

Perhaps, a “new way of thinking,” which is, thinking beyond the traditional ways will be welcomed. It may be necessary to appreciate that different clubs in different parts of the world will apply square dance calling, teaching, and dancing differently. Square dance calling and teaching, with its traditionally based programs, lists, and levels may be now archaic and counterproductive to the square dance activity. ACA believes that callers and teachers should attempt to hang on to the principles of standardization up to a point when possible, but this standardization is not the only end in itself. What if, square dancing would adopt a unified program of say 60 movements as a single program and all other movements were moved to an experimental position.

Dancers and new dancers could all dance together with a “specialty” tip now and then.

Rather than the traditional set of say 40 weeks for lessons and then dancing for up to 12 -14 additional weeks before entering in to a new program of 20 weeks, clubs and callers are can trying a 12 week program of comparable week end classes. Upon graduation new dancers will be able to dance a club level. The American Callers’ Association International One-Floor 12 to 14 week programs fits into this category. Each of these items when applied by a club or caller may offer the caller and club opportunities to increase its number of new dancer graduates as it may offer many unique methods to present the art of square dancing and square dance lessons.

The American Callers’ Association believes that for square dancing to grow, we need to embrace a thinking that invites ideas and innovations and one that is not bound by the baggage of the present.

What are some of these ideas? Perhaps, a complete overhaul of the square dance product such as new lists of movements; no requirement for dress codes, and a lesson program of 12 to 14 weeks.