/Advanced dance is still on Thursday night.

I was pleased to see that Florida had 103 representatives at the Nationals in Jackson, Mississippi. From all the pictures on Facebook, it looked like everyone was having fun. I wish I could have been there!

We were saddened to hear of Cuer Jimmy Griffin's cancer diagnosis. Our prayers go out to Jimmy and his family.

Our annual Fall Fun Fest will be in Bartow on November 12 and 13. Tom Miller and Keith Stevens will be calling Mainstream, Plus, and Advanced. Jimmy and Carol were scheduled to cue, however, they have asked to be replaced. As soon as another cuer is scheduled, we'll let you know. If you have a 2020 ribbon for last year's Festival that was canceled, the ribbon will be accepted at the 2021 event. If you don't have a ribbon, you can order them from Don and Ann Slocum, 2055 S. Floral Avenue, Lot #99, Bartow, Florida 33830.

In addition to looking forward to the Fall Fun Fest, we are all looking forward to the state convention at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach on March 18-19, 2022. It will be so good to see everyone again!

If you're ever in our area, please join us at a dance. You can check the schedule at [www.dancergram.com](http://www.dancergram.com), look at the *Planner*. If you don't find what you're looking for there, feel free to contact me at [sqdnxfan@gmail.com](mailto:sqdnxfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.

Penny Green  
President

## Florida Dancer Receives Recognition from the USDA at National



One of our Florida Dancers, Joy Vaccari, from the Northwest Association was recognized at the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) Annual Board of Directors meeting during the National Convention in Jackson, Mississippi.

She received her 40-year service award from Presidents Diana and Tony Rock. Joy retired after the convention.

Joy and her late husband Joe have been with USDA since the day it was formed. She is only one of two people who were Founders and is still actively

participating. The Vacarris were the second presidents of the USDA. They managed the Credit Card Program, and Joy managed the Traveler Program until it was assumed recently by Jerry and Donna Robey. She states that not a year has gone by that she was without a job or chairmanship. Joe and Joy were actively involved in convincing the Florida Federation to join USDA.

They have been busy in Florida too. They were presidents of the Northwest Square and Round Dancers Association (NWFSRDA) 1978 – 79, received the Circle of Service in 1986, inducted into the Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame in 1989, and received the NWFSRDA Presidential Award in 2009.

Congratulations and thank you for all your hard work.

## **Awarding the Best!**

*(This is a reprint of an article that was written several years ago and has been updated. As you read this information, think about all the workers that work so hard to keep our beloved activity alive. Do you know anyone that fits the criteria of any of these recognitions and awards?)*

Volunteers in square and round dancing are paid such handsome salaries! (tongue in cheek) that there is no need to say thank you or to recognize them for their hard work, the many miles they put on their cars to visit your clubs/special dances and attend meetings, the toner and paper they use to print flyers and newsletters, their time to come to the dance early to set up and stay late to clean up, to attend classes to angel, etc.

You hear the names of some volunteers all the time and others you never know their name; some have danced for many years and others are new dancers. If it wasn't for our volunteers, there wouldn't be any dances because there wouldn't be anyone to advertise, set up, and clean up at the dance or recruit new dancers.

Many times we get busy and forget to even say thank you to those many people who work to make our activity possible. Have we lost some dancers because they have worked so hard and didn't feel appreciated? Let's talk about the various forms of recognition/thank you available in square and round dancing in Florida.

A simple "thank you" can always be done on the spur of the moment and requires no prior planning. At the dances, we want to be sure to thank all the members who help set up for the dance, greeted, set up refreshments, and will help clean up after the dance. We also want to thank the dancers for coming to the dance, as well as the caller, cuer, and their spouses/partners. If there are any "VIPs" in attendance, i.e. other callers/cuers (and their spouses/partners), West Coast Officers, County Reps, Square Dance Editors, other Association officers, anyone along these lines, should be recognized. Why not introduce

them at the beginning of the dance so that everyone has a chance to greet them during the evening?

Below are the awards available along with the guidelines, nominating procedures, and the nomination deadlines for Florida. As you read through them, is there anyone that comes to mind that should be nominated for any of them?

**Circle of Service** – The Circle of Service was the brainchild of Mori Soglow of Strawberry Square in Plant City, Florida, during the spring of 1985. Mori, who at that time had been asked to be a moderator of a LEGACY panel on Awards and Recognition, conferred with Chet Vetter, also of Strawberry Square in Plant City, Florida, who at the time was chairman of LEGACY's leadership and education committee and coordinator of Legacy Panels to the National Convention to be held in June 1985 in Birmingham, Alabama. The original title of the circle was "Wheel of Progress", but while Kit Waldorf of Pensacola, Florida, who was asked to design the emblem, was completing her artistic enterprise, the title was changed to the "Circle of Service". The new title, together with Kit Waldorf's original design was more than acceptable and ready for presentation by Legacy in June 1985.

This award for DANCERS ONLY was introduced to the panel on awards and recognition conducted by Legacy at the 34<sup>th</sup> National Convention held in Birmingham, Alabama in June 1985. The "Circle of Service" presentation was acted upon with favor, being made part of the Square & Round Dancing activities by the committee. Those initially receiving this honor at the Panel meeting were Brock and Mary Brockwell, vice chairman of panels at Birmingham, and Bob and Dottie Elgin, chairman of Legacy from Pennsylvania. The following day at the Legacy Board meeting, Don and Mary Martin of Georgia, Ernie and Barbara Stone of Indiana, Bill and Colleen Wilton of Wisconsin, Gordon Goss and Partner Valarie of Mississippi, Vivian McCannon of Texas, and Vera Chestnut of Wisconsin were all presented the "Circle of Service".

The citation accompanying the presentation reads: "This circle is a symbol of service to Square and Round Dancing. It is designed to be worn with PRIDE by dancers who, for three or more years are determined to have made a significant contribution to the Square and Round Dance movement. The stellar hub of the Circle, formed by a pattern of ARCS, symbolizes the importance of each such individual to the total picture. The same circular shapes flow outward to help define interlocking squares and stylized musical symbols. This linear interplay suggests the strong bond between the two "sister" dance activities, Square and Round Dancing. A certificate and a small dangle are presented to each recipient. This award must be presented by someone who has already received the Circle of Service award. The dangle can be purchased from any badge vendor.



**West Coast President's Choice Award** – This award is presented by the current West Coast President at either the President's Ball or at the Annual Fall Fun Fest. A deserving square or round dance couple or single is selected by the president(s) for extraordinary effort in promoting Square and Round Dancing in cooperation with the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association. An engraved plaque is presented to the recipient(s).

**West Coast's Distinguished Service Award<sup>1</sup>** – The purpose of this award is to recognize a member(s) of the West Coast Square & Round Dancers' Association (WCSRDA) who has given service to the (WCSRDA) above and beyond the average dancer. The committee shall consist of the five most recent recipients of the award. Each year a new member will come on and the longest-serving will resign (unless someone else resigns). They will elect a chairman from within. A quorum, a simple majority, is required to transact any business. This committee will review all nominations and select a winner by vote of the majority attending the meeting. The recipient(s) will not be revealed until the presentation.

Any WCSRDA member may make nominations. Nominations will be submitted in the form of a resume. The resume shall include, but not be limited to: (1) number of years dancing; (2) number of years member of WCSRDA; (3) club membership; (4) offices held or holding at all levels. List the special contributions which you believe qualifies the nominee for the award<sup>2</sup>. Nominations shall be submitted no later than July 20th of each year. The award (an engraved plaque) will be presented annually at the Fall Fun Fest.

**Extra Mile Award** - The purpose of this award is to show appreciation to both Callers and Cuers who go beyond the norm in giving freely of their time and talents to the square and round dance activity. The criteria for the award is that the caller or cuer be a member of the Florida Callers Association or the Round Dance Council of Florida.

The Florida Federation of Square Dancers Executive Board Members shall be the selection committee, with the current President as Chairman of same. New members coming on will replace the ones going off. 2.) Any dancer may submit the name of a Caller/Cuer (one nominee per submission) to the selection committee before the Federation Annual Meeting (October 15-November 20) or a date set by the current President to ensure availability for the Executive Board to review nominations before the presentation of the award at the upcoming Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention. 3.) The selection committee will review the nominee(s) and arrive at a final decision.

---

<sup>1</sup> Each regional association has an award with a different name i.e. Dancer of the Year, Couple of the Year..

<sup>2</sup>The DANCERgram editor may be able to help you gather this information.

The nomination form can be found at <http://floridasquaredance.com/documents/ExtraMileAwards/extra-mile.php>  
The award(s) should be presented at the following Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention by the current president of the Florida Federation. The award(s) presented shall be a framed document and an “Extra Mile Award Recipient” bar or dangle.

**Hall of Fame** - Nominees must have a minimum of 10 years of statewide involvement in the Florida Square and Round Dance activity. Their contributions must encompass the entire state of Florida, not just one or two areas. This should require unselfish dedication of time and labor. Being an Area president, Federation president, Caller/Cuer Association president, and/or State Convention chairman is not enough. The Hall of Fame is seeking individuals or couples whose efforts have affected the majority of the State of Florida. The fact that one is nominated is a very high honor, whether or not they enter the Hall of Fame.

Preparing a nominating resume will take some time and investigation to make it complete. Talk to other dancers, callers, and/or cuers for dates, places, and times the nominee was involved in statewide participation. Follow the who, what, when, and where rules as you investigate and prepare the resume. The more information submitted, the better<sup>3</sup>.

The Resume Outline contains the following information: Nominee Name(s), Full Address, Phone Number, Email, Began Dancing-Year, What Dance Club(s) do they belong to, Held Club Office(s) & Dates, Member of which State Association(s), Office(s) Held & Dates, Please explain what the Nominee(s) has done using this format: Who (Names), What (They did [This can be done in resume form or as a story], When – Dates [If the exact date is not available please give the year], Where – Area of the State.

Once the résumé(s) is finished there are two ways in which to present the information to the Hall of Fame Committee. The resume(s) may be submitted to the Board of Directors of any of the Five Associations, Callers Association or Cuers Association. The Area or Association Board of Directors will review the resume(s) and vote to reject or pass it on to the Hall of Fame Committee chairman.

The resume(s) must be received by the Hall of Fame Committee by December 1, 2021. It is suggested that associations not submit more than two resumes for consideration per year. The Hall of Fame Committee shall meet and review all resume(s) presented and vote by secret ballot before forwarding such resume(s) to the Selection Committee for the final vote.

Reprint from *DANCERgram* – 11/24/08

---

<sup>3</sup>The DANCERgram editor may be able to help you gather this information.

# **CALLERLAB Viewpoints**

By Ken Ritucci

## **“The Path Forward” Part 1**

The following is Part One of Chairman, Ken Ritucci’s speech to the General Session at the Virtual CALLERLAB annual meeting on March 27, 2021. Part Two will appear next month.

Football legend Vince Lombardi once said, “The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

It is without a doubt that the leaders that blazed the path for the formation of CALLERLAB were individuals who understood the need and the importance of such an organization. It was indeed the combined efforts of these individuals that created the organization in which the entire square dance world has come to know and rely upon for leadership. These leaders encouraged collaboration and created an atmosphere of teamwork. They provided the necessary structure for everyone to be successful. To this day, we are honored to have some of these leaders with us. If you believe in the success of CALLERLAB, from our initial beginnings to our present day, you can thank such leaders as Jim Mayo, Jon Jones, and Melton Luttrell among others who still are working for our organization.

Effective and successful organizations communicate their values, mission, and goals clearly. These are what some might call its “why.” These are key parts of the organization’s culture that defines its driving force. The “why” regarding the purpose of CALLERLAB coming into existence was to create a more uniform method of communication and establishing programs and policies for callers and leaders to use worldwide. Many of these original programs and methods still exist today.

Successful organizations also have the means to effectively communicate their purpose to the world. Our dance programs are the key vehicle to transport our message to the dancer community. Effective organizations also understand the need for growth. While change is inevitable, the organizations that survive learn to adapt and grow not only during the good times but also learn how to maneuver through the troubled waters.

Our entire dance community worldwide has been dealt a serious blow over the past year. While we are not out of the woods concerning Covid yet, there are some promising signs things are turning around. There is a famous Japanese Proverb that says, “Fall down seven times, get up eight.”



While this past year has certainly seen our activity fall, it has not deterred the will of the dancers and leaders to get up that eighth time, if you will. We are all familiar with the saying, “That which does not kill us makes us stronger.” I believe in the fortitude of our activity that we will endure anything that can and will be placed upon us. Actor Robin Williams once said in his movie, “Patch Adams,” “You fight a disease, you win you lose. You treat a person; I guarantee you win no matter what the outcome.” I believe how our organization moves forward from the virus is going to have to center on how we treat “the person.” How we treat our dancers, how we gather together as one uniform organization to bring the leadership we have been known for, and begin to price the proper dance Programs and support that our activity desperately needs at this moment.

There has been constant talk this past year among the callers, from all over the world, trying to decipher what our activity will look like once things return to “normal.” Many have said we most likely will have to start over; some have said we probably have lost 50% of our dancers. Many of us really don’t have a crystal clear picture as of yet what the landscape will look like once the smoke clears.

But what we will have, what is still embedded in our DNA is the desire to provide the best dancing Programs we can, to ensure those dancers that remain, and those who yet to enter, that we will have a quality product. I am not sure about you, but I am not ready to concede to the turmoil that has surrounded the activity this past year. Square dancers, callers, and cuers are very resilient when it comes to adversity. It is our human nature to be effervescent and positive when we go about our daily lives. It is these traits we bring with us to this activity we so dearly love. It is this drive and energy that will propel us to come out of our situation even stronger.

So, you may ask, “Where do we from here?” The future landscape of our activity will largely depend on how we perceive our actions moving forward as either status quo or decisive. Sometimes there are benefits to taking a few steps back, re-evaluate a situation, and begin to move forward with new and fresh ideas.

One of these new ideas that has come out of this terrible situation is the fact our activity requires us to finally recognize that we need a shorter entry-level program, one which could be the ultimate landing spot for new dancers. The Social Square Dancing (SSID) experimental teaching lessons have emerged as a serious and solid means to help mass a greater quantity of new dancers. Another teaching system that has gained some popularity is the Condensed Teaching Method (CTM). This has proven to be successful as well in some areas of the country. Efforts have been made throughout the past few years to come

up with additional means in which to help grow the activity. The individuals who have worked hard on these systems are to be commended for their efforts.

CALLERLAB membership will have the opportunity to vote for making SSD a recognized, formal dance Program within the next week or so. We are at a crossroad for the activity, the decision on whether or not SSD becomes a formalized Program will now be in the hands of our Voting Members.

Is SSD for everyone? Probably not, but it could give us another tool in our toolbox to reach new dancers and help perpetuate at least the belief that there are other means in which to reach our aspirations for a solid and rewarding activity. The beauty of CALLERLAB and our Programs is that they are tried and true and have been successful to varying degrees over time. Our activity is literally a worldwide activity. We must be cognizant of what other countries are doing and we must never forget that we, as an organization, cannot impose our beliefs from one country onto another when it comes to new dancer lessons or any dance program.

For those countries that are successfully using our existing Basic and Mainstream Programs, I commend you. “If it’s not broke, don’t fix it,” as the saying goes. Unfortunately, we don’t exist in a perfect square dance world, and it will take new and different Programs moving forward to help assist those areas of the world that might need guidance and help. George Bernard Shaw once said, “Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” We are starting to see a “mind change” in some parts of the world regarding a shorter timeframe for new dancer lessons. I cannot speak for the entire world but I can see a cultural change within the United States when it comes to providing a quicker “Learn to Dance Program.”

For so long we have been stagnant when it comes to recognizing the issues we are facing, the world is changing, and our activity needs to not only realize that, but also have the fortitude to make the necessary changes for a better tomorrow. Minds are changing, and with them will come a new and refreshed vision, an openness to admit individually we may not have the answers, but collectively we can come together to pursue a positive outlook.

The remainder of Immediate Past Chairman, Ken Ritucci’s speech will appear in next month’s CALLERLAB Viewpoints.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – June 2021

# **CALLERLAB Viewpoints**

By Ken Ritucci

## **“The Path Forward” Part 2**

The following is Part Two of Chairman Ken Ritucci’s speech to the General Session at the Virtual CALLERLAB Annual Meeting on March 27, 2021. Part One appeared in last month's issue of American Square Dance Magazine (ASD).

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it has shown just how vulnerable we are as human beings to something outside of our control. Square dancing is no different than many of the activities we enjoy. All of these functions have been devastated. Square dancing has lost so many loved ones, either in our personal lives or within the activity. We have had some great leaders. I don’t know about you, but I am getting tired of sending out sympathy cards.

To understand where we need to go, we must also understand where we have been. One of the many inspirations of forming CALLERLAB officially in 1974 was the idea of callers working together to help not only grow the activity but also give substance to the formation of recognized dance programs. I quote from our website “With the intensity of purpose, CALLERLAB extended its horizon and set out to provide a framework that would result in callers working closely together. By so doing, they would accomplish goals that none of them could accomplish by working alone.”

I believe the key to the future success of our activity is that we as leaders do need to come together, try our best to put aside our difference, and begin to work together just as the Founding Fathers of CALLERLAB believed in. Utilizing the programs we now have, or any future ones we might acquire is important, but it is not the only venue that we will need in order to be successful coming out of COVID.

George Bernard Shaw once said, “Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” Through our history and our great leadership all the way from CALLERLAB’s beginning to our present-day leaders, we have done a pretty good job of finding ourselves. I believe, because of the shutdown we have endured the past year, we are now at that crossroad in which we have the opportunity to forge ahead and re-create ourselves with what could be long-lasting consequences; hopefully, all for the better.

We have the opportunity to create something positive and it would behoove us to learn from our past mistakes in order to be successful at this crucial time. This creation is very much needed, and COVID (unfortunately or fortunately)

has provided for us this moment. How we deal with this opportunity moving forward is entirely up to us.

CALLERLAB is much more than a list of dance programs. Our organization consists of the best and the brightest individuals from all over the world. We share a common goal, to educate the public with our dancing that we understand and love. Our organization has come a long way since its inception. We are no different than any other organization in regard to growth and changes. We have tripped and fallen down a few times. CALLERLAB cannot nor will it ever be everything to everyone. I wish it were so. And with perhaps some light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we have this fantastic opportunity to establish perhaps a “new beginning.”

We should welcome back with open arms all of our dancers and ensure they have the best time of their lives since they last danced. I find it refreshing that there have been small parts of the world that have kept dancing. Unfortunately, the majority of us have been so lucky.

Now more than ever we need to utilize the information that our brand new website has showcased. I would like to highlight the wealth of information in the knowledge base which is available for everyone. Hundreds and hundreds of articles and comments that everyone from around the world has access to. I want to commend Barry Clasoer for his efforts in making this happen, a tremendous feat. I urge all of you to become familiar with the new website, as it holds a treasure of information we all can use.

I also want to urge all of us to be thankful for what we have accomplished despite the setbacks we have endured. We need to make sure of not only the existing programs but also any of the experimental teach systems and should SSD become a formal Program, we can use it to our advantage in growing the activity. Every one of us shares a common goal and that is to help our activity grow and prosper. We will never move forward if we keep looking back.

I majored in Secondary Education English during college. I was a fond reader of many famous authors and poets. I would like to leave you with a part of poet Alfred Lord Tennyson’s poem, “Ulysses.”

Tho’ much is taken, much abides; and though  
We are not now that strength which in old days  
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;  
One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

We will remain “CALLERLAB Strong” as we forge ahead with our efforts to become an even great organization than we already are. I believe the activity,

with all of us working together for the greater good will not yield, but will be “strong in will.” From our past to our future, we shall remain one in dignity, honor, and strength. It is that strength that ultimately will define what square dancing will be.

It has been my greatest honor to have served CALLERLAB for the past two years as chairman. I will be turning over the reins to a new leader; one I call my friend, Harlan Kerr is not only a smart, dedicated, and successful man in life but also as a caller and leader in the activity. I know you will support him as he continues to lead our great organization down the road to further success.

And all that is left to say is “Thank you.:

Watch Ken’s Speech on the CALLERLAB YouTube Channel: 021 CALLERLAB Virtual Event – Chairman’s Speech

Reprint from American Square Dance – July 2021

## **On The Record SQUARES**

Buddy Weaver  
[wwwBuddyWeaver.com](http://www.BuddyWeaver.com)  
[buddy@buddyweaver.com](mailto:buddy@buddyweaver.com)

### **SQUARE DANCE AUDIO FOR EVERYONE**

Every square dancer in the world would agree there is something magical about the “sound” of square dancing. Whether it’s the music, which in this day and age, offers so much variety, from old-time country-western to disco to pop music of the seventies/eighties and so much more. Perhaps it’s the sound of the caller belting out a singing call or rhythmically laying down the patter calls. From a very personal point of view, the “sound” of square dancing always brings a smile to his listener’s face.

We have at our fingertips, right now, the “sound” of square dancing through the podcasts. The Buddy Weaver Music (BWM) podcast releases new audio every week. The podcast is dedicated to the perpetuation of Modern Western Square Dancing – our dancing. You will hear live dances that were capture on tape and studio albums which have been digitally re-mastered. Episodes are offered free for listening, AKA streaming, or to download for later use. Not only is this great for square dancers, but it also is a super way to share the “sound” of square dancing with our new dancing friends. The latter is important to create square dancing enthusiasts who become new dancers. Hundreds of



dancers have fallen in love with square dancing by seeing and/or hearing a demo and the BWM podcast brings the demo into everyone's home/office/car, anytime they want to listen.

Here is a listing of recent BWM podcasts to help you find the episode of your interest AND to refer your friends to the "sound" of square dancing.

Episode 327 – All Singing Calls. Here is an excellent representation of what square dancing sounds like today with the recording artists from Blue Star Music using the energetic and popular music of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Episode 328 – All Patter Calls. Featuring the calling of Vic Ceder, this recording shows the creativity of one of the great minds in square dancing.

Episode 329 – All Singing Calls featuring an all-female line-up of callers. As narrated in the episode, Modern Western Square Dancing gave birth to the female square dance caller. Here is a collection of female recording artists for the blue Star, HiHat, and Rawhide Music labels.

Episode 330 – A Vintage Album. Every fourth episode of the BWM podcast takes a trip in the time machine to feature a studio album from the Blue Star/HiHat collection. Here is Andy Andrus as recorded in 1963. Great fun for listening but today's dancer will have to research some calls to dance this at home.

Episode 331 – Intro To Square Dancing For One Couple. Here is an excellent episode to share with all your non-dancing friends. It is produced for one couple to try square dancing at home. The introductions are simple and clear; the calling is energetic; the music is representative of today's best square dance music. A great resource to get folks interested in learning to dance.

Episode 332 – MWSD Caller's Singing. No square dancing on this episode, but a showing of four talented square dance callers as they sing four-part harmony on cowboy songs. Recorded in 1984, the series of cowboy songs done by the HiHat Pioneers will also be an occasional feature of the BWM podcast.

Episode 333 – Easy Square Dancing with Marshall Flippo. The master caller recorded many albums during his career and this episode features dances that are well put together and the dancer of today could easily join in whenever a caller is not available. Released in 1962.

Episode 334 – Mike Sikorsky live dance in 1984. One of the more popular callers in square dancing today, here Mike calls Plus. There are a few calls used in the album that are not in square dancing today ("Curlique", "Turn And Let Thru") but a little research will have you ready to dance.

Episode 225 – Square Dance Callers From Japan. Square Dancing has a strong foothold in Japan and this episode honors our Japanese dance friends by featuring some of the best callers from Japan doing all singing calls.

Episode 336 – Square Dancing the SSD Program. Both patter and singing calls produced for every dancer who is dancing the SSD programs. The roughly 50 calls are put together in smooth moving patterns with lively, modern music. The caller is Buddy Weaver.

Find the BWM podcast wherever you listen to a podcast or go to: [buddyweavermusic.podbean.com](http://buddyweavermusic.podbean.com).

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – June 2021

## **On The Record SQUARES**

Buddy Weaver

[www.BuddyWeavercp,buddy@buddyweaver.com](http://www.BuddyWeavercp,buddy@buddyweaver.com)

### **SSD FOR THE DANCERS AND CALLER**

This series has often covered the topic of SSD – Social Square Dancing. The program is made up of only fifty calls so that it can be taught in twelve to fourteen weeks. It is not a new idea, in fact, it is as close to the Modern Western Square Dancing that was enjoyed by tens of thousands of dancers up to the early seventies. A program of fifty calls taught in a matter of weeks was the hallmark of MWSD for the dozens of years that saw square dancing not only grow but spread worldwide. As square dance clubs start to reopen in the States, many are embracing SSD as the new destination program, but can SSD work in your club?

The answer will be found by asking the question, why won't SSD work in your club? Let's explore the latter question. First, there are the naysayers, some of these folks don't understand the new program, some don't want change, some will just be opposed to everything. There are some of these folks who have stated that "dancers will never give up (Mainstream or Plus or whatever the old level)". Well, respectfully, that has been proven wrong on many occasions. One only needs to look at yesterday's most popular square dance calls that are no longer in active use. Do you remember "Arch In The Middle, Ends Turn In", "Dixie Chain: "Cross Trail"? Most don't, because they've faded from active use or were not part of the CALLERLAB programs when they first came into being in the seventies. Few callers and no dancers remember these old calls and even if they were used, no one would know what to do with them.

In my opinion, callers are in love with square dance calls; dancers love the experience. It is often the caller who wants to hold on to his or her favorite call.

For example, I remember when “Curlique” was dropped from use by CALLERLAB, one caller in my area refused to stop using it. For a while, the dancers still did the call but after a year of not hearing it used by other callers, when they danced to this fellow and he called “Curlique”, the dancers stopped and gave him a puzzled look. That caller soon gave up “Curlique”. Bottom line, dancers have the experience of not counting calls.

Second, there are some who are not prepared to change. In my area, some Plus clubs have declared they will not give up Plus. Frankly, no one is forcing change on anyone, but the question I have is this – if your Plus club restarts, post-pandemic with 50% of the dancers you had pre-pandemic, how do you make ends meet? Do you double dues and door fees? The only way to get new members through a class that runs for one year; so can your club hold out that long? What if you make it a year and don’t graduate enough dancers? Change is hard and it will be forced on each of us like in the case of not having enough dancers to keep the doors open. We can deny change is upon us, we can resist change or we can accept it and even embrace it. There are many Plus and many Mainstream clubs in America that have chosen to embrace change by adopting SSD, not only to survive but to thrive.

There are some club leaders who have said they will wait for dancing to resume post-pandemic, see how many dancers come back, then make a decision about what to do. If this is you, I encourage you to not wait. A failure to plan is the same as planning to fail. As yourself, would you drive out to the middle of nowhere, running your tank of gas to empty, with the thought that you’ll wait until you get there to find out if there is any gas at all? Of course not. You would probably have a primary plan and a contingency plan. As a professional, it is hard to see club leaders seemingly give up, to let the tide either get their boats to rise or drift from the rocks. Sad.

Let's end on a positive note. We are about to experience extraordinary opportunities for growth. We will all face change; some will embrace it and plan for existing dancers to return comfortably while making a great next for new dancers to come in and find a home. We have a great resource in the SSD program. It is a home club builder. It has a proven track record with some of the most brilliant minds in square dancing, mentoring, and teaching how to implement SSD in your home area. We are about to see a new square dancing world where the biggest problem will be finding a hall big enough for your club dances. SSD is for your club.

One of the markers of a return to dance life is the square dance music producer who had gone in hibernation for a year, start to release music again. This month let's welcome back some of our great square dance labels by purchasing their music. Please visit [buddyweaver.com](http://buddyweaver.com) for previous article./reviews. On Facebook through the following pages: Buddy Weaver, Blue

Start Square Dance Music, New Hi Hat Square Dance music, and Rawhide Square Dance Music. Send me an email: [buddy@buddyweaver.com](mailto:buddy@buddyweaver.com).

Reprint from American Square Dance – July 2021

### **INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES**

**By Ed Foote  
(from the collection of Ed Foote)**

**“Choose being kind over being right, and you’ll be right every time.” ...Richard Carlson**

**“Each one has to find their peace from within.” ...Mahatma Gandhi**

**“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.” ...Sister Mary Rose McGeady, president of Covenant House**

**“Fear is the cheapest room in the house. I’d like to see you in better living conditions.” ...Hafez Ibrahim, poet**

**“Surround yourself with people who lift you up.” ...Oprah Winfrey**

**Reprint from *American Square Dance* – June 2021**

### **INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES**

**By Ed Foote  
(From the collection of Ed Foote)**

**“Hope is being open to surprise.” ...Brother David Steindl Rast, Benedictine Monk**

**“Love is when you choose to be at your best, when the other person is not at their best.” ...Wintley Phipps**

**“Grace is a power that comes and transforms a moment to something better.” ...Caroline Myss**

**“The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.”...William James, p[sychologist & author**

**“Love conquers all things.” ...Virgil**

**Reprint American Square Dance – July 2021**

# All Things Considered

By Ed Foote

## BEING IN CONTROL AT PLUS AND ADVANCED

A good dancer at any program is always under control, whereas weak dancers are recognizable because they lack control. The key to being in control is to THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND THE DEFINITIONS for the program that is being danced. If one thoroughly understands the definitions, this leads to a second key of control which is MOVING CALMLY THROUGH THE CALLS.

Dancers who are not in control tend to dance extra fast on the longer calls because they don't think the caller will wait for them. If they were confident of the definition, they would know that it takes a certain amount of time to do each part of the call, and they would calmly do so. Here are some specific examples.

Spin Chain the Gears and Spin Chain & Exchange the Gears. Dancers will often speed up once they get to the star, being afraid they will not finish in time. The result is that these beautiful calls look ragged. Linear Cycle does not take very long to do, but the dancers rush the call, again feeling that the caller will not wait for them to finish. The sight of the lead dancers dragging the trailers across the set is always discouraging. Even Ferris Wheel is rushed, with those coming into the center racing to get there by having the ends drag the centers.

It is interesting that Load the Boar, which is certainly a long call, is usually not rushed, because the centers usually just stagger around. Callers have seen this so often that they wait for the dancers, and the dancers are used to the caller waiting, so they do not rush. Many dancers do the center's part incorrectly, yet they do not know they are doing so because they make 2 mistakes that cancel themselves out, so they finish in the correct location. For some reason Relay the Deucey is usually danced with correct timing.

The problem of being out of control carries over to Advanced dancing. Square Chain Thru involves a Left Swing Thru. After the ½ turn by the left, the ends must wait while the centers do their Trade – this is being under control. Dancers not in control are nervous that they will not finish the call in time, so they try to start the Left Turn Thru too early, thereby causing all four dancers to finish out of position or even break down. Slip-Slide-Swing at Advanced is a smooth combination if danced under control but looks bad if dancers panic and try to rush the calls. Dancers who feel they must repeat each of these call names out loud in order to be able to remember them are exhibiting a degree of lack of control. Show me a dancer who dances this combination quietly and under control, and that is a dancer I want to watch the entire night.



Motivate is another Advanced call that is often rushed because the dancers are afraid the caller will not wait for them. Those in the star tend to want to start turning the star before those casting  $\frac{3}{4}$  have finished.

A final example of being in control is REFUSING TO PANIC IF SOMETHING UNUSUAL OCCURS. Dancers who are in control will calmly apply the knowledge they have to the situation, whereas dancers not in control will panic and say “no one has ever called this situation to be before, so I don’t know what to do.” If a dancer who is in control does not know what to do, that person will wait for further directions from the caller or help from other dancers, whereas dancers not in control will panic, and thus stop listening and will not look for help from others.

CONCLUSION. How do we recognize dancers who are in control? Just by watching how they dance. Dancers who are in control exhibit a degree of confidence, even at a dance program that is new to them, whereas dancers who are not in control always appear hesitant and unsure. Dancers who are in control have an enjoyable dance experience and stay in the activity a long time. Dancers who are not in control are always struggling, and, if they drop out, will often blame the caller, the program, the activity – anything except where the blame really lies, with themselves.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – June 2021

## **ALL THINGS CONSIDERED**

By Ed Foote

### **REMEMBERING RON LIBBY**

Long-time caller Ron Libby passed away unexpectedly on May 29. He was 79. He would have been 80 in July.

Ron was the ideal type of caller. He had a great voice, so much so that he would sometimes give concerts after his dances. He was proficient at all programs, from Basic through C-3B. He conveyed a sense of excitement, and people really looked forward to dancing to him.

Before calling he was a member of the Navy Band and traveled with various groups throughout the U.S. and Canada. He was a member of the Woody Herman Band and recorded hit songs as a member of various bands in the 1960s.

Ron became a caller in 1968 and eventually went full-time, traveling close to 100,000 miles a year. He called in almost all the 50 states, as well as in

England, Japan, Australia, and Hong Kong, and was a staff caller at many festivals, conventions, and weekends. He also was featured on the Tonight Show and ABC's Good Morning America.

Ron was born and raised in Maine and lived there on a farm with his wife Lorna for 27 years. He converted his barn into a square dance hall, where he called for various clubs, and also had a small recording studio there where he started his own recording label. Eventually, he recorded on several square dance labels.

In 1998 Lorna and Ron moved to Lady Lake, Florida, where he developed a strong winter program for square dancing. In the summer they would go back to Maine.

I was personally involved with Ron for many years since he was a staff caller for 17 years at the National Advanced & Challenge Square Dance Convention; 1978-1994. Often, he would call the last tip of the night at the end of the Convention for all the dancers combined into one hall, with his final number being a singing call.

Ron made people happy. That was his great gift. He will be missed.

Reprint from American Square Dance – July 2021



---

### **SPECIAL MESSAGE**

### **SPECIAL MESSAGE**

From the editor [of Bow & Swing] Susanelaine

**We are looking for contributing writers.**

**We are looking for someone to write for American Callers Association, so we know what going on in that area.**

**Dancers are requesting an line dancing section. So we have a need for someone to write an article on Line Dancing.**

**Also if anyone would like to do a section on Sewing Monthly. We would love to have you.**

**While we're at it maybe if someone would like to do some recipes on food or finger food to take to the dances. I can just hear the M-M-M-M-M-M-M-M'S SO GOOD.**

---

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](http://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 [sqdnfan@gmail.com](mailto:sqdnfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.

#### DANCERgram Staff

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

