

## Nyhedsbrev nr. 2 - 2024

Kære callerkolleger

Så er sommeren, i hvert fald midlertidigt, over Danmark. Sæsonen er godt overstået, og vi samler energi og inspiration til den kommende vinter. Det er altid dejligt når dagene bliver længere og solen kommer på himlen.

### Generalforsamling

Årets generalforsamling er godt overstået. Tak til de medlemmer der kom og tog del i arrangementet.

Det blev besluttet at holde fast ved det årlige kontingent på 350 kr. Det bedes I indbetale til:

- Danske Bank
- Regnr: 9570
- Kontonr: 13350353

Husk at skrive jeres navn i tekstfeltet.

Jeg vedhæfter regnskab, beretning og referat.

### Ny caller

Vi er blevet kontaktet af en person, som gerne vil vide, hvordan man bliver caller. Efter mailkontakt og telefonsamtaler med pågældende, har han ønsket at blive medlem af CSD. Derfor er denne udgave af Newsletter også sendt til pågældende. Jeg har lovet at hjælpe ham i gang med den første læring, hvilket jeg glæder mig meget til.

I den forbindelse er der mulighed for at koble en eller to mere på, hvis I ved, at nogen går med samme ønske. Det er vigtigt at få yngre kræfter i gang, da mange af os andre må erkende, at vi nok ikke har 25 år mere at calle i.



## Europæisk Convention

Vi nærmer os Europæisk Convention i Ikast, som finder sted fra den 26.-28. juli.

Det er lykkedes at få 8 CSD-callere til at stille op til opvarmningen fra kl. 15 til kl 17 om fredagen. Det er:

- Leif Broch
- Hanna Tennenbaum
- Pia Loberg Præst
- Jan Wigh Nielsen
- Bent R. Husted
- Oda Daniel
- Einar Sølvesten
- samt undertegnede

Jeg vil gerne sige tak til dem, der stiller op og er med til, på den måde, at promovere CSD, og dermed squaredansen i Danmark.

Vi besætter de 2 haller, og arrangøren har planer om at anvende en hal til "callers from the floor", hvor udefra kommende callere kan byde ind i løbet af de knap 2 timer fra kl. 15.00-16.45.

Er der nu nogen som har fortrudt ikke at være "kommet med på vognen" i CSD-hallerne er der en mulighed for at kontakte Linna og bliver skrevet op i nævnte 3. hal.

Under alle omstændigheder håber jeg at se jer alle til en fantastisk weekend i Ikast.

Der er pt. tilmeldt over 800 dansere.

## Pladebørsen

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Der bliver bestilt musik, selv om det sagtens kunne være mere. Beholdning pt. er:

Hoedowns:	Grandmarch:	Rounddance:	Specials / Other:
156 titler 209 plader	5 titler 5 plader	1 titler 1 plader	7 titler 9 plader
Singingcalls:	Linedance:	Contra:	
830 titler 1002 plader	1 titler 2 plader	3 titler 3 plader	

Jeg vil dog ikke undlade at tilføje her:

Hvis I skal have ryddet op i jeres gamle plader i kælderen, er det stadig muligt at andre kan have glæde af dem. Log ind og se under Pladebørsen, hvordan I kan hjælpe andre.



***CSD er medlem af SquareDanceDanmark og Callerlab***

## Login til hjemmesiden.

Hvis der er en eller flere, der har mistet login til hjemmesiden, er jeg altid klar til at generere et nyt password til jer.

Kontakt [president@cSD-denmark.dk](mailto:president@cSD-denmark.dk)

## Callerlab

Netop nu blæser der i den grad nye vinde fra Callerlab. Jeg har lagt en video ind på forsiden af vores hjemmeside med titlen **2024-The Proposal**.

Den håber jeg alle medlemmer klikker ind på, og gennemser. Til trods for at videoen varer over en time er den bestemt værd at bruge tiden på.

Opsummeret gælder det i første omgang programmerne op til og med Plus. Der er i dag 5 forskellige programmer:

- Basic 1
- Basic 2
- Mainstream
- Plus
- SSD (Social Square Dance)

Forslaget går ud på at koge dem ned til 2 programmer, hvor første program indeholder højst 50 calls og næste program indeholder mindst 50 calls.

Forslaget vil komme til endelig afstemning på næste års Callerlab Convention, hvor Callerlab samtidig fejrer 50 års jubilæum.

Personligt synes jeg, det lyder utrolig spændende. Ikke mindst, fordi Callerlab forventer at kunne gennemføre ændringen i løbet af et år efter en evt. beslutning.

På den måde bliver det også lettere for klubberne, som afholder dans, når der ikke skal så mange haller i brug for at dække alle programmer.

Klik ind og se videoen med Ted Lizotte, formand for Callerlab.

*PS*

*Der ligger flere videoer, I kan fornøje jer med.*

## Callertræf?

På generalforsamlingen blev der diskuteret genoptagelse af Callertræf.

Ovenstående kunne meget vel være et spændende diskussionsoplæg ved et sådant.

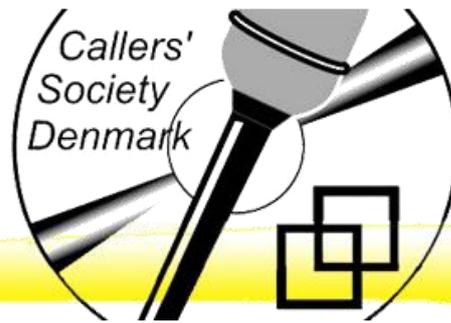
**Mads Nielsen**

*formand for CSD*



**CSD er medlem af SquareDanceDanmark og Callerlab**

**CSD -  
Denmark**



## **Beretning 2024**

Først tak til de medlemmer som er kommet til generalforsamling.

Nu er der gået et år siden sidste generalforsamling

I året der er gået, er der sket en del i CSD. Der er lagt rigtig mange timers frivilligt arbejde i at skabe interesse hos vores medlemmer. Heldigvis tyder det på at medlemmerne er klar til at blive mere aktive i vores aktivitet.

Året er blandt andet brugt til forberedelse af en gentagelse af callerkurset med Søren Lindergaard.

### **Callerkursus med Søren Lindergaard.**

Efter at have diskuteret kursusform m.m. med Søren Lindergaard, bestemte CSD sig til at forsøge med et callerkursus i januar 2023. Hovedvægten blev lagt på bevidst at arbejde med sværhedsgraden i vores calling og indlæring. Det blev et meget givende kursus med 4 deltagere. Kurset var placeret på Sinding Fritidscenter, hvilket gjorde at vi ikke skulle ud for at betale hotelpriiser for hverken overnatning eller forplejning. Elsebeth Lillevang stod for køkkenet og gjorde en fantastisk indsats. Af samme grund lykkedes det, til trods for kun 4deltagere, at holde underskuddet under 1500 kr.

I forbindelse med evalueringen, opfordrede de 4 kursister til en gentagelse af kurset i 2024.

Kurset blev gentaget i 2024. Denne gang med 8 deltagere. Det må I dog vente med at høre detaljeret om til næste års beretning.

### **Danish Convention**

Traditionen tro blev CSD inviteret til at deltage i opvarmningen til Danish Convention. Arrangementet fandt sted i Sæby, og desværre var der ikke rift om pladserne på scenen. Leif Broch, Majbrith Eriksen, Pia Loberg Præst, Niels Jørgen Hviid og undertegnede deltog som callere. Vi fik masser af glade conventiondeltagere i gang med at danse. Jeg forstår bare ikke, at

medlemmerne ikke står på ryggen af hinanden, for at få lov til at calle et gulv med 6-8 squares. Hvor tit er det lige den mulighed er hjemme i klubben?

Vi er igen inviteret til European og Danish Convention 2024 i Ikast. Der er tilmeldt 8 callere til at dække de 2 timers opvarmning

## **Hjemmeside**

Hjemmesiden bliver til stadighed vedligeholdt med de nyeste oplysninger fra Callerlab.

Hvis der er nogen der ikke kan huske login til siden, kan de blot kontakte mig. Så skal jeg nok hjælpe jer videre.

## **Pladebørsen**

Vi har modtaget flere gamle vinylplader som er indspillet, renset, komprimeret og lydclip lagt ind. Der ligger i øjeblikket følgende:

- Titler: 1015
- Plader: 1247

Det undrer mig faktisk, at der ikke flere af CSD's medlemmer som ønsker at modtage gratis musik. Der ligger virkelig mange guldorn på listen.

## **Newsletter**

Newsletter er udkommet 4 gange i løbet af 2023. Vi har valgt at vedhæfte Callerlabs "Direction" til nyhedsbrevet, da der tilsyneladende ikke er mange der logger ind på vores hjemmeside for at læse den der. De elektroniske nyheder fra Callerlab bliver lagt på forsiden af [csd-denmark.dk](http://csd-denmark.dk) hvor de kan tilgås uden login.

Der er kommet flere positive tilkendegivelser på kontaktformens, så den har vi planer om at fortsætte med. Hvis der er nogle af CSD's medlemmer der har lyst til at bringe et indlæg, er det altid velkommen.

## **Bestyrelsesmøder**

Bestyrelsen har afholdt 2 møder i løbet af 2023. Møderne er afholdt online, hvilket betyder at kørselsomkostningerne til bestyrelsen er skåret ned til et minimum

Referater er lagt ind i medlemsområdet under "Dokumenter".

## **CSD og SquareDanceDanmark**

Vi forsøger til enhver tid at tage del i diskussionen om Square Dance i Danmark.

Lotte Vangsgaard har valgt ikke at genopstille som formand for DAASDC på årets repræsentantskabsmøde. I den forbindelse håber vi på godt samarbejde med den kommende formand og bestyrelse.

## **CSD fremadrettet**

Det store og tilbagevendende spørgsmål til medlemmerne er:

- Hvad ønsker du af CSD?
- Hvilken form for kursus kan få **dig** til at deltage?
- Har du egentlig opgivet at udvikle Squaredansen?

## **Afslutning**

Så vil jeg endnu engang takke de fremmødte på generalforsamlingen. I skal vide, at det er jer der er med til at bære CSD fremad.



# Årsregnskab 2023

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## Driftsresultat for perioden 1/1-2023 – 31/12-2023:

### Indtægter:

Medlemskontingenter	9.100,00
<b>Indtægter i alt:</b>	<b>9.100,00</b>

### Udgifter:

Kontingenter, DAASDC, Callerlab	1.979,35
Generalforsamling	2.170,00
Internet og WEB hotel <sup>1</sup>	4.500,00
Callertræf <sup>2</sup>	299,50
Callerkursus <sup>3</sup>	1413,58
Bankgebyrer	463,00
Blomster mv.	300,00
<b>Udgifter i alt:</b>	<b>11.125,43</b>
<b>Perioderesultat underskud:</b>	<b>2.025,43</b>

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<sup>1</sup> simply.com varslede prisstigninger. Bestyrelse besluttede at forlænge med 3 år til gammel pris.

<sup>2</sup> Desværre var det kun bestyrelsen tilstede. Udgiften dækker fortæring

<sup>3</sup> Underskud callerkursus



**Status pr. 31.12.2023:**

**AKTIVER:**

Danske Bank Medlemskonto	21.484,20
Danske Bank Benefitkonto	22.480,30
Kontant kasse	21,00
<b>AKTIVER I ALT</b>	<b>43.985,50</b>

**PASSIVER:**

Egenkapital pr. 31.12.2022 <sup>4</sup>	19.730,63
Egenkapital Benefit pr. 31.12.2022	22.480,30
Forudbetalt callerkursus	3.500,00
Skyldigt tilgodehavende	300,00
Årets resultat	-2.025,43
<b>PASSIVER I ALT</b>	<b>43.985,50</b>

Helsingør, den 7 januar 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Poul Erik Sørensen".

Poul Erik Sørensen

kasserer

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<sup>4</sup> Egenkapital pr. 31.12.2023 17.705,20 kr

**CSD -  
Denmark**



## Revisionspåtegning

Jeg har i dag revideret årsregnskabet og fundet det i overensstemmelse med de mig foreviste bilag, ligesom de anførte indeståender i bank såvel som kontant kasse er konstateret til stede.

Hinnerup, den

Einar Sølvsten

24/2-2024 *Einar Sølvsten*

Revisor

**CSD -  
Denmark**

Callers'  
Society  
Denmark

Lemvig den 28. februar 2024

# Budgetforslag 2024

## Indtægter

Kontingent (28 medlemmer)	9.800,00
Caller kursus	28.000,00
<b>Indtægter i alt</b>	<b>37.800,00</b>

## Udgifter

Medlemskontingent DAASDC	1.500,00
Medlemskontingent Callerlab	500,00
Caller Kursus	18.000,00
Caller Weekend/træf	2.500,00
Generalforsamling forplejning/kørsel	4.000,00
Internet, Domæne og hjemmeside m.v.	500,00
Gaver, Repræsentation	400,00
Bankgebyr Danske bank	1100,00
Øvrige administration	500,00
<b>Udgifter i alt</b>	<b>29.000,00</b>



## Ordinær Generalforsamling i Callers' Society Denmark

**fredag d. 12. april 2024 kl. 19:30**  
**Hos Severin Hotel og Kursuscenter, Skovsvinget 25,**  
**5500 Middelfart.**

### **Referat**

#### **1. Valg af dirigent og referent samt stemmetællere**

Mads Nielsen byd velkommen til de fremmødte:  
Einar Sølvsten, Poul Erik Sørensen, Bent Husted, Ruth Nielsen, Finn Sørensen

Til referent blev Finn Sørensen valgt

Stemmetæller udsat og tages op ved behov  
Antal stemmeberettede: 6

Til dirigent blev Ruth Nielsen valgt.  
Dirigenten startede med at konstatere at Generalforsamlingen er lovlig indkaldt og dermed beslutningsdygtig og gav ordet til Mads.

#### **2. Årsberetning**

Mads gennemgik beretningen.

Januar Kursus 2023 var givende/populært og en god oplevelse for 4 deltager.

Sidste nyt fra Callerlab vil fremadrettet blive vedhæftet CSD's Newsletter.

Ruth: Ved man om nogen andre stiller op som formand i DAASDC efter Lotte?  
Mads: Ikke det jeg ved af.

Henviser i øvrigt til udsendte/vedhæftet beretning.

Generalforsamlingen tog beretning til efterretning.

#### **3. Gennemgang og godkendelse af årsregnskab**

Poul Erik gennemgik årsregnskab.

Viser ikke de store udsving siden sidste Generalforsamling – aktivitet har mest været kursus.



Internet og Web hotel er forudbetalt for 3 år da dette blev tilbudt for undgåelse af varslet prisstigning fra udbyderne. – hvis der ikke var forudbetalt ville vi havde haft en lille overskud.

Generalforsamlingen godkendte regnskabet uden yderligere bemærkninger.

#### **4. Bestyrelsens planer for foreningens virke i det kommende år.**

Mads fremlagde bestyrelsens planer.

Der er forsat gode planer for at afholde Callerkursus i 2025

Einar foreslog et max. deltagerantal på 6.

Calletræf i 2022 i Horsens med 8 deltager og i 2023 i Vordingborg med 3 deltager. Planen er forsat at holde Calletræf og næste gang i Jylland

Indhold til det næste Calletræf blev en god snak og diverse ønsker hertil. Nedenfor et par enkelte forslag:

Et godt forum med meningsudvekslinger, gode samtaler og hygge.

Einar: Callers partner genoptages.

Bent: Savner lidt hvordan man starter et nyt hold og mere om undervisningsteknik.

Ruth: Hvordan rystes holdet godt sammen og at de bliver i aktiviteten.

Der arbejdes videre med at arrangere et Calletræf i Jylland en Søndag og efter en dans om Lørdagen.

Kursus

Mads taler med Søren igen om et kursus 2025, da interessen er til stede.

#### **5. Indkomne forslag**

Ingen forslag modtaget.

#### **6. Godkendelse af budget for det kommende nye regnskabsår, herunder fastsættelse af Kontingent samt eventuel anvendelse af Benefit**

Mads gennemgik budgettet.

Der bliver foretaget en justering i budgettet under Internet og Web hotel.

Der skulle have stået kr. 500,00 og ikke kr. 4.500,00.

Kontingent holdes uændret på kr. 350,00

Benefit

Til næste Generalforsamling vil bestyrelsen indsende forslag til at man kan bruge midlerne til at fremme Callernes udvikling og bedre dans for danserne.

Generalforsamlingen godkendte budgettet uden bemærkninger.



### **7. Valg af medlemmer til bestyrelsen**

På valg er: Poul Erik  
Poul Erik er villig til genvalg. Poul Erik blev valgt uden modkandidater.

### **8. Valg af 1 suppleant**

Ruth Nielsen blev valgt.

### **9. Valg af revisor**

Einar Sølvsten blev valgt.

### **10. Valg af revisorsuppleant**

Bent Husted blev valgt.

### **11. Eventuelt**

Herefter almindelig løs snak om Caller og danse situationen i dag.

### **12. Afslutning**

Dirigenten takkede for en Generalforsamling i god ro og orden og gav ordet til formanden for en afsluttende bemærkning. Mads takkede de fremmødte og dirigent for en vellykket Generalforsamling.

Ruth Nielsen (May 1, 2024 16:28 GMT+2)  
Dirigent: Ruth Nielsen

Finn Sørensen (May 2, 2024 08:08 GMT+2)  
Referent: Finn E. Sørensen

# CSD - Ordinær Generalforsamling 12. april 2024 - referat

Final Audit Report

2024-05-02

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By:	Ruth Nielsen (rutn@d-it.dk)
Status:	Signed
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**CONVENTION FLASH**

This 'FLASH' issue of *DIRECTION* is published as soon as possible after the Annual Convention in order to inform all CALLERLAB Members of significant actions taken at the Annual Meeting. This issue includes the results of any voting during the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members, information about award presentations, and reports from certain committees. Additional committee reports will be included with the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

**RESULTS OF CONVENTION VOTE**

The 2024 CALLERLAB Call to Convention, published in the January/February 2024 issue of *DIRECTION*, informed all Members that one proposed resolution which required action by the Membership had been submitted and would be presented at the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting. The Resolution was presented to the Membership during the 2024 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Members gave feedback on all resolutions digitally and in-person at the meeting.

The resolution was the Resolution to amend the CALLERLAB Bylaws to establish the number of governors at twenty-one submitted by the Board of Governors.

In a vote of 95 approve to 0 disapprove votes, the **VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CALLERLAB  
BYLAWS TO ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF  
GOVERNORS AT TWENTY-ONE**

**Whereas:** The size of the BOG has a negligible fiscal impact on the CALLERLAB operating budget, as BOG members do not receive any reimbursement for the

**Future Conventions**

April 13-16, 2025—Greenville, SC

**CALLERLAB Home Office**

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Phone: 1-(785) 783-3665

1-(800) 331-2577 (Business Only)

FAX: 1-(785) 783-3696

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Website: [www.callerlab.org](http://www.callerlab.org)

**INSURANCE QUESTIONS &  
CERTIFICATES**

[Jenny@NorthWestBrokers.com](mailto:Jenny@NorthWestBrokers.com) 1-(208) 322-8300

costs incurred by serving. Board meetings are held in conjunction to the annual convention, and BOG members pay the same as all members for rooms, transportation, and convention registration. In addition, the BOG schedule often requires that BOG members spend and pay for at least one additional night, and,

**Whereas:** Having eighteen members on the BOG creates a possibility of tie votes, and

**Whereas:** We desire to balance our need for sufficient candidates with our goal of including diverse representation, and

**Whereas:** There is no evidence that in the nearly fifty years of having a board of more than eighteen created a negative leadership situation, or negatively impacted board efficiency and effectiveness, and

**Whereas:** The 2024 convention will already have the BOG reduced to twenty-one members, and

**Whereas:** Having twenty-one members allows for a consistent number of openings each election cycle (seven), and

**Whereas:** This resolution is in the best interests of the membership, leadership, and the organization as a whole,

Therefore, let it be it resolved that the membership of CALLERLAB amend the current Bylaws to read:

**ARTICLE V  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Section 1. Election and Membership:**

The Board of Governors are elected by the membership, serve as the Directors of the Corporation, and are the governance body representing the membership.

**Section 2. Number of Governors.**

The aim shall be to elect sufficient candidates each year to maintain a twenty-one-member Board of Governors.

Submitted by the CALLERLAB Board of Governors, October 16, 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Vote: Be It Resolved That: Resolution to Amend the CALLERLAB Bylaws to Establish the Number of Governors at Twenty-One be approved by the CALLERLAB Membership.*  
*(The resolution was approved.)*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Resolution has been submitted to all voting Members for vote. If you are a voting Member and have not yet received your ballot, please contact the Home Office. The deadline to vote is May 28, 2024.

<p><i>DIRECTION</i> is the official newsletter of CALLERLAB, The International Association of Square Dance Callers, with offices located at 494 Emerson Ave, Ste H1, Greenwood, IN 46143-1953; Phone: (785) 783-3665; E-mail: info@CALLERLAB.org. <i>DIRECTION</i> is published and mailed first class or electronically to all Members and affiliates of CALLERLAB. <i>DIRECTION</i> is edited by Teresa Berger, Executive Director.</p>
<p>The opinions expressed in articles submitted by Members or affiliates do not necessarily reflect the policies of CALLERLAB. All articles submitted for publication must be signed by the author.</p>
<p>The editor reserves the right to exercise discretion in accepting, editing, or rejecting any material submitted for publication. Articles submitted for publication that describe square dance formations or arrangements MUST be in accordance with CALLERLAB standards.</p>

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**CHAIR'S SPEECH**  
**PRESENTED AT THE 49TH CALLERLAB CONVENTION**  
**By Ted Lizotte**



Good evening, everyone. May the Force be with you.

So here we are. Grapevine, Texas. The 49th CALLERLAB convention which is quickly coming to a close. I hope you've enjoyed your time here and that you'll be taking something home with you; a new idea, a new get out, a new friendship. These conventions are for you, and I sincerely hope the memory of this convention brings a smile to your face.

As I've mentioned in my direction articles and my "From the Chair" videos, only one third of the total membership reads or watches the information that I try and share. I would bet that a high percentage of that third is here in this room tonight. You are the active and involved of our members. Probably the most in tune with what is happening in our activity as well as the most vocal. Not saying that in a bad way – just making an observation.

Many of you in this room know me; some of you have grown to be very close friends; others of you...meh. But as I close out my first term as chair, I've learned a lot about the collective "you" and a little more about myself as well.

As most of you are aware, what I'm doing right now, to me, is the hardest part of this job. Not the reading in front of you, but the writing something coherent to share with you that I don't feel would be a waste of your time. I try to have most of my articles and videos be informative in some way, shape, or form. You've all got other things to do, so if you're going to sit here and listen to me – I want to make it worthwhile.

So, when I started preparing to write this speech, I went back and rewatched about six to eight other Chair speeches from past conventions. These are all available on YouTube for everyone, but I have a feeling that this speech, like the others, will probably get most of its views from future chairs for the same reasons I watched. I guess I'm okay with that.

What I took away from past chair's speeches was that there seems to be a need for change. Everyone talked about it. Every... One. So I'm assuming it's important. Honestly, if all the historians had to go on were those videos, you'd probably assume that change has to be happening in the square dance activity at a rate that was so fast – it must be imperceptible to the naked eye. Because it certainly doesn't LOOK like anything was changing. But that must be wrong, right? I mean, how could we not make change happen when literally every person in a leadership role that I watched, believes that's the thing to do?

Well, I certainly didn't want to buck the trend, so I guess I'll speak about change a little too, so I feel included.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to enlighten you a bit. Change is coming whether you like it or not. It is not I that will be enforcing this change, it's a little thing we like to call time. Let's look at some data. CALLERLAB's current total membership is just over a thousand, 1,067 at the time I'm writing this. The average age of a voting CALLERLAB member is (got a number in your head?) – 69.97. And I believe Teresa rounded down to be polite. Our average membership age overall is 68.22. Again, I would like to emphasize that these are AVERAGES. One would assume that any organization where a

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septuagenarian is the AVERAGE age, is bound to have change within its ranks, whether desired or not. (And I just wanted to use the word “septuagenarian”, so there you go.)

Anyone here remember when you were younger, how you used to look up to your doctor, boss, teacher, banker, etc. as a seasoned and wise person? Someone who had been around, seen some things, knew the ins and outs of the position, and that age earned them a level of trust and respect by default.

At some point, that switches, doesn't it? Suddenly, your doctor is some wet-behind-the-ears whippersnapper, straight out of college, and doesn't look like he could find the right end of a stethoscope, much less diagnose a pain that he obviously won't even understand for another 30 years.

But, like I said change happens, time marches on. Let's take a look at the current CALLERLAB leadership, for what I hope you'll agree is better news.

So, while the average age of the voting membership is, well, let's round to 70, the average age of your incoming 2024 BOG comes in at 63.5. The average age of your incoming EC is 59. And if we include Teresa, which I do, and not due to her age but due to all of the fantastic work that she does, that number drops to 54. Yes, I'd prefer it to be in the 40s too, but I'm going to take the win.

Now me, I'm 57 – so by CALLERLAB standards, I'm looking pretty sweet. But my “doctor” moment came a long time ago.

I've managed to outlive my mom who passed away at 52 and I'm quickly approaching my dad who passed at 59. And all of this happened over 20 years ago when I was in my mid-30s. Being the oldest of five I can attest that the way you look at things, at life, changes when that happens to you at that age.

One of the many changes was the homestead. I used to swing by often to hang out with mom and see the family. After they both moved on the main question was what do we do with the house? Well, we opted to have my middle sister buy the rest of us out so she could raise her family there.

She would still invite us all over for a bonfire or a holiday. But every time I went back to the house, I noticed something was different. Not just the furniture, but the shape. Outside, they had added a deck and changed the old swing set. Inside, they removed a wall and built a new staircase. They added a room and a kitchen island. I mean the old cabinets and paneling were still there, so it felt like the house I knew, but yet, it wasn't.

You see, sometimes, the things we build or grow up with and put our heart and soul into, well they need to change. The house that I knew growing up didn't meet the needs and wants of the people that had moved in to carry on. Sure, I could get mad that something that I'd grown to love and cherish was changing around me and not in the way that I had ever envisioned it. But my job as big brother was to roll up my sleeves and help where I could, however I could – that's what mom would have wanted. She raised me right, so that's what I did.

I still got to visit the property; still pointed out where the tree fort fell down while me and my brothers were building it, and we landed on our katocases; still got to reminisce with my brothers in the

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Chairman Ted Lizotte

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backyard around a bonfire about all the kooky stuff we did when we lived there. There were still kids running around the yard, and still lots of laughter at the house. The house could change, because at the end of the day, I still had my family – and isn't that what matters most?

I'll leave you with this.

It's been said that sometimes you need to plant a tree, knowing you will never be around to see its full majesty and enjoy the shade that it provides. Folks, we have built a wonderful house and filled it with incredible people. We have lived in that house for almost 50 years. Father Time has decreed it will soon be under new ownership. The people that want to occupy this house for the next 50 years, might like to do some remodeling, and they'd like your support.

I encourage you to be one of the people that they've always looked up to and help them make the changes that they desire – even if some of those changes might not be exactly what you would have done.

Because having the house around to raise another generation is the one thing we DON'T want to change - and I think we can all agree on that.

## **THREE QUARTER CENTURY RECOGNITION**

### **Speech Presented by Ted Lizotte**

For only the second time in CALLERLAB history, we have a special presentation for a three-quarter century certificate! Three-Quarter Century Certificates are awarded to CALLERLAB members who have been calling for 75 or more years.

It is my honor to recognize Melton Luttrell who is celebrating 75 years of calling this year. What an incredible achievement! Congratulations, Melton!



## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO MELTON LUTTRELL**

**Speech Presented by Mike Seastrom**

The CALLERLAB Lifetime Achievement Award is given to honor a legend in our activity. It's given to an individual or couple who have spent a lifetime unselfishly giving their time and talents to CALLERLAB and the entire dance community. It is voted on by the Executive Committee and the vote must be unanimous.

Tonight, there will be no mystery about this presentation. This Lifetime Achievement Award is for **Melton Luttrell**. Melton and his wife, Sue, started square dance lessons in the fall of 1949 in Eastland, Texas at Sue's insistence. As often happens, the wife drags the husband and, in this case, she actually tricked him into attending.

Before the class ended, Melton wanted to become a caller. So, in 1950, he started guest calling at clubs in his area, and in the several summers that followed, the Luttrells attended Herb Greggerson's school for callers in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He then started calling in earnest, and in the next year he had regular calling dates in four neighboring cities.

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In 1953, Melton and Sue moved to Ft. Worth, and he began working for General Dynamics. He always enjoyed teaching as much as calling and began holding lessons at the General Dynamics Recreation Center. Melton averaged over 336 students per week, and it's estimated that Melton has taught more than 13,000 students in his 74 years of calling. Melton and Sue also taught round dancing.

As a traveling caller, Melton has called in most of the United States and several countries overseas including England, Australia, and New Zealand. He was also on staff at Kirkwood Lodge in Missouri, Fun Valley in Colorado, and at Bob Osgood's Asilomar Events in California.

One night at a dance in Cisco, Texas, Melton was approached and asked if he would give a new caller a chance to call. Melton gave this caller his first opportunity and was asked to critique him. He told him as nicely as he could that he was AWFUL, but then offered the new caller advice on timing, presentation, and putting together his choreography. This new caller was Marshall Flippo, and as most of us know, "Flip" went on to become one of the world's most popular callers. Melton has encouraged many new callers and has taught them a spirit of cooperation, friendliness, and respect for fellow callers.

Melton created Square-L-Record Company in the late 1950s with a \$2500 loan from his bank. He produced 37 songs before deciding he had enough of the recording business, but many of us enjoyed these records made of a special red vinyl with the outstanding recording artists he had on staff.

Melton had a dream of building a premium square dance hall. He designed the hall, and with financial support from John and Jo Catherine Cox, that dream came true. Swingtime Center opened its doors in December 1974 with no one other than Melton on stage calling. Swingtime Center is still one of the nation's finest square dance facilities. He managed the hall for years and served a five-year term as the first president of the organization formed by Melton, Bob Hensley, and others, who still own and operate the Swingtime Center today. He is still an active member of the Board.

Melton gave CALLERLAB a booklet on building square dance facilities, documenting his experiences in building a dance hall that is still available.

Melton is also an author of a mystery detective book, titled, "Who Drew the Two?" It's available on Amazon or there may be a copy around that you could have him autograph for you.

Many of you know that in the beginning, membership to CALLERLAB was by invitation only. In February 1973, Melton, along with 6 other callers, was invited to join CALLERLAB, bringing its total membership to 25. He became a charter member, served on the first Board of Governors, at times the Executive Committee, and continued to serve until 1997.

In the fall of 1977, Melton was inducted into the American Square Dance Hall of Fame for his contributions to square and round dancing. His portrait hung in the Set's in Order Hall in Los Angeles for many years and now those Hall of Fame portraits are in the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center in Albuquerque.

In 1986, Melton received the CALLERLAB Milestone Award and then in 2010 received the Gold Card Award, a lifetime membership for his long and dedicated service.



Melton is a lifetime member of the North Texas Callers Association and was inducted into the North Texas Callers Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2008 he was inducted into the Texas State Callers Association Hall of Fame.

I'm honored tonight on behalf of CALLERLAB, in the presence of his family, dear friends, and distinguished colleagues to present the CALLERLAB Lifetime Achievement Award to **Melton Luttrell**.



## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO JON JONES**

**Speech Presented by Vernon Jones**

This recipient started calling in 1955 although it has been reported that he actually called his first dance much earlier while he was in elementary school for his mothers class. His mother who was an elementary school teacher wanted the class to do a Square Dance so she made him do it, and he has been calling ever since. He has called all over the US, Canada and in many parts of the World. He was the first caller to call in the USSR.

He played important roles in the formation of the North Texas Callers Association and the Texas State Callers Association and served both groups as the first President of each. He is a lifetime member of each association and in 2008 he was inducted to the Texas Callers Hall of Fame.

For 13 years he taught a 1 hour credit PE course on Square Dancing for the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a recording artist and has recorded for Square L, Kalox, Blue Star, Global, Desert Gold, Fine Tune and Royal Records.

He joined CALLERLAB in 1974. He has been Chair of the Applications Review Committee aka the ARK. As matter of fact, he was instrumental in proposing the formation of this committee. He has also been Chair of the Accredited Caller Coach Committee and the Basic, Mainstream committee as well as Vice Chair of the Alternate Dance Program Ad Hoc Committee that was later changed to the Team 2000 Committee. Currently he is a member of the Accredited Caller Coach, Basic/Mainstream, Past Chairs, Plus, Public Relations, SSD and Caller Training Committees. He has served CALLERLAB as a member of the Board of Governors for 14 years, The Executive Committee for 7 years and as Chairman of the Board for 2 terms. He has received and been present to accept the 25 years in calling and 50 years in calling certificates. He is a Milestone Award recipient and is one of the very few honored with the CALLERLAB Gold Card for Lifetime Membership. He is a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach and he is one of only 2 CALLERLAB members to attend every CALLERLAB convention to date.

And tonight, he will become the 4th recipient of the CALLERLAB Lifetime Achievement Award. More than all this, he is a Dad. Yes, my DAD. And also to my brother and sister. He is Dado to his 6 Grandchildren and to 3 Great Grandchildren. And I can't leave out how important his wife Deborah has been in his life. And he is still the greatest caller ever! Please join me in presenting and congratulating this Lifetime Achievement Award to **Jon Jones**.





## MILESTONE AWARD PRESENTED TO KEN BOWER

### Speech Presented by Buddy Weaver

The CALLERLAB Milestone Award is the highest award CALLERLAB can bestow on any individual. The nominee is judged against rigid criteria in five separate categories. A nominee must meet the criteria in all five categories to receive the award. The primary purpose of this award is to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding and significant contributions to the field of square dancing.

In the square dance world, there are few who are so highly regarded – so beloved as our honoree.

Background on our honoree – while working as a line pressman he was told by his supervisor pressman that if he liked working there, he should be at square dance lessons the following night. Not wanting to endanger his new job, off he and his wife went to lessons where they fell in love with square dancing.

Almost right away, he became intrigued with calling. Voice lessons he had as a child made trying singing calls seem easy and within a year of graduation, he was calling dances.

Unable to find caller teachers or mentorship, our honoree taught himself to call patter. Using Sets In Order magazines, he wrote and memorized complete 2 ½ hour long dances. He started to develop a style of patter calling of his own – eventually mastering an ability to get dancers to quiet down and hang on every word, building excitement through his vocal showmanship, he will send a floor full of people into a frenzy. No one had seen a style like that before – it was a style of calling that would become representative of most of today's top callers. Within 7 years, our honoree was a sought after caller throughout the region. Calling nights and weekends while still working in the print business. One story goes of calling a “night owl dance” which ended at 5 in the morning, then driving straight to work for a Sunday shift.

This pace couldn't last and following an appearance at the National Convention in 1968, which lead to a flood of invitations to call everywhere, the decision was made to become a full-time caller. Within a year, he was booked to call almost every night, which included weekly club dances that encompassed four neighboring states. Each week driving over 900 miles Monday thru Thursday plus the weekends.

In 1971, while calling for the Hawaii State Convention, he received a life- changing telegram - “extend your layover in California for two days – important.” He and his wife did and 48-hours later got back on the plane at LAX with a contract to become this new thing called “resident caller” at an RV resort, a new home in escrow and no idea what they were doing. So they did what any of us would do – they went home, sold their house, loaded up 3 teenaged children and drove west to California - what would be their forever home.

In this new role as resident caller, our honoree and his wife taught multiple beginner classes and workshops. The went to every unit in the park to personally invite people to come learn to square dance. He developed a successful tiered system of square dancing, one for beginners, one for the occasional dancer, and one for the enthusiast. This was years before CALLERLAB and it's programs. At it's peak, his square dance program had 300 squares dancing very week.

He was one of only two people who were the first in snowbird programs and what he and his wife developed became a template for snowbird programs everywhere. He called in that field for 19 years in

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both California and Arizona. No one has ever done that and probably no one ever will

Tonight's honoree was one of the first to call overseas and the first to change the 1960s caller dress code, which was western shirts and string ties – introducing the world to callers wearing blazers. Even so far as a blazer with a turtle neck shirt.

As you might expect of a caller with this resume, he would be in the square dance recording field and here again, he has done what no one else had nor ever will. Since 1967 he has recorded every single year including 2024. He has 147 singles and has been staff recording artist for Rhythm, Blue Star, Chaparral, and Wagon Wheel labels. In the days when square dance music was country/western, he was the first to turn an Elvis rock song into a square dance singing call. He pushed the envelope in bringing a new genre of music to square dancing – pushing as far as the song “Darling Raise The Shade and Let The Sun Shine In, I Want To See All Of Your Beauty”. His vocal stylings build excitement, jumping on top of notes, and sending the dancers into orbit. He set a new standard that, again, is heard in today's top callers. In his 57 years of recording he has brought us hits like: “Your Time Hasn't Come Yet Baby”, “When You're Hot You're Hot”, “Mississippi”, “Bloody Red Baron”, “The Best Is Yet To Come”, “Cherokee Fiddle”, “Dim the Lights”, “Fever”, “First Thing Every Morning”, “Honky Tonk Heroes”, “I Will Survive”, “I Write the Songs”, “I've Loved Them Everyone”, “After the Lovin’”, “Joy To The World”, “Rockin' Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie Flu”, “Someone Must Feel Like A Fool Tonight”, “Twelfth Street Rag”, “YMCA”, and “Hallelujah”. Plus, he did many recordings with his friends Jerry, Gary, and Beryl as probably the most popular quartet in square dancing – the Chaparral Four.

By now you may have guessed that I'm speaking of **Ken Bower**.

For those who know Ken, you also know that his incredible career is the product of a partnership. His wife and life partner – Dee – has worked side-by-side with Ken in the camps, in the snowbird programs, on the weekends and on the festivals. Out front and behind the scenes, from calling tours to dealing with the difficult situations. For as long as Ken has been a full-time traveling caller – it has been the team of Ken and Dee Bower. They have been the “power couple” in square dancing.

On behalf of a grateful square dance world, we thank Ken for a new way to call, for introducing us to a new kind of music, for showing us a new way to dress. We say 'thank you' for setting a high standard of professionalism, for bringing joy to thousands of people in a sixty three year career, for blazing many trails and leaving an indelible impression - a living legacy embodied in almost every square dance caller of today.

Ken and Dee could not be with us tonight but he sends the following message:

*“I appreciate this very much. You know most of the thanks should go to my family – my wife and kids. They spent a lot of time alone. We had a lot of roads, but I've got to say over the years, its been a good ride. I am honored and very pleased to accept this award. Thank you very much.”*

Ladies and gentlemen the CALLERLAB milestone award goes to **Ken Bower**.





## MILESTONE AWARD PRESENTED TO JERRY STORY

Speech Presented by Tony Oxendine

I am here tonight to present the CALLERLAB Milestone Award. The CALLERLAB Milestone Award is the highest award CALLERLAB can bestow on any individual. The nominee is judged against rigid criteria in five separate categories. A nominee must meet the criteria in all five categories to receive the award. The primary purpose of this award is to recognize those individuals, whether CALLERLAB Members or not, who have made outstanding and significant contributions to the field of square dancing. This is often a difficult decision, for there are many outstanding people in our activity.

It's at this point in most Milestone presentations that the presenter starts going through each of the five criteria and how the recipient fulfills these criteria. So, I may as well divulge it now. I realize that part of everyone's fun is guessing who the recipient is by the vague clues in the presentation. Perhaps some of you figured it out when you realized that I was the presenter. I can guarantee that most of you will recognize this person as soon as I explain how this person has fulfilled the first criteria by working in UNCHARTED FIELDS. If you have been under a rock for the past 50 years, then you may need to know how this recipient's contributions have STOOD THE TEST OF TIME. There may still be some of you that don't realize exactly how UNSELFISH this recipient has been with his knowledge and talent. As I divulge this person's identity, I also intend to explain this recipient's LEADERSHIP and PROFESSIONALISM both with our organization and in square dancing in general.

There may still be one or two of you who are still in the dark about this recipient's identity. So I'll just have to tell you exactly who it is – But before I do, you should know that this recipient has had perhaps the most BROAD INFLUENCE of any caller in the modern era. I know I promised to tell you the identity several minutes ago, but before I do, there's something you should know. Although I wasn't on the Executive Committee that approved this award almost two years ago, I was on the Executive Committee that received another well thought out recommendation and presentation for this recipient. This presentation was denied because it had already been approved the year before. So, Charlie Robertson and Jet Roberts, I owe you a big apology. I had to inform you that your presentation, though thoughtful and well laid out, was denied. You were just a year too late. So now, at least two of you know the recipient's identity – Well.....Maybe three since the third Amigo, Larry Letson is in attendance tonight. Yup – I had to lie to him too. Actually, all it took was a phone call from our Executive Director to get him to show up.

This presentation is very personal to me, and may be a bit longer than most, but this recipient was an incredibly special person – Some would say the most gifted caller of modern times. Many would call him the G.O.A.T, and there is much to be said for that. Personally, I (and many others) would say that this person was probably the most naturally talented caller of our time – and I probably knew him better than anyone - shy of his immediate family. In 2000, the CALLERLAB Board of Governors wisely removed the restriction against presenting this award posthumously. Since I am sure that most of you have guessed this recipient's name by now, it is my distinct honor and privilege to inform you that CALLERLAB's highest honor, the Milestone, finally goes to my best friend – **Jerry Story**.

Many of you only knew Jerry as the “famous travelling professional square dance caller and festival doer”. There are others – which include (as best as I can count) many past and current Committee Chairmen, many past and current Committee Vice Chairmen, many past BOG Chairmen (I think Ted may be one of the lucky ones), many past and present Executive Committee Members, many past and

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present Board of Governors Members, many fellow record producers, and most of his close friends (present company definitely included). I may still be leaving a few out - who knew him from being on the receiving end of one of his infamous, blistering emails or phone calls. It was kind of Jerry's way of showing you that he cared. So...for those people and for the rest of you, allow me to tell you a little more about him.

Jerry was born on June 21, 1955, in Keokuk, IA. His uncle Milo taught him to play guitar at an early age - 7. Jerry was an apt student, and by the time he was 12, he was giving guitar lessons. Shortly afterwards, he formed a country western band where he played guitar and was the lead singer. Fortunately, for the square dance world, Jerry's future was not destined to be in the country music field. Jerry's parents were avid square dancers and they dragged Jerry to lessons. Again, he was an apt student and by the time he was fourteen, the calling bug bit him and a future star was born.

With his parents as his chauffeur, Jerry quickly started calling and teaching lessons for the clubs in his immediate area. In 1972, two of his early students were Phil and Mary Laux. Phil and Mary just happened to have a cute little fourteen-year-old daughter named - You guessed it - Kristy. After they graduated, Phil and Mary allowed Jerry to ride his dirt bike on their farm and on one of his rides he saw Kristy sitting in her front yard. 17 year old Jerry was immediately love struck (according to Kristy). Jerry graduated from high school in 1974 and the two were married in 1976. Later that year, their first son, Joshua, was born. Their second son, Jacob, was born in 1981.

After their first year of marriage, Jerry and Kristy moved to Fairfield, IA where Jerry went to work in the Laux family business - All American Pest Control. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Jerry Story was a BUG KILLER. As you can guess, with a wife and a small child at home, expenses for the Story family were kind of tight. Their family car was the pest control business station wagon - complete with two big magnetic signs on the front doors. By now, Jerry's calling circle was getting a lot larger. He was calling dances all over Iowa - driving to them in his "family" car. He converted his work car to his family car by simply removing the magnetic signs prior to driving to the dance and putting them back on the next morning.

By the late 70's and early 80's, Jerry's enthusiastic style and flowing choreography enabled him to start touring nationwide. Fortunately, by now, he could afford his own car and had started his progression from bug killer to full time travelling professional caller. By this time, Jerry had begun to record for Chaparral Records' subsidiary label - Roadrunner. Jerry formed a group of road clubs throughout the Midwest that he aptly named The Roadrunners.

This is where I came into the picture. I met Jerry in 1980 in Lancaster, Ohio. We did our first weekend together in Lancaster in August 1980. We rehearsed singing calls in a dance couple's kitchen for most of that first night. After about 8 hours and maybe a case of Miller Lite, we came up with a handful of showtunes for the weekend. That weekend led to a lifetime friendship. In the years that followed that one weekend morphed into over 30 annual weekends, week long tours together, and institute square dance weeks scattered all over the world.

During this time, Jerry and I were on separate square recording labels- he was on Rhythm Records, and I was on Ranch House Records. For you younger callers, records are those things that kind of look like CD's - just a little larger and a different color. We were doing so many things together, it only seemed natural for us to be on our own label. So, in 1985, we borrowed enough money from Kristy's father (Phil Laux) to pay for a recording session and to pay for a year's advertisement in the two national square dance magazines. In a true definition of "Country Come to Town", we went to Nashville, hired seven musicians, a studio and an engineer and in just slightly over 12 hours recorded

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our first six tunes. This was the humble beginning of Royal Records. Now, almost 50 years later, with Kristy Story as my new partner, Royal Records continues to produce square dance music - some of the best square dance music in our industry – music that is performed by callers all over the world.

In the middle of all of this, Jerry got an offer to move to Mission, Texas to do a winter square dance program. Again, Jerry's charm, infectious personality (not to mention being a helluva caller) quickly won over the dancers in the Valley. The Peppermint Palace became THE place to dance. Jerry wound up doing multiple sessions throughout the week and travelling out on weekends. There was a slight problem, however. Popularity can be a scary thing. Now bear in mind this was before callers were using computers and Vic Ceder's Square Rotation Program was just an idea. Jerry had to use computer cards. The problem was that the cards that were currently being used only went up to 20 squares. For many of Jerry's sessions, multiple sets of cards had to be used to accommodate the 40+ squares he attracted multiple times weekly.

Even being this busy, Jerry still found the time to help form the local callers association in Mission. Jerry was also instrumental in getting the Mission Chamber of Commerce to sponsor square dance lessons. For many years the combined class that all of the area callers did on Monday mornings attracted more than 50 squares.

In 1997, Jerry and Kristy, Larry Letson and I met some local Charlotte square dancers – Everette and Virginia Curlee (that last name may ring a few bells with some of you). This was the beginning of another lifetime friendship. Sometimes, it is amazing how things can come together. Jerry and I, at the time were doing a square dance week at Kirkwood Lodge. We had done previous week long institutes at English Mountain, Copecrest, and in Sweden. It was during a conversation about these week long institutes that Jerry and Everette came up with the idea of doing something similar in North Carolina. It was also during this time that Jerry and Kristy bought a motor home and discovered the wonderful life of RV'ing. Jerry, always the shrewd businessman, came up with an idea – Why not try and combine his love of calling with his love of RV'ing. Jerry and Kristy started searching for just the right campground to make this happen. In 2001, they came upon a campground in Maggie Valley, NC that was on the market. Larry Letson and I were invited in on the project and in that same year the group of us purchased Pride RV Resort.

The RV Park had an open-air pavilion that was simply perfect for square dancing. Jerry immediately went about setting up square dance weeks featuring callers from all over the country. Jerry was the resident caller and would be at all of the weeks. After a few successful years, Everette decided to build another building that would both serve as a square dance hall and also as an attractive venue for weddings and corporate meetings. In 2007, The Pride Center was born – complete with custom sound, floating hardwood floor, and finally AIR CONDITIONING!!! At our inaugural dance in June of 2007, 22 squares of dancers celebrated with us. Today, Jerry's dream, Maggie Valley Square Dance Vacations, is still successful and entertains hundreds of square dancers annually.

For the next 9 years Jerry spent half of the year in South Texas and the other half at Pride RV. In 2016, Jerry decided to slow down, and he retired from calling in South Texas. Jerry and Kristy moved back home to Fairfield, IA and bought and opened up The Hideaway – a local Fairfield bar – Now that's a scary thought, but that's for another time. The Hideaway quickly became a "go to" place for the Fairfield locals. I remember spending a week there with Jerry and Larry one night.

Thus far, this presentation has been somewhat lighthearted. Part of the reason for this is it gives me time to get my emotions in check. Also, this presentation may be a little different from others. As I stated in the beginning, if you look at the five criteria for this award, there is no doubt that Jerry checks all the boxes. Let's see exactly how they're checked.

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The first, “Must have worked in Uncharted Fields”, is really easy. In the early 1980’s Jerry was among the first (if not the first) caller to call in Saudi Arabia. At the time there were many Europeans and Scandinavians working there for various oil companies. At the same time, there were very few callers in Sweden and Denmark. Most of the dancers in Sweden and Denmark were taught not by callers but by square dance instructors. Many of these Scandinavian dancers had never danced to a “real” caller – other than on tapes. The Scandinavian dancers that were stationed in Saudi recorded Jerry’s dances and took them back home. There, many Swedish and Danish dancers grew up dancing to Jerry’s tapes. I first went to Sweden in the early 1980’s. By then, callers like Robert, Ingvar, Stephan, Richard and many others were already mimicking Jerry’s enthusiastic calling. In the years that followed Jerry’s influence spread all over Europe as well as Scandinavia. I may miss one or two, but Jerry has called in Canada, Mexico, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, Austria, The Czech Republic, Japan, Taiwan, Great Britain, Belgium, Australia, and Saudi Arabia. The terms National and international caller are tossed around frequently. Jerry remains one of a handful of callers who are truly household names across the world.

I am going to combine #’s 2,3 and 4– Contributions that have **STOOD THE TEST OF TIME**, Contributions that were **UNSELFISH** and Contributions that displayed true **LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONALISM**.

Jerry, singlehandedly, turned the world of Caller Education on its’ ear. No one had ever heard of the word “CRaMS” until Jerry came up with it. He took relationship calling to a new level. Prior to Jerry and CRaMS, caller coaches spoke very highly and knowledgeably about Formations and Arrangements and Sequence. Most CALLER Coaches sort of breezed over the term ‘Relationships’ whenever FASR was discussed. Surely none of us had ever tried to use it as a method of calling. Jerry was all about Relationship calling. He eventually had callers all over the world talking about “Dixie Grand Lines” and “I got yours and you got mine”. Now, because of Jerry Story, you see Relationship Calling discussed in almost every caller school.

Jerry spent untold hours teaching both CRaMS and promoting SSD worldwide – More often than not for no fee. There are more than several callers in attendance here tonight that are the beneficiaries of Jerry’s wisdom. Jerry was always quick to volunteer for panels at CALLERLAB and at the National Square Dance Convention. Jerry was chairman of the SSD Committee and was very active on several other CALLERLAB Committees. Jerry served several terms on the CALLERLAB Board of Governors.

Had it not been for Jerry, there would not be this new dance program we now have. Jerry was the first caller to actively promote this “Sustainable Square Dance” that was the predecessor to SSD (Social Square Dancing). Many of the sequences (or as Jerry called them – Poems) that were published in several of the SSD teaching documents were courtesy of Jerry. Prior to Jerry, no one had ever described calling as “poems”. There was no and there still is no bigger proponent of SSD than Jerry. To the many SSD programs worldwide – You owe Jerry a big thanks!



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Finally, we get to #5 - This is the one with the “SAUCE”. “The recipients’ work must have had a BROAD INFLUENCE on the activity.”. Where do I start with this one? As a fellow professional caller, I honestly think that Jerry Story has been one of the most influential callers of the past 50 years. It has been said that “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery”, and Jerry Story is probably the most imitated caller in the history of square dancing. With that in mind, look around you. How many times have you heard “celebrate” at the end of good getout. What about “Super Sweep” or “walk, walk, walkin”? Maybe “Four girls promenade – Men pick her up over your head” – or ‘8 chain 3 ½ - Courtesy Turn – You’re Home”. I lovingly call these “Jerryisms”. Many of you would call it “research”. Regardless, if something is good – it sticks around - And these, and other “Jerryism’s” will be around long after most of us are in that great square dance hall in the sky. If you want further proof of this just Google “Jerry Story Square Dance Caller”. I did, and it came back with (drum roll please) 1,390,000 hits.

On a personal note, Jerry and I were best friends for over 40 years. Perhaps best friends doesn’t quite describe our relationship. Jerry and I were pretty much brothers. There were times that we spent more time together than we did with our families.

There was always a friendly competition between the two of us. This competition made both of us better callers. Jerry forced me to become a better caller, and he made me realize that if I was going to share the stage with him then I’d better know what I’m doing, and I’d better be able to deliver the goods.

A very large portion of my calling career was being on the stage with this larger-than-life person. Calling with Jerry was always a “fish or cut bait” experience. But...when the two of us were together...It was something special - We were a hard act to beat. And had there not been a Jerry Story, I’m not too sure that there would have ever been a Tony Oxendine.

But, he didn’t just affect me - He made so many of us better callers, and through this influence, his legacy will live on. He’ll be looking down on us every time we “CELEBRATE” at the end of a great sequence or every time there’s a “Four Boys Promenade” on the closer of a singing call. You know, I have a feeling that he’s looking down on us tonight.

Yes, Jerry could be abrasive, and he certainly had no time for fools. But underneath this sometimes-brash exterior was a man whose passion for this activity is unparalleled. Truly, my friend and brother, Jerry Story lived his life and his career by the credo – “Lead, Follow, or get the Hell out of the way.”

Sadly, Jerry passed away on December 19, 2020. But, in his 65 years on Earth, he touched an untold number of people. And now, his passing will leave a hole in many of our lives, as well as leaving a gaping hole in our activity that will be impossible to fill.

Sadly, Jerry cannot be here to accept this amazing award. So, it gives me great pleasure and it is my honor to present this Milestone Award to The Story Family – Would you please join me in welcoming to the stage Jerry’s wife Kristy, and their sons, Josh and Jake Story.



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## CHAIR'S AWARD RECIPIENT PRESENTED TO KEN RITUCCI Speech Presented by Ted Lizotte



As most of you know, the Chairman's Award is one of the only decisions that is made without the need for a committee of at least three to five people. I will admit that I almost let this newfound freedom go to my head, but Teresa was quick to bring me back to earth.

The Chairman's Award was first presented by Jon Jones in 1981, when I was a freshman in high school. Realizing this fact sent me on the path for this award. So here we go:

Teaching.

It stands as one of humanity's most noble endeavors, and it is truly the life blood of square dance callers. Whether coaching other callers, educating a new class, or delivering a smooth and entertaining dance routine; our ability and desire to help others be better always shines through. As much as we concentrate on trying to get more dancers into the activity to help grow it, the reality is that all the callers in this room can only give seven days a week. I call four local clubs in my area, from basic to challenge. The best way for my area to get more dancers is to find more people with a desire to learn the craft of calling and to help them get clubs of their own going. None of us can do it all. We need more callers, and they need an education.

This brings us to this year's recipient.

This teacher will receive their 50-year calling certificate next year, and has been a CALLERLAB member since 1983, my junior year. They have attended 30 conventions, they are a member of over 12 committees, and have chaired several of them. They have served this organization as a board member for 18 years, and during that time served on the EC for 8 years as well as taking a turn at Vice, and yes also as Chair. One would think that that dedicated service to the organization would warrant an award in and of itself, and it certainly earns my respect and gratitude, but that's not the reason for the award tonight.

**Ken Ritucci** learned the craft of calling from some of the greats in our activity; Jack Lasry, Lee Kopman, Ed Foote and Jim Mayo to mention a few.

After attending numerous caller's schools with Al Brundage and Earl Johnston from 1975-1982, he was asked to join the staff in 1983. In 1992 he took over the school and ran it until 1998. For those keeping score, that's 15 years, which is a good run by any measure.

In 1991 Ken earned his Accredited Caller Coach designation and is currently the chair of that committee.

In 2004, he began his own caller's school, the Northeast Callers School, in my hometown of Manchester, NH. This coming October the school will be celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Ken has started schools across the country, and across the world. He has taught callers in Germany, Denmark, the Czech Republic, and Russia. You name it, Ken's been there.

But enough about the statistics. Let's talk about the man.

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A lot of us teach, but Ken has a true passion for helping new callers. I've seen it in action, firsthand. He's in his happy place when he sees that light go on with a new caller, and he loves to watch them mature and grow. They come back to his schools year after year.

And he's trying to make new caller coaches as well. Ken was the first person to ask me to make a presentation at his school, back when I didn't believe anyone would care about anything I had to say. He invited me back year after year, and eventually put me on as a staff member. He politely forced me to be better than I thought I could be.

He was instrumental in me earning my own accreditation in 2020, basically kicking me in the butt and making this lazy caller do what needed to be done.

Ken helped bring out the best in me, just like he's been helping to bring out the best in new callers and caller coaches for over 35 years – and we're lucky he has.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's Chairman's Award recipient – **Ken Ritucci**.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS SERVICE AWARDS

### Speech Presented by Ted Lizotte

The Board of Governors Service Award is presented to retiring Board members in recognition of their commitment to CALLERLAB as demonstrated by the selfless sharing of their time, talent and leadership skills.

This year we have two retiring Board members.

**Harlan Kerr** began calling in 1987. He joined CALLERLAB in 2004 and attended his first Convention in 2014. He has attended 9 CALLERLAB Conventions. Harlan served on the Board from 2018 to 2024. He served on the Executive Committee from 2019 to 2023 and completed 2 terms as Chair of the Board from 2021 to 2023. Harlan currently serves as the Chair of the Basic Mainstream Committee as well as the Chair of the Past Chairs Committee, and Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee.



**John Marshall** began calling in 1969 and joined CALLERLAB in 1980. He attended his first convention that same year and has attended 40 CALLERLAB Conventions. John served on the Board from 1987 to 1993 and again from 1994 to present. He served on the Executive Committee in 1999, again in 2001, and again from 2005 to 2011. He completed 2 terms as Vice Chair from 2006 to 2008 and 2 terms as Chair of the Board from 2008 to 2010. John currently serves as Vice Chair of the Caller Training Committee.



I'm pleased to present the Board of Governors Service Awards to retiring Board members **Harlan Kerr** and **John Marshall**.

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## FOUNDATION AWARDS

Speech Presented by: Justin Russell

The Foundation Board of Directors established the Patron of the Foundation Award to recognize individuals and organizations which have demonstrated outstanding or contributing support to the Foundation or square dancing. It is presented to individuals or organizations who have met the following criteria:

- 1) Outstanding support to the Foundation or square dancing on a short term project.
- 2) Continuing to support the Foundation or square dancing on a long term basis, or
- 3) A substantial donation to the Foundation of \$1,000 to \$4,999 in a calendar year.

Today it is my honor to present two Patron of the Foundation Awards to donors who made donations \$1,000 and over to the CALLERLAB Foundation.

Our first recipient of the Patron of the Foundation award is the **Tri-State Callers Association**. To accept the award on behalf of the Tri-State Callers Association, would Guy Steele please come forward?

The Tri-State Callers Association made a donation of 5 scholarships in memory of Jim Mayo and Paul Cote. Would members of the Tri-State Callers Association please stand to be recognized now.

Our second recipients of the Patron of the Foundation award are **Janet and Jonathan Brooks**. They were unable to attend the Convention but sent a brief note to share with all of you:

*Janet and Jon wish to share their gratitude and appreciation for CALLERLAB and the entire Square Dancing Community. They want to show their thankfulness for the joy and fun they receive from dancing, the true friendship they've experience with other callers and dancers, and the ability to encourage and promote this great, healthy and powerful activity to continue through many more generations. Square Dancing people are the best people in the world.*

Thank you to Janet and Jon for their contribution to preserve and promote square dancing!

## CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS

We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in any capacity at this year's Convention! This includes all of those who served as moderators or panelists, our Registration and Ways and Means staff, those who served as emcees, presenters, Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, our exhibitors, the members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors, and especially, all of our attendees.

A special thanks to CALLERLAB Members **Scott Bennett** and **Vernon Jones** for assisting the Home Office with sound during the 49th CALLERLAB Convention!

To everyone who attended and helped out in any way, please accept our sincere thanks for your contributions to a great Convention!

## CONVENTION MEDIA

This year, we were excited to again partner with **Ray Owens**—Square Dance Tech, ([www.squaredancetech.com](http://www.squaredancetech.com))! We hope you enjoy the photos by clicking the links below.

[Photos: 3/24/24](#)

[Photos: 3/25/24](#)

[Photos: 3/26/24](#)



## VENDORS AT CONVENTION

Thanks to those who exhibited their products and services during this year's CALLERLAB Convention. They were:

- \* 74th Nationals - Ted & Tonia Hofmeister
- \* 75th Nationals - Gary & Claudia Lester
- \* ASD Magazine - Buddy Weaver
- \* Chic - Shauna Kaaria
- \* CTP - John Carlton
- \* Guild of Pride - Dana Schirmer
- \* Hipster Productions/ROUNDALAB - Al Hipkins
- \* Just Another Square Dance Caller - Larada Horner-Miller
- \* Yak Stak - Scott Bennett

## CONVENTION RECORDINGS

The audio recordings from the 2024 CALLERLAB Convention held in Grapevine, TX are now available! Contact the Home Office to order a set today! The recordings are available via DropBox for \$25 or USB and CD for \$40.

## HALF CENTURY RECOGNITIONS

Presented by Toby Thomason

A total of 298 CALLERLAB Members have received the Half Century Certificate. Of the 110 current CALLERLAB members who have previously received this award, 27 attended the 2024 CALLERLAB Convention.

This year, **Rick Gittelman, Rick Hampton, Tony Oxendine, Bob Stern, Carol Teal and Tim Tyl** (pictured below) attended the Convention and received their Half Century Award Certificates.

In addition, there were eight active CALLERLAB Members who earned their Half Century Award Certificate this year but were unable to attend the Convention. They are: **Randy Dibble, Aaron Gordon, Norman Shaffor, William "Allen" Snell, Darrell Sprague, Bucky Tenney, Gary Titus, and Matt Worley.**

Two Members attending the 2024 CALLERLAB Convention received their 50 Year Certificate by mail in the year they reached this milestone. This was the first convention we had the opportunity to honor them by name at a convention. They were: **Tim Crawford and Pat McBride.**

**Congratulations!**



## QUARTER CENTURY RECOGNITIONS

Presented by Allan Hurst

Since 1986, a total of 1,552 CALLERLAB Members have received the Quarter Century Certificate. Of those, 58 were at the 2024 CALLERLAB Convention.

This year, **David Boggs**, **Lelia Kentmeister**, and **Steve Ocskasy** (pictured in order to the right) attended the Convention and received their Quarter Century Award Certificates.

Additionally, eight Members who will celebrate their 25th anniversary of calling this year were unable to attend the 2024 CALLERLAB Convention. They are: **Ronald Bell-Roemer**, **Gene Chamberlain**, **Mike Goff**, **Wolfgang Haehnel**, **Yoshiyuki Kuriki**, **Sheldon Losnick**, **James "Jimmie Mac" McArthur**, and **Chris "Fen" Tamanaha**.

Five Members attended this Convention and received their 25 Year Certificate by mail in the year they reached this milestone. This is the first Convention that we had the opportunity to honor them by name. They were: **Philipp Aff**, **Sue Curtis**, **Mark Hall**, **Martin Kromer**, and **Ken Burke**.



**Congratulations!**

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Speech Presented by Ken Ritucci

The ACC Committee has been busy this past year. About two years ago the committee began looking at revising the Curriculum Guidelines and Technical Supplement. With a few exceptions, the documents have not been updated since they were originally written in the 1980's. Two years ago, Ed Foote, Dottie Welch and I did a "light review". Then, this past year the entire committee was given sections to review and make comments/changes etc. However, a "Deeper Dive" was needed. It was also determined a different approach was needed for more efficiency in the process.

A team of six Accredited Caller Coaches volunteered to do the work of reviewing the entire document. As Chairman, I deliberately stayed out of the process, letting the committee add their expertise to the process. Dottie Welch was asked to chair this important subcommittee, named the "Deep Dive Team." For the past 12 months, this subcommittee has been working diligently in reviewing and making updates to every section.

As Chairman of the committee, I would like to publicly recognize these hard-working individuals. We are pleased to have four of the six coaches in our audience tonight. As I call your name, will these coaches please come to the stage to receive a special certificate of achievement in recognition of your tireless work on this very important project.

**Deborah Carroll-Jones, Jon Jones, Barry Clasper, and Dottie Welch**

Two other coaches, **Paul Bristow** and **Steve Turner** unfortunately could not be here at the convention this year. Their certificates will be mailed to them.

Thank you again to the members who worked on this project.



Dottie, Barry, Jon & Deborah

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## APPRECIATION AWARDS

Much of the work of CALLERLAB is done by our committees. Dedicated Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs are the people who make it happen with the committee structure. The following individuals were recognized at the CALLERLAB Convention:

**Pam Clasper**, Chair History Committee (now assigned as History liaison); **Barry Johnson**, Chair SSD Committee; **Ted Lizotte**, Vice Chair Music Producers Committee; **Justin Russell**, Vice Chair Marketing Committee; **Dana Schirmer**, Chair Basic Mainstream Committee; and **Wendy VanderMeulen**, Chair Public Relations Committee.

CALLERLAB recognized our members that have given of their time to help with the Caller Training Seminars at the 72nd National Square Dance Convention in Mobile, AL: **Deborah Carroll-Jones, Betsy Gotta, Paul Henze, Barry Johnson, Jon Jones, Ted Lizotte, Tom Miller, Bear Miller, Tony Oxendine, Jack Pladdys, Mike Sikorsky, and Dottie Welch.**

CALLERLAB and the Foundation had a vendor booth at the 72nd National Square Dance Convention in Mobile, AL. We had requested members to help out if they were attending the convention. Several members did stop in at the booth to help: **Bob Asp, Rob Baird, Cheryl Bebernes, Walt Burr, Jeremy Butler, Don Casper, Travis & Dorothy Cook, Ed Crowley, Tom Davis, Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie & Bob Lottie, Paula Egenolf, Phil Farmer, Holly Ferreira, Bill Garrison, Ron & Judy Giuliana, Mike Goff, Betsy Gotta, Patty Greene, Paul Henze, Mike & Denise Hogan, Lawrence Johnstone, Jon Jones & Deborah Carroll Jones, Vernon Jones, Shauna Kaaria, Harlan Kerr, Ted Lizotte, Bob Lottie, Tom Manning, Bear Miller, Tony Oxendine, Charlie Petrea, Jack Pladdys, Sherry Pladdys, Bob & Ann Poyner, Lakota Raleigh, The Sahlstrom Family, Mike & Lisa Seastrom, Amanda Skidmore, Bryan & Harue Swift, Michele Vieira, Jim & Ann Wass, Wayne Weston, and Chuck & Kristy Woods**



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS Presented by Tim Crawford

Thanks to **Tim Crawford** who presented our Keynote Address during the Opening Session at the 49<sup>th</sup> CALLERLAB Convention. The Opening Session is included as part of the Convention Recordings. Contact the Home Office to purchase your copy today so you can listen to Tim's Keynote!



## INTRODUCING THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A huge thank you to retiring Executive Committee Member and Vice Chair, **Buddy Weaver**. The new Executive Committee took over on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. In order of the photo, they are: **Jack Pladdys**, Vice Chair **Justin Russell**, **Shauna Kaaria**, **Tony Oxendine**, and Chair **Ted Lizotte**. We look forward to their service to CALLERLAB in this leadership role.

## 50TH CALLERLAB CONVENTION—2025 Working Together: Don't Stop Believin'

Be part of history as we commemorate CALLERLAB's 50th Convention. Join us for special events, professional development, and memories that will last a lifetime. We're calling back to the very first CALLERLAB Convention in 1974 when the theme was "Working Together."

Start making your plans to join us for the 50th CALLERLAB Convention to be held in Greenville, SC April 14-16, 2025. The Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Golf Resort, Greenville, SC. Don't miss out on this milestone event!

Early bird rates are available through September 1. Everyone who pre-registers before September 1 will be entered to win 1 of 2 \$100 CALLERLAB Gift Certificates. Register online: <https://callerlab.org/registration-information>.

As we gear up to celebrate the 50th Convention, the Home Office is selling 50th Convention swag. Check out our concert style t-shirts with the gold logo on the front and the CALLERLAB Convention history on the back.

Visit <https://callerlab.printify.me/products> to order a shirt, sweatshirt, ornament or mug.



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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you for renewing your CALLERLAB Membership!

Members requiring proof of insurance or needing a certificate of additional insured naming a rental facility are reminded that the necessary certificates must be obtained directly from the insurance company. The certificates are available by calling Northwest Insurance Brokers at (208) 322-8300 or e-mailing [jenny@NorthWestBrokers.com](mailto:jenny@NorthWestBrokers.com). Identify yourself as a Member of CALLERLAB and they will issue the certificate after verifying your membership. Certificates are normally sent within 72 hours. This insurance program is only available to U.S. Members.

*Did you know you can renew online?* Thank you to the Members who have renewed their membership using the new online option. Doing so saves CALLERLAB time and money!

## BECOME A VOTING MEMBER!

You do not have to attend a CALLERLAB Convention to become a voting member.

CALLERLAB has an [Alternative Involvement Form](#) that can be completed. If you meet the qualifications, you may become a Voting Member.

Ask the Home Office for more details.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION

If you would like to be a candidate for the Board of Governors, petitions are available [online](#) or from the Home Office. Your valid petition, a brief biography of 200 words or less, and a current photo must be in the Home Office no later than July 1, 2024! Candidates must have been a full Member for no less than three years and must obtain the signatures of 25 Active (Voting) Members. Seven positions will be elected to three-year terms on the Board, beginning with the Board of Governors' meeting immediately following the 2025 Annual Meeting. As of May 30th, eight petitions have been received by the Home Office. Those petitions received are from

**Shawn Brown, Michael Braithwaite, Ray Brendzy, Brad Caldwell, Travis Cook, Patty Greene, Mike Hogan, Harlan Kerr, Charlie Petrea, Bob Riggs, and Wendy VanderMeulen**

Please contact the Home Office if you have questions pertaining to completing or submitting a petition.

## MILESTONE NOMINATIONS

Nominations are currently being accepted by the Home Office. Milestone Nominations are accepted from May 1 to July 31 each year. The CALLERLAB Milestone Award is the highest award CALLERLAB can bestow on any individual. The nominee is judged against rigid criteria in five separate categories. A nominee must meet the criteria in all five categories to receive the award.

- 1) The recipient must have worked in UNCHARTED FIELDS.
- 2) The individual's contributions to the activity must have STOOD THE TEST OF TIME
- 3) These Contributions must have been UNSELFISH.
- 4) In the course of making those contributions, the recipient must have displayed true LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONALISM.
- 5) Finally, the recipients' work must have had a BROAD INFLUENCE on the activity.

Learn more about the criteria and how to nominate someone on the [Milestone Nomination Form](#).

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### **Accredited Caller Coach Committee – Dottie Welch (Member)**

The committee has four callers in the process of being accredited. The committee continues to advertise in ASD. Work continues on the revision of the Curriculum Guidelines and Technical Supplement. The committee discussed the need to emphasize teaching new callers to teach. Documentation on how to use zoom for caller training is on the radar to be developed. It was also noted that additional information should be presented on styling.

#### **Advanced Committee – Ray Brendzy (Chair)**

The committee discussed the definition of Zig Zag. The committee also reviewed the Online Teaching Resource relating to the Advanced Program. Volunteers were solicited to work on the resource with Dottie Welch and the Choreographic Applications Committee. There was also a brief discussion on the impact of the Proposal on the Advanced Lists.

#### **Basic and Mainstream Committee – Harlan Kerr (Chair)**

The committee discussed the Basic teaching order and decided not to make any changes at this time. An instructional manual is in development for the Basic Program – led by Dottie Welch. Emphasis Calls will be starting twice a year – led by Michael Braithwaite. There was a huge amount of support for the Proposal from committee members.

#### **Caller Training Committee – Betsy Gotta (Chair)**

The Committee published a revised Starter Kit as a free download on the CALLERLAB website this year. The Certified Square Dance Teacher Project is now moving forward. By next year, the committee hopes to have completed the short and long tests. Betsy reminded folks that there is a Mentoring Guidelines document available to callers. Betsy invited members to join the committee.

#### **Choreographic Applications – Dottie Welch (Chair)**

The committee reviewed the status of current projects and allocated jobs for the future. The major current project is creating the Advanced section of Online Teaching Resource. Dottie invited attendees to visit and use [teaching.callerlab.org](http://teaching.callerlab.org). The landing page now includes a novelties section.

#### **Committee for Community and Traditional Dance – Bob Riggs (Chair)**

The Committee sponsored the pre-convention Community Dance Leaders Seminar this year with a moderate turnout and worthwhile content. The committee discussed how to educate Members on how to teach in schools. The committee continues to publish the CD Journal. Bob encouraged Members to subscribe to the CD Journal and join the committee.

#### **Definitions Committee – Guy Steele (Chair)**

During the last year, the committee revised the Plus Definitions to include improved wording of linear cycle. An update was also made to the C-1 Definitions with various changes. The committee reviewed the Additional Details Document which includes information not covered by the Definitions Documents – Dottie Welch is taking the lead on this revision. It is out for the final 6-week review. Work continues revising definitions for (Anything) & Spread and Zig Zag. The committee started brief discussion on the impact the Proposal might have on the Definitions documents. During the meeting, the committee also briefly discussed standard computer interchange format for cut and paste and which committee should oversee that.

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### **International Advisory Committee – Tom Rainer (Chair)**

The committee continues to hold bi-monthly meetings via zoom. The committee meeting had significant discussion on the proposal. Tom reminded the organization that it is important to remember that English is not the primary language for many overseas callers and additional information may be needed to help translate the proposal and what it means for them. Tom emphasized that the overseas attendees would like to be active participants in the shaping of the Proposal. Overseas members continue to market CALLERLAB at events. Japan and Germany had displays at events this year. The Home Office provides metrics to the committee to track membership.

### **KnowledgeBase Committee – Barry Clasper (Chair)**

Barry shared that he is encouraged by how many folks share that they are using the KnowledgeBase. Traffic statistics continue to show increased usage. Barry encouraged attendees to talk to other people about the KnowledgeBase and to contribute content for the site. Visit [knowledge.callerlab.org](http://knowledge.callerlab.org).

### **Marketing Committee – Jack Pladdys (Chair)**

Jack shared that the committee is working on a survey for groups holding classes. The survey will roll out to all Members in the coming months. A team will also be developed to oversee marketing website updates and marketing manual updates. Jack noted this year's committee meeting had record attendance.

### **Music Producers Committee – Shauna Kaaria (Chair)**

Shauna shared that the MPC plans to create a music scholarship for new callers to build their music library at a discounted rate with all proceeds benefiting the Foundation.

### **New Callers Committee – Vernon Jones (Chair)**

Members produced a list of 10 items to move forward with. The committee hosted two series of zoom training over the last year. Another series will be hosted in the future. The committee will be publishing a “did you know” email to help inform new callers about what CALLERLAB does. The committee will also be developing a new callers exchange portal for new callers to discuss new ideas.

### **Partner Committee – Allynn Riggs (Chair)**

Allynn noted that they had a well-attended meeting with 18 new partners attending. Allynn reminded callers that they can be members of the Partner Committee too. The committee discussed the multi-year project of updating the Partner Resource Document that is nearing completion. She encouraged members to review the document when complete. Allynn thanked the members who participated in the revision and Vice-Chair, Ri-Shea Schlitter for editing and formatting the document.

### **Plus Committee – Tom Davis (Chair)**

The committee discussed the revision of the (Anything) & Spread Definition. The committee recently disapproved the revised definition. It will be sent back to the Definitions Committee for a more understandable definition. The committee is also looking at the impact of the Proposal on the committee.

### **Public Relations Committee – John Harden (Chair)**

The committee plans to update the tri-fold flyers promoting CALLERLAB and the Convention. They also plan to increase the utilization of social media for PR. The committee continues to brainstorm how to encourage local non-callers to attend the CALLERLAB Convention. The committee will also work on how to communicate information about the Proposal to callers and dancers.

### **Social Connections Committee – Mike Seastrom (Chair)**

Mike commended Barry on the KnowledgeBase. The Social Connections Committee planned a social event at the Monday dance where attendees filled out a badge with their favorite superhero to stimulate conversation and mixed squares with playing cards. They also encouraged folks to share their favorite singing call during the Chairman’s Social on Tuesday night. Mike encouraged attendees to try these ideas at their clubs. The committee also encourages attendees to create an e-signature template to organically connect with folks you email. Brian Freed hosted a Birds of a Feather Session at the Convention. The committee would like to see outside professionals in social connectivity present at future conventions. The Committee owns the Welcoming Dance Document and discussed how to make sure folks know the resource exists.

### **Social Square Dance Committee – Buddy Weaver (Chair)**

The committee discussed the triennial review currently in progress and the introduction of a revised teaching order coming soon. Discussion has started with the Basic and Mainstream Chair on the impact of the Proposal on SSD, Basic and Mainstream.

### **Ways & Means Committee – Justin Russell (Chair)**

The committee talked about the new campaign – \$50K for the 50th. They will be adding a tiered system for donations. The Committee will be producing literature letting folks know about the work done by the Foundation. There will be a live auction at the 50th Convention. The Committee is exploring ideas to encourage fundraising around National Square Dance Day on November 29.

### **Women in Calling Committee – Julianne Burr (Chair)**

The committee supported the WIC Institute prior to the Convention. The committee hosted zoom sessions that were well attended over the past year. The ASD Magazine will be publishing stories of women callers, and the committee will also be submitting articles for DIRECTION. More zoom training sessions are planned. The committee discussed how to deal with harassment in the calling field. The committee will be voting on a change in the member prerequisites to open membership to anyone who would like to support women callers. The Chair and Vice Chair will remain women callers.

### **73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC Milwaukee, WI**

Are you attending the 73rd National Square Dance Convention? If so, please plan to wear your CALLERLAB badge and stop by the CALLERLAB booth to pick up a CALLERLAB ribbon to wear. Sign up to assist in the booth or just stop by and visit. We are always happy to see fellow Members during the Convention.

Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> will be our “CALLERLAB Blue Shirt Day”. We ask all Members who have a CALLERLAB blue shirt to wear it proudly that day!



**At the 73rd NSDC  
in Milwaukee, WI**



**ON FRIDAYS,  
WE WEAR  
BLUE!**



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## CALLER SCHOOLS LISTING

Attached is a list of known caller schools that are planned during 2024. We encourage new callers as well as experienced callers to attend a school. Caller schools will always rejuvenate every caller's attitude and skills. [Scholarships](#) are available for those with financial needs.

### WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

By Justin Russell

The Ways & Means Committee was busy at the 49th CALLERLAB Convention in Grapevine, TX. The party started on Sunday evening with the Pre-Convention Dance. Vice-Chair **John Sloper** was the MC for the evening with a full program of talented dance leaders including **Jon Jones, Vernon Jones, Mike Seastrom, Darryl Lipscomb, Charlie Robertson, Scott Bennett** and **Jan Toms** on the rounds. That evening we raised \$1,800 for the Foundation for the Promotion and Preservation of Square Dancing. We were excited about the turnout with over 200 people signing in.

On Monday during the Opening Session, Chair **Justin Russell** announced the new initiative of “\$50k for the 50th”. The new campaign is to raise \$50,000 to benefit the Foundation by the end of the 50th Convention in Greenville. These funds will be used for caller education as well as projects like the Marketing Committee's videos currently available on YouTube and the development of the website [www.LiveLivelySquareDance.com](http://www.LiveLivelySquareDance.com). Justin also explained that ten CALLERLAB members have pledged \$5,000 each, if the Ways & Means Committee can raise the \$50,000. That means between now and the end of the 50th CALLERLAB Convention in Greenville, we have the opportunity to raise \$100,000 for the Foundation. At the Convention, we had pledge cards available at the Registration Desk. They will also be available at the CALLERLAB booth at the 73rd NSDC in Milwaukee.



We hope every member will take part in this campaign. You can donate directly on the website at [www.callerlabfoundation.com](http://www.callerlabfoundation.com) under the tab “Make A Donation”. You can also contact the Home Office.

The Ways & Means Committee encourages you to sponsor a Fundraiser Dance in your area. This would be a great opportunity to let dancers know what CALLERLAB is doing as well as the Foundation. Your contribution will be noted on the Foundation website. Be sure to look at upcoming Directions for more information from the Ways & Means Committee on fundraising opportunities to make sure we get to \$100,000 by April 16, 2025.



#### IN MEMORY

**Scott Amspoker**, Albuquerque, NM

**Homer Magnet**, Minford, OH

**Les Centers**, Nicholasville, KY

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# LEGAL ASPECTS OF SELLING AND GIFTING DIGITAL MUSIC FILES

*Reprinted from the November-December 2017 DIRECTION*

Recently the Board of Governors addressed the legality of retiring callers selling or gifting a laptop with digital music to other callers. The question was asked of our attorney who has presented the following legal opinion.

From our attorney:

“The legality of selling or gifting digital music files has recently been addressed by the Federal Courts in *Capitol Records, LLC v. ReDigi Inc.*, 934 F. Supp. 2d 640 (S.D.N.Y. 2013). ReDigi (redigi.com) is a company that offered an online marketplace for individuals to sell their legally purchased mp3s. Capitol Records sued ReDigi, claiming copyright infringement in ReDigi's business model due to the upload of the individual's music file to the ReDigi server. Capitol Records claimed this "copying" of the file violated US copyright laws.

The Court ultimately sided with Capitol Records, finding that ReDigi was violating copyright law, mostly because ReDigi's service transferred the songs from (e.g. someone's laptop) to the ReDigi servers, and then on to the ultimate purchaser. Because these transfers involved making copies of the digital files, the Court found that the process infringed the underlying copyright, even though the ReDigi service made it so that seller's laptop was scrubbed of the mp3 once it was uploaded, so that the seller could not retain a copy as well. (Obviously, the laptop owner could have simply saved all the music to a different external hard drive before uploading to ReDigi, but that's kind of beside the point here).

However, in addition to finding that ReDigi was infringing, the court also addressed other forms of digital music sales.

The court specifically held that selling a laptop, hard drive, or other similar device with music files that were legally purchased is not a copyright infringement.

The Court stated, "Section 109(a) still protects a lawful owner's sale of his/her 'particular' phono record, be it a computer hard disk, iPod, or other memory device onto which the file was originally downloaded. While this limitation clearly presents obstacles to resale that are different from, and perhaps even more onerous than those involved in the resale of CDs and cassettes, the limitation is hardly absurd. The first sale doctrine was enacted in a world where the ease and speed of data transfer could not have been imagined."

This makes sense because there is no copying at all--just the sale or gifting of a legally purchased music file.



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## FROM OUR MEMBERS

*Opinions expressed in letters or articles from our Members are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of CALLERLAB, nor of the editor. The editor reserves the right to condense, omit or re-write all or any part of material sent to CALLERLAB for publication.*

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### A Club Callers Experience with SSD

By Jeff Palmer



I am a club caller here in Colorado Springs area. Our club has been employing the SSD program since COVID-19.

After teaching the Mainstream and Plus programs for many years, I studied the SSD program documents on the CALLERLAB website before teaching this program. The results for our club have been very positive.

1. The SSD program has provided a quicker entry from street to club with less stress and better retention for our club.
2. The attendees have been younger, enthusiastic, quick learners, and retain well.
3. The enthusiasm of the younger ones somehow seems to rub off on the older students.
4. The students are dancing successfully with the club in much less time.
5. The new students bring out their friends to lessons thus providing new dancers and contacts.
6. You can conduct more than one set of lessons per year.
7. I feel that diving into the SSD program has invigorated my passion for calling and made me better.
8. The new dancers provide a positive atmosphere for both club, caller, and square dancing in general.
9. Our club dancing skill level and retention has improved.
10. The dancers are laughing, smiling, and truly enjoying the activity, and they are telling others about it.

When we returned to dancing from Covid-19, we were dancing two squares. We now are dancing five to seven squares on a regular basis and we had nine squares dancing at our last open house and currently have over thirty in our new class. When we start a new SSD class, it is the newer excited dancers that are telling their friends and bringing them out to class. The result has been, in my opinion, the way the SSD program was designed to work.

At our last Colorado State Festival, we noticed an interesting dynamic. We had three square dancing halls: Plus, Mainstream, and SSD. The Plus and SSD halls were full and the Mainstream Hall found it challenging to fill two squares!

There are other items that we do concerning our classes but space prevents me from listing them here. There is a negative to the SSD program but, it's not the program, it's callers! For years now we have all experienced the declining numbers of dancers, the general decline in our dancers' abilities, and the hand-wringing over how we need to "Fix this problem." For us, SSD has been the fix. It is also unfortunate some callers have determined that SSD is "boring, slow, watered-down Mainstream." Totally false! I can only presume that these callers have not studied the program or have a misguided interpretation of it. Unfortunately, some these callers have chosen to call SSD as "boring, slow, watered-down Mainstream." In my personal experience I have hired callers for our club that have told me that they call SSD and, unfortunately, really had no idea on how to employ the SSD program

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successfully which has resulted in this program getting a bad reputation that has spilled over onto some of our dancers.

My advice is if you are going to use the SSD program, do your homework and employ the program as it was designed and do not degrade the program by not being educated in it.

I am just a simple club caller, if I can do it in what I deem as successful, you can do it. Probably better!

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## **HOME OFFICE REMARKS**

**By Teresa Berger, Executive Director**

We were pleased to host 239 callers, partners, and dancers at the 49th CALLERLAB Convention in Grapevine, TX in March 2024! Attendees participated in general assemblies, more than 30 interest sessions on varying aspects of calling, choreography, music, club relations, technology, and more, various CALLERLAB committee meetings, dancing, and networking throughout the week. Of note was an exciting energy throughout the event as attendees discussed the future of the square dance activity and the role CALLERLAB can play in helping elongate the existence of our activity for future generations.

We "repped" the CALLERLAB blue.  
We reconnected with old friends.  
We made new connections.  
We discussed important issues.  
We "researched" choreography.  
We discussed differing viewpoints.  
We shared our stories.  
We honored legends.  
We planned for next year.  
We dreamed big about the future of square dancing.  
We worked hard.  
We laughed.  
We cried.  
We celebrated.

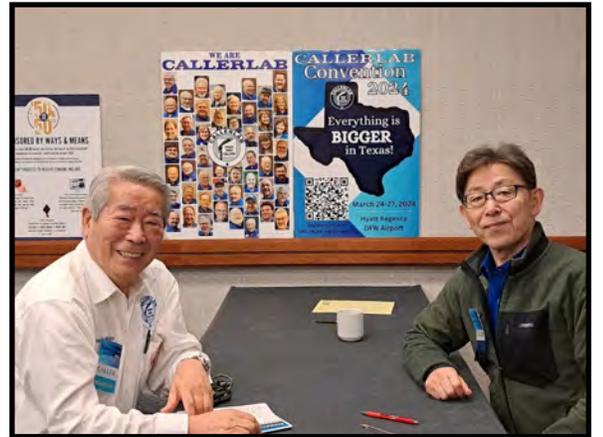


Home Office Staff: Frank, Elisa & Teresa Berger, Avery Arnold & Renee Albers

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I am so proud of our leadership, members, and the organization as a whole. Another shoutout to our amazing staff, the planning committee and all our volunteers throughout the week. We couldn't have done it without you.









# THE FOUNDATION

**For the Preservation and Promotion of Square Dancing**

Donate



## DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

Robert Abdinoor	Kip Garvey	Shoichi Katsura	Donn Thomson
Richard Berry	Aaron Goodman	Harlan Kerr	Masaru Wada
Robert Brown	Clay Goss	Clint McLean	Byron Yoshimura
Jeremy Butler	Betsy Gotta	Elaine Mikenas	Texas Dancers
John Cook	Jay Haines	Northern California Square Dancers Assn	<b>In Memory of Johnny Chambers</b>
Patrick Cox	Mike Halley	Tim Pepper	
D. Dalton	John Harden	Al Rouff	Ray Donohoo
Larry Davenport	Dave Harry	Doug Sewell	
Ray Donohoo	Jay Henderson	Jeannette Staeuble	
Gary Evans	Mike Hogan	Guy Steele	
James Folz	Kris Jensen		

## DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Robert Brown	Aaron Goodman	Clint McLean	Masaru Wada
Denise Carbonell	Mike Halley	Elaine Mikenas	Buzz Chapman
D. Dalton	Jay Henderson	Bill Restall	Harlan Kerr
LaNetta Dunn	Bob Knudson	Jeannette Staeuble	Del Morton
Anthony Egan	Marianne Lenta	Donn Thomson	
Tami Gear	Laura McDaniel	Ed Vieth	

## DONATIONS TO CALLERLAB

Rod Bradish	Jerry Goshorn	Barry Johnson	Richard Reel
Robert Brown	Clay Goss	Harlan Kerr	Nancy Rule
Rosie Caudle	Dave Guille	Charles Lu	Jeannette Staeuble
Barry Clasper	Mike Halley	Clint McLean	Guy Steele
Cherie Cox	Candice Hansen	Elaine Mikenas	Donn Thomson
D. Dalton	Terry Hebert	Larada Horner Miller	Masaru Wada
Jerry Davidson	Jay Henderson	Shozo Nishimura	
Sal Fanara	Peggy Hensley	Warren Painter	



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CALLER SCHOOLS

Revised May 9, 2024



The following is a listing of Caller Schools sponsored and staffed by CALLERLAB members. This listing is provided as a service to CALLERLAB members for information. This listing does not constitute endorsement. For further information, please contact the school of your choice.

### Callers Association of WA

Beginners – Experienced Callers

**Date:** June 15-16, 2024 (40 Hours)

**Staff:** Steve Turner\*

**Location:** Perth, WA

**Contact:** Steve Turner

**Phone:** 041-709-2928

**Email:** [turnertempo@gmail.com](mailto:turnertempo@gmail.com)

### GSI/73<sup>rd</sup> NSDC Callers School

Beginners – Experienced Callers

**Date:** June 23-26, 2024 (40 Hours)

**Staff:** Tony Oxendine\*, Jack Pladdys\*, Ted Lizotte\*, Scott Bennett and guest coaches

**Location:** Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, WI

**Contact:** Tony Oxendine

**Phone:** 803-840-0746

**Email:** [tony@tonyoxendine.com](mailto:tony@tonyoxendine.com)

### HOA Caller's School

Beginners through Experienced

**Date:** July 7-11, 2024

**Staff:** Jerry Junck\*

**Location:** Wayne, NE

**Contact:** Jerry Junck

**Phone:** (402) 980-2446

**Email:** [Junck@aol.com](mailto:Junck@aol.com)

### Straddle Caller School

Beginners thru Experienced

**Date:** July 15-19, 2024 (40hrs)

**Staff:** Mike Sikorsky\*

**Location:** Aromas, CA

**Contact:** Mike Sikorsky

**Phone:** (480) 204-0110

**Email:** [arizonacaller@gmail.com](mailto:arizonacaller@gmail.com)

### Pride Callers School

**Date:** July 21-25, 2024 (40 Hours)

Callers 2-5 years of experience

**Staff:** Jack Pladdys\* & Tony Oxendine\*

**Location:** Pride RV Resort – Waynesville, NC

**Contact:** Tony Oxendine 803-840-0746

Jack Pladdys 513-312-2927

**Email:** [tony@tonyoxendine.com](mailto:tony@tonyoxendine.com)

[jpladdys@gmail.com](mailto:jpladdys@gmail.com)

### Big Sky Caller's School

Beginners through Experienced

**Date:** August 11-15, 2024

**Staff:** Jerry Junck\*

**Location:** Lolo, MT

**Contact:** Jerry Junck

**Phone:** (402) 980-2446

**Email:** [Junck@aol.com](mailto:Junck@aol.com)

### Mid Atlantic Caller School

Beginners thru Experienced

**Date:** August 15 - 19, 2024 (40hrs)

**Staff:** Mike Sikorsky\*

**Location:** The ED Center, 31 Spring St. Gloversville, NY

**Contact:** Mike Sikorsky

**Phone:** (480) 204-0110

**Email:** [arizonacaller@gmail.com](mailto:arizonacaller@gmail.com)

### Rocky Mountain Gold Callers School

Beginners through Experienced

**Date:** August 30 thru September 4, 2024

**Staff:** Bear Miller\*, Ken Ritucci\* & Larry Marchese

**Location:** Denver, CO

**Contact:** Bear Miller

**Phone:** (303) 919-1395

**Email:** [beardenver@comcast.net](mailto:beardenver@comcast.net)



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## CALLER SCHOOLS

Revised May 9, 2024



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### Crewe Caller School

Beginners thru Experienced

**Date:** September 29 – October 3, 2024 (40hrs)

**Staff:** Mike Sikorsky\*

**Location:** Modern Woodmen of America, 823 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Crewe, VA

**Contact:** Mike Sikorsky

**Phone:** (480) 204-0110

**Email:** [arizonacaller@gmail.com](mailto:arizonacaller@gmail.com)

### Northeast Callers School

**Dates:** October 6-10, 2024

**Staff:** Ken Ritucci\*, Tony Oxendine\*, Ted Lizotte\*, Steve Turner\* & Bill Harrison\*

**Location:** Sturbridge, Massachusetts

**Contact:** Ken Ritucci

**Phone:** (413) 262-1875

**Email:** [kenritucci@gmail.com](mailto:kenritucci@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.northeastcallers.com](http://www.northeastcallers.com)

### North Star Callers School

**Dates:** November 18-21, 2024

**Staff:** Ken Ritucci\*, Barry Johnson\* & Dan Sahlstrom

**Location:** Minneapolis, MN

**Contact:** Ken Ritucci

**Phone:** (413) 262-1875

**Email:** [kenritucci@gmail.com](mailto:kenritucci@gmail.com)

### Bad Woerishofen Caller School

Beginners & Experienced Callers

**Date:** November 17-21, 2024 (40 Hours)

**Staff:** Martin Kromer\*, Jeannette Staeuble\*, Philipp Aff, Steve Turner\*

**Location:** Bad Woerishofen, Germany

**Contact:** Angelika Kromer

**Phone:** +49 7143 891266

**Email:** [woerishofen@callerschool.eu](mailto:woerishofen@callerschool.eu)

### Munich Callers School

Beginners & Experienced Callers

**Date:** November 17-21, 2025 (40 Hours)

**Staff:** Steve Turner\*, Martin Kromer\*, Jeanette Staueble\*

**Location:** Munich, Germany

**Contact:** Martin Kromer

**Phone:** +49 7143 891266

**Email:** [woerishofen@callerschool.eu](mailto:woerishofen@callerschool.eu)

### Central Sierra Caller School

Online School, Available 24/7

Beginners thru Experienced

**Staff:** Kip Garvey

**Location:** <https://www.kipgarvey.com>

**Contact:** Kip Garvey

**Phone:** (510) 552-0015

**Email:** [kip@kipgarvey.com](mailto:kip@kipgarvey.com)