

ACA Newsletter October-November-December 2019



American Caller's Association

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Hello everyone,

Here it is already October 2019, time sure flies.

I'm in Mesa, Arizona now and getting ready to start the Square Dance season here, I can't begin to tell you how much I love the winter program. I call 13 sessions per week from Beginner classes thru A2, I walk to work every day as I live in the resort where I call, "It Don't Get No Better Than This."

The Square Dance activity has been very good to me. While I have been in the activity for over 40 years, believe it or not there are still some folks in the activity that I have known for over 40 years and of course we are all 40 years older. Not everyone in the activity is a senior citizen and not everyone has a health issue, but as we get older, things happen.

I can't stress enough the importance of CPR. Speaking from firsthand experience, we all need to be proficient in how to perform CPR. There are many classes offered in our areas, take one, you never know, you may be influential in saving a life some day.

Many of us, me included, will begin or have already started lessons for New Square Dancers. There has been lots of discussion on changing the number of calls that are on the list. Many feel that we need to shorten up the list so that it doesn't take as long to learn. Personally I don't believe we need to change a thing. The non-square dancer that comes to the first class has no idea how many calls there are, they have no idea how long they will be there, and believe it or not they don't care. We make the

mistake of telling them how many calls there are and how long it will take them. If they are having a good time, they will return.

Bruce Holmes has written a book, "Becoming a Square Dance Caller". Anyone interested in obtaining a copy may contact Bruce at: Bruce@BruceTHolmes.com

Barry Wonson from Australia publishes the "Behind the Mike" newsletter. Anyone wishing to subscribe may contact Barry at: bjwonson@gmail.com.

Following is a short bit of info that is in the newsletter:

“LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATION If you are being approached as a “leader”, perhaps being asked to present your opinion on an issue, the first thing that you must do is to listen – carefully. Acknowledge what is being said by the person with whom you are speaking and ask the occasional question, to show that you are following their comments. You may not be able to resolve the issue – but you should show genuine interest. (i) **GUIDANCE** - In certain situations – a committee meeting, for example – you may be asked to provide some form of “guidance”. It is essential that you appear unbiased, listen to all that is said – if there are two sides that are approaching you, take the time to listen to both – before giving an indication of your opinion. Keep in mind that all parties must use the three-part process to debate effectively. Only offer advice if you feel that it will be helpful. Any recommendations that you make must be well thought out – be careful. (ii) **PROBLEM SOLVING** - As a Leader, from time to time, you may be expected to display the wisdom of Solomon and resolve a problem. Be careful not to appear unconcerned when people bring a problem to you. Remember that they feel the problem merits consideration and you should accept this whether or not you feel it is justified; also bear in mind that it is a significant compliment to your leadership skills that the individual (or group) is (are) prepared to request your assistance. Where you are asked to act in your role as the “Club Caller” and advise the committee, you should avoid discussing a subject with people who are too emotional, try to

persuade the parties concerned to meet at a future date, by which time the discussion will be more focused and less “explosive”. Listen carefully, to all sides of the dispute, define the problem and discuss the options that could be used to resolve the issue – the more discussion that occurs, the higher the probability there is that all parties will begin to agree on aspects of the discussion that will lead to a jointly acceptable solution. In this situation the Caller is there as a “Communication Helper”, which is a very important role. Hopefully, as the discussion goes on someone will suggest a solution that you feel you can support; this will be much better received than any solution that you suggest; keep an open mind and finally – try and do what you can to “sell” the solution to the satisfaction of all concerned.”

Issue #5 of News and Notes Revisited by Steven Noseck of Arlington, WA has just been released. Should you wish to subscribe contact Steven at connorst_1@msn.com and subscribe, it is a FREE note service.

Following is some choreography using the Mainstream call Spin Chain Thru, try it, you might like it.

Spin Chain Thru (Mainstream)

Zero Box:

Spin Chain Thru

Girls Circulate 1½

Boys ½ of a Walk & Dodge (or ½ Circulate)

RLG

ZB

Spin Chain Thru

Girls Circulate one

Spin Chain Thru

Boys Circulate two

Spin Chain Thru

Girls Circulate three

Right and Left Grand

**How about Spin Chain Thru from an Alamo Ring (yes, some portions are stars).
You have to specify the starting Hand.
And, it's a great zero!!**

ACA provides the necessary ASCAP/BMI license and Liability Insurance for Callers, Cuers, Line Dance Instructors, Etc. at a \$40-\$60 rate cheaper than other organizations; help spread the word that this can be purchased at a considerable savings.

Best of luck to everyone, stay safe and healthy As we begin our classes for new dancers, keep in mind that if we push them and force them to learn a higher level than they are capable of, they will get discouraged and drop out, maybe this is why our activity is not growing.