

It's About the Dancers and Their Needs

By

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The American Callers' Association in its attempt to be of service to all clubs, callers, dancers, and associations has provided current, timely, and effective information from 2000 to 2019 on new dancer recruitment, winning ways to retain club dancers, and pitfalls that drive square dancers away. ACA really appreciates the positive comments, encouragement to continue, and contributions from callers and dancers all over North America and abroad to continue these initiatives. ACA will continue to provide information to help and encourage the square dance community to recruit, retain and retrieve square dancers as well as encourage the dancers to speak out on the cumbersome dance programs.

I would like to thank many callers and dancers who communicated their encouragement to ACA for its focus of square dancing which always has been and will continue to support the needs and preferences of the dancers. For square dancing to survive the thoughts and preferences must support and encourage the Dancers. One might argue that the resistance to change severely damages square dancing. ACA advocates that square dancing has the potential to be of interest to all dancers and does not have to fail if we all begin to change our ways by focusing on the dancers' needs and preferences and let go of the "sacred cows" such as the outdated and debilitating cumbersome segregating dance programs with their long periods of instruction.

First of all we must focus on the positive service and support side of Square Dancing that is the unnoticed leaders who are the many dancers who worked for years and months to support their clubs and have gone unnoticed, unrecognized, and un-thanked for helping when needed. Let us as callers and national, state and local association and federation leaders remember them and help them.

Who are these Unsung Heroes?

- Square dancers who have helped support church activities and entertained the infirmed.
- Square dancers and square dance clubs who have helped raise funds to support such worthy activities as the Handicapable Square Dancer Activities, Shrine Children Hospitals and St Jude's Children's' Hospitals..
- Square dancers who serve as officers in clubs and associations because no one else is able to take the office.
- Square dancers who have no fears of being told no when working to recruit new dancers, retain current dancers and retrieve former dancers.