

“The One-Floor Dance Program”

By

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The AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOCIATION in its attempt to be of service to all callers, dancers, and associations has provided current, timely, and effective information on new dancer recruitment, winning ways to retain club dancers, and pitfalls that drive square dancers away. ACA really appreciates the positive comments, encouragement to continue, and contributions from callers and dancers all over North America and abroad to continue these initiatives. ACA will continue to provide information that will help the square dance community recruit, retain and retrieve square dancers as well as encourage the dancers to speak out on the cumbersome and segregationist dance programs.

This month's ACA Viewpoint clarifies the value and contributing factors of the One Floor Dance Program to square dancing. The one floor dance program is continuing to grow and is becoming more acceptable as an alternative to the “separatist” and “stressful” dance programs that are also in the square dance community. The American Callers' Association and other callers never claimed that the One-Floor Dance Program would be a “quick fix” to the human created square dance problems. The One Floor Dance Program is a start to bring in excess of 95% of the dancers together by reducing and simplifying the current cumbersome and separatist dance programs.

The One Floor Dance Program is much more than a list as is purported in the propaganda efforts of some to degrade it as each movement is defined in writing. The American Callers' Association was founded to unite the vast majority of the dancers and to simplify square dancing. The American Callers' Association maintains definitions and provides of each call currently in use. The ownership of the all calls and the definitions are based in Public Domain and are not the property of any single organization. The Board of Directors of the American Callers Association unanimously encourages and exhorts all ACA member callers and other callers to teach movements as they were written, teach more than one approach to the maneuvers, and show patience understanding to their students. This way we can do more with less, reduce the stress on the callers and dancers and help stop the loss of dancers.

ACA has its Accredited Caller Coach program and has participated in training callers since its founding. Over the years square dance organizations and individual caller has published books, brochures, etc like "The Fundamentals of Hash Calling" by Dr. Jay King, which features the utilization of mental image calling. The American Callers' Association also recognizes, appreciates and salutes many callers and organization who trained and coached other callers. Despite all of these formal teaching efforts, the majority of the callers appear to learn more from another "Mentor Caller" as the prime source of helping them learn to call, which takes around 4-5 years of calling and teaching.

American Callers' Association members have attended the National Square Dance Convention at their own expense and have participated in numerous seminars and teaching sessions along with other square dance leaders. Yearly membership for American Callers members is very close to cost with approximately \$20.00 of the dues going to the American Callers' Association including membership and liability insurance. All members of the American Callers' Association items are encouraged to vote electronically on each issue. The American Callers' Association also operates often through newsletters and Internet based communications and does not require its members to pay on the average of \$ 800.00 to attend a required convention especially in the light that dancer revenues are much reduced and transportation (gasoline) prices are sky high. The Board of Directors for the American Callers' Association respect and support the fact that square dancing is much smaller now that it was 35 years ago. In 1976 it was estimated that the United States had approximately 400,000 square dancers. In 2007 it appeared that there were approximately 50,000 square dancers. Thus, caller revenues lower and ACA understands that.

The American Callers' Association is dedicated to publicize, promote and preserve square dancing. ACA has conducted numerous surveys asking callers and dancers what they prefer. It does this with its newsletters and, which is distributed to approximately 1500 dancers, callers, and dancer organizations world wide.

The American Callers' Association continuously invests all its assets, time and funds to communicate with callers, dancers, and associations to bring the dancers back together to dance on a one floor program and at the same time the American Callers' Association stays tuned into the desires and needs of the dancers. The Board of Directors of the American Callers' Association invites each of you to visit our website and newsletters at americancallers.com/news and communicate with us. Give us your ideas "We Will Listen".

The American Callers' Association does not and never has claimed that the one floor dance program is a cure all. At the same time the American Callers Association is committed unifying the dancers and to preserve square dancing recognizing that the Renaissance can begin by unifying the dancers into a one floor program and seeks to work with caller organizations, square dance organizations and others to reverse the growth and energize square dancing.

Any individual, club, caller, or association who wishes to communicate his/her opinions on this subject is encouraged to contact the American Callers'

Association mac@americancallers.com or Dr. Patrick Demerath at pdemerath@uwa.edu. Please visit our website and newsletters @American Callers.com/news.

Until next time, happy dancing.