

# The Editor's Desk

## ***D-Day Is Here!!!***

Well 1 September 2026 D(ance) Day has arrived. The new square dance Mainstream and Plus lists are now in effect. While the main purpose of these new lists is to facilitate the training of new dancers (and new callers), there is an impact on all of us "old" dancers.

Specificly we have new calls to learn. While the main impact on Mainstream dancers is a number of calls being moved to Plus, the new single circle family of calls needs to be learned. It incorporates "single circle to a wave" which has been moved down from Plus. I do not expect this to cause too much problem, but we experienced dancers need to make allowance for dancers getting used to the calls.

The changes to Plus will be more difficult. Some eight calls have been moved down from Advanced. While they do not appear to be difficult, I had a recent experience with a DBD caller who showed us how difficult they could be. CALLERLAB recognizes the problem. In today's (1 September) press release they state that they expect a transition period of six months to a year for experienced dancers to get used to the changes. That will require for "experienced" dancers to be considerate of other dancers who are still adjusting. I personally believe the results will be worth the effort.

I am also making a change to Calls'N'Cues with this issue. I believe that if Square Dancing is to survive, let alone grow, classes are going to be very important. I would like to request that all clubs send me any flyers and class lists they have so I can include them here. Specifically I am going to list the individual classes in the Calendar of Events section with the note "ANGELS APPRECIATED". My rationale is that angeling classes after graduation are a good way for dancers to get experience. I would like to encourage we end the "push to plus" for new dancers. Let them get a year getting the calls "into their feet" before they move on.

And that's it for this issue. Until the next.  
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## **CALLS 'N' CUES INFORMATION**

### **Issues**

Calls 'N'Cues

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editor@wascaclubs.net

or

[ecragg@alumni.rice.edu](mailto:ecragg@alumni.rice.edu)

- All common file formats accepted
- Attachments preferred
- Please start file names with your club name.
- For photos - please provide captions

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Landline (no Texts - Voice only)

### **Regular Mail:**

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### **Deadlines:**

The deadline is the 15th of the preceding month  
The next issue will be November-December 2026

The deadline will be 15 October 2026

### **For Announcements of New Issues :**

Send an email to:

[wascaclub+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:wascaclub+subscribe@googlegroups.com)



## ***President's Patter Getting back to your dancing roots!***

*Steve Cunnion  
(WASCA President 2025-2026)*

Fellow dancers,

Fall is here and square dancing is revving up for another year and, of course, revving up for the Spring Festival "Revvin' in '27," March 19-20.

WASCA would love to have you volunteer for two new committees and one standing committee. The first is the Recruitment and Retention Committee. As you all know square dancers are aging out. We need your ideas and time to bring in new dancers. We also need new ways of teaching so beginners can start dancing without waiting eight or twelve weeks to finish lessons.

The second committee that we need staffed is for you computer geeks out there. We need folks who are computer savvy enough to simplify the festival registration database so both online and paper registrations can quickly be unified and current. This includes designing a new paper registration form so it can be scanned directly into the database and avoid hand typing all that information. This database also needs to be highly searchable.

Elections are coming up again for WASCA officers in February. Since the computer geeks will be working on the registration committee, we need you, non-computer types, on the nominating committee to seek out and find nominations for six positions; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two board members.

Qualifications for these positions? You should be looking for folks who truly care about the survival of square dancing and are willing to spend their spare time and energy to do so. Anyone who wants to be nominated will have to write a biographical sketch and tell us how they are willing to advance square dancing and WASCA. These documents will be published in Calls n Cues and be on the WASCA website. The nominating committee should have all nominations completed by the end of November for elections in February. So, if you have not volunteered for any of the above committees, you surely will serve on, at least, one of the festival committee. Festivals don't just happen. It takes many people to make a square dance village that can make it happen!



# MEMBERSHIP

**By Tom & Nancy Stafford**

*Membership & Information Services Director  
membership@wascaclubs.com*

48 clubs have renewed their club memberships in WASCA. We have one club, Greene Cloverleafs, which still needs to renew.

We have tried to include accurate data for the clubs but if you plan to attend a club, please contact their information number before you go to make sure they are dancing and their location. You can find the information in the Club Directory in this issue or on the website at [www.wascaclubs.org](http://www.wascaclubs.org).

We are listing below information for both new and returning Delegates. For a club to remain in good standing, each club must be represented at one or more meetings per fiscal year. The fiscal year is June through May. There are three meetings per fiscal year. A delegate may represent more than one club but can only cast one vote.

There are three Delegates' meetings scheduled for the 2026/2027 membership year. The first Delegate's meeting is on September 27, 2026. This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom starting at 7 pm. There will be information presented on the upcoming "Revvin' in 2027" 66th Spring Festival which will be held March 18-20 2027. This is also a chance for Delegates to present information on their Club's activities, dances and Special Events.

The next two meetings will be February 28, 2027 and May 23, 2027. The February 28, 2027 will be the annual meeting where the Delegates will elect the Executive Committee of the WASCA Board and some Directors. All meetings will be on Zoom.

If you need a copy of the insurance certificate for your venue, please email:

[certificates@blueridgeriskpartners.com](mailto:certificates@blueridgeriskpartners.com)

Please send email of name and address of certificate holder (Washington Area Square and Round Dance Association) with request.. Include the name of your venue. The new account manager is Colby Posey. The email is [colby.posey@bluerideriskpartners.com](mailto:colby.posey@bluerideriskpartners.com)

If your club's President or Manager, Delegate or Alternate Delegate's name or their contact information changes during the year, please send us the new name with the address, phone number and email address. For insurance to remain valid and to assure delegate meetings' agendas & minutes go to the correct place we need the correct information. We also need any changes in venue and dance schedule.

You can email them to [membership@wascaclubs.org](mailto:membership@wascaclubs.org) or call Nancy's cell at 703-217-1670 or Tom's cell at 703-217-4791 with your changes.

**Please send WASCA Club Directory changes to**

**[membership@wascaclubs.com](mailto:membership@wascaclubs.com)**



**NCASDLA  
President's  
Message  
By Gary Felton**



***Notes from NCASDLA for Fall 2026***

NCASDLA is the National Capitol Area Square Dance Leaders Association. That's quite a mouthful, but we are a group of callers and cuers that work in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, and DC. NCASDLA is organized and is operated for pleasure and recreation through the fostering of good fellowship and cooperative relations among square dance leaders and the encouragement of more uniform, enjoyable and wholesome square dancing in the National Capital Area. According to the NCASDLA Constitution, the term "square dance" includes American Square Dances, Contra (longways), Round Dances, and related dances. We are an inclusive group.

Fall is an active time for NCASDLA. Elections were held last month and we have a full slate of officers. The executive committee is elected annually. The Board of Directors serve a three year term, with the terms staggered so that one new BOD member is elected every year.

**Executive Officers**

President – Gary Felton  
Vice President – Bill Harrison  
Treasurer – Dick Otis  
Secretary -Ed Trever

**Board of Directors**

Cristina Eum (term ends July 2027)  
Chris Stacy (term ends July 2028)  
Doren McBroom (term ends July 2029)

**CALLERLAB and transitioning**

In the first "Chairman's Video" for incoming chair Jack Pladdys, he discussed the "transitioning" from old Mainstream and Plus to new Mainstream and Plus. The purpose of the new programs is to provide a stronger and quicker entry into square dancing. He stated that "Dancers are not expected to know every new call on September first." If you've been dancing anywhere, you've been exposed to the new Plus calls. Clubs and callers have been teaching the new Plus calls since the start of the summer. I think CALLERLAB missed the communication boat on the "transitioning" to the new calls. What I heard was that the new lists took effect on September 1. Until the Jack Pladdys' "Chairman's Video", I wasn't aware there was a transitioning period starting Sept 1. Judging from the area-wide workshops, I think most people were under the same impression.

NCASDLA Members are gearing up for the fall dance season and for classes.





# CHOREO CORNER

*with Dick Otis*

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## **Time for another exciting edition of Choreo Corner!**

Well just to get the obvious out first for your situational awareness. September marks the start of Callerlab's new Plus Program. Area clubs have been holding classes on the 8 new calls and it's now official that Callers are encouraged to include these new calls in their program. The eight calls include:

- (1) Clover And,
- (2) Pair Off,
- (3) Partner Hinge,
- (4) Partner Tag,
- (5) Pass the Sea,
- (6) Scoot and Dodge,
- (7) Triple Trade, and
- (8) 1/4 Thru family, which includes 3/4 Thru.

Additionally, there are 13 calls that Plus dancers already know, moving from the Old Mainstream Program to the Plus Program:

Allemande Thars, Shoot the Star, Slip the Clutch, Circle to a Line, Cloverleaf, Dixie Style to a Wave, Do Paso, Eight Chain Thru, Pass to the Center, Spin Chain Thru, Turn Thru, Walk and Dodge, Walk Around / See Saw

Also new in September Callerlab published the Mainstream Dance Program Teaching Guide, which includes the new Mainstream Suggested Teaching Order. I did an analysis of the New Mainstream program in my March issues of CallsNCues which you can review at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2026CallsnCuesMarch>  
or if you like to type:  
<http://callsncues.cragg.info/26-02%20March-April/index.html#55>

Speaking of new classes, there are eight clubs in WASCA advertising a new fall class. Clubs generally offer one free 1st nighter. More information is available in CallsNCues,

<http://callsncues.cragg.info>

The Merry Notes are in their second year offering free Thursday night, Mainstream and Plus Classes September - May at the Herndon Senior Center. (Although you MAY need to pay the Dulles Toll Road toll to get there)

OK now that that's out of the way, the topic de jour is how the heck do we get new dancers in our clubs, and how do we treat them when they do come out to try a class.

This topic has been discussed to death by better people than me, and I certainly do not have the definitive answer. I can however, discuss some of the discussion topics. OK I cheated and asked ChatGPT and you know, their answer is not half bad!

"The biggest thing is to sell the experience, not the dance. A lot of people hear "square dancing" and picture something old-fashioned, complicated, or requiring special clothes. Your goal is to make it sound easy, social, and fun—even if they've never danced before.

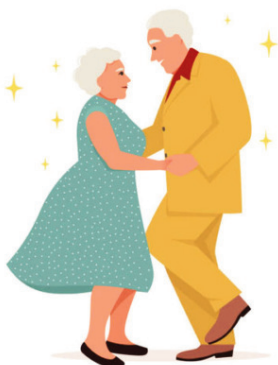
What tends to work

- Use "no experience necessary" prominently. People worry they'll look foolish.
- Make it social: "Meet people, laugh, move, and have a great night."

- *Remove the commitment:* Offer a free or very low-cost first class.
- *Tell them what to expect:* “No partner needed. No special shoes. We’ll teach you everything.”
- *Invite groups:* Couples, friends, singles, co-workers, parents and adult kids, etc.
- *Create a beginner night/event rather than simply advertising a recurring “class.”*
- *Show people having fun.* Short videos/photos of smiling beginners dancing together will likely outperform a text-heavy flyer.
- *Give people a reason to come this week:* a themed night, free first lesson, ice cream/social afterward, beginner mixer, etc.
- *Personally invite people.* A direct “Come try it with me!” is much stronger than a generic advertisement.”

Off the top of my head, my first answer would be their last bullet. A personal invite and offer to have them join you is always the best solution. Fear is not a motivator and most of the other recommendations are trying to overcome the fear of doing something for the first time. Or at least the first time since grade school many years ago.

My second answer is to recognize for many people times are tough. We hear every day in the media that the economy is in the dumps, people don’t have money for the basics, gas is expensive. Many people can’t afford to eat out. They can’t afford to go to the movies, not only by themselves but more so if they have kids. Once people get hooked on square (and/or round) dancing they will be willing to pay to dance. But learning to dance? Just another (avoidable) expense. My personal solution to this, because I’m in a unique position to do so, is free classes.



My third answer is advertising. I’m really bad at advertising. After college I applied for a sales job and at the interview, I was told “not for you, find something else to do”. (FYI I went and taught a year of 10th grade biology classes – that worked out OK – well until the 1967 draft).

The acknowledge expert of all time (at least by me) is Eva Murray. My head spins when she shows me what she is doing.

What I see people doing (including me) is making really nice flyers and distributing them throughout the square dance community. (I also advertise on the local Hendon Patch). The problem with this approach, is that you are preaching to the choir (e.g other dancers) which circles back to my first answer. You need that “personal testimonial” and participation from experienced dancers.

There is hope however. To me a bright star on the horizon is Grant Moser. There are other excellent new callers, but Grant is the one I’ve been working with.

Grant is (just) 17 and has been calling for a couple of years now. You may have seen his demonstration team at WASCA. Amazing. When he comes to call for Merry Notes, he usually shows up with two plus squares of his own club teen dancers. Grant calls for several clubs in the area (not always with his entourage in tow).

Young(er) people are the future of square dancing if we want to grow. And if we want to have callers to hire in the future. Just my thoughts.





# RDTA President's Message

by  
Ken & Berni Ryder

## ***Greetings, WASCA and MDSDF dancers***

We enjoyed dancing with many of our WASCA and MDSDF dancing friends at the Star Spangled Banner Festival this past July and hope everyone had a great time at the various other special dancing events available this summer. With Labor Day upon us and September at hand, we can now anticipate returning to outstanding dancing at our local round dance clubs. In Maryland, the Filardos will be dancing on Tuesday evenings, the Shottings on Sunday and Wednesday evenings with special dances on selected Saturdays, the Kincaids on alternative Friday evenings and the Buchanans on Thursday evenings. In Virginia, Christina Eum will dance on first Friday evenings, the Buchanans on Wednesday evenings at the Lincolnia Senior Center, the Hoppers on Tuesdays in the Charlottesville area, the Springers in the Richmond area, and the Ryders on Sunday evenings, Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings in the Springfield and Annandale areas.

The RDTA annual Butterfly Ball was held on Saturday, August 15, at a new locale -- the Greenbelt Community Center on Crescent Rd in Greenbelt Md. The large wooden floor in the Center's gymnasium provided an excellent dancing venue. We know the dancers who were able to join us thoroughly enjoyed the phase II-IV dances presented by Christina Eum, Eileen Hopper, Peg Kincaid, Amy Shotting and Ken Ryder. Special thanks to Berni Ryder for organizing the refreshment table. With all those tasty treats the cuer staff brought for everyone to enjoy, dancers had scrumptious goodies to savor while taking their breaks from the two and one-half hours of outstanding dancing. It was a great party time that everyone enjoyed.

RDTA is still making plans to hold their annual Autumn Leaves Ball later this fall in late October or early November. Once we determine a date, time, and place, we'll distribute a flyer and proposed dance program electronically through both the MDSDF and WASCA dancers portals,

As we resume dancing with our various clubs this fall, there are also opportunities for dancers to consider taking some round dance lessons to learn a new rhythm, a different activity, or "brush up" on some rhythms you're still not fully comfortable dancing. The Shottings will be holding a new beginner class on Monday evenings and a second year beginner class on Thursday evenings in MD; call the Shottings for more information. The Ryders will be holding a beginner class on Sunday evenings in VA. See the information available on all current Round Dance classes or workshops in the section on Dance Classes later in this Calls 'N Cues Issue and then check with one of the leaders holding a class convenient for you to see when they will be starting to teach or review a new rhythm.

We look forward to seeing and dancing with all our MDSDF and WASCA round dancer friends as they enjoying the return to local round dancing this fall.





Column  
By  
Peggy Portner

## ***REVVIN' IN '27***

### ***According to Taste***

Just saying the word, “revvin’”, evokes what? Gorgeous cars of course! Engines revving, chassis shaking, tires squealing, eyes glowing. Racetracks, highways, parking lots and school grounds are where drivers bring their cars to race, idle or even remain stationary, showing off the new Candy Apple Red paint job or brilliant graphics.

Once the wheel was invented, transportation, whether of items or of people, eventually became a thing of beauty as well as utility. One may indeed wonder if prehistoric teens decorated their stone-hewn ‘wheels’ with colorful flowers, vines or berries. Certainly, as soon as automobiles began replacing horse-drawn carriages, owners were personalizing them.

In the early 1900s, skilled artisans applied pinstriping to highlight body curves and panel edges. At first, this décor was reserved for wealthy drivers and upscale models. But by the ‘30’s and ‘40’ contrasting colors and ornate lines became less expensive and thus more popular, signs of both pride and personality. During the 1950’s to 1970’s, the Golden Age of Autos, artists like Von Dutch (a/k/a Kenneth Robert Howard, an American motorcycle mechanic, artist, pin striper, metal fabricator, knifemaker and gunsmith) popularized colorful graphics and freehand pinstriping. Also, ‘muscle cars’ had arrived, customized with bold applications like flames symbolizing power and rebellion. By 1980, vinyl graphics expanded the possibilities: pinstripe tape and pre-cut vinyl kits enabled drivers to apply customized looks without the previous high price tag of professional customization. Pinstriping became easily available in a variety of colors,

widths and styles. Today’s enthusiasts have available both hand-applied and custom or kit vinyl materials for both vintage and new cars: matte finishes, carbon fiber textures or retro-inspired stripes.

Early custom car shows displayed the growing culture of auto personalization. In the 50’s and 60’s these shows provided a platform to display owners’ creativity, fostering camaraderie and a friendly competitive spirit. Iconic events like the Detroit Autorama and the NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) drag racing competitions both popularized and propelled the automotive customization movement. More recently, celebrity culture has contributed as high-profile individuals showcase their individual cars, making certain styles desirable and aspirational. Even music such as hip hop uses, for example, custom tailored SUVs to exhibit musicians’ individual style.

### **Quotes from the internet about famous figures in the movement**

“Ed “Big Daddy” Roth stands out as a transformative figure, renowned for his innovative custom cars and imaginative designs in the 1950s and 1960s. His creations, such as the “Rat Fink” character, broke conventional boundaries and helped popularize hot rodding and customization among youth.

Another influential pioneer is George Barris, often called the “King of the Kustomizers.” Barris gained fame for transforming production cars into iconic custom vehicles, including the famous Batmobile for the 1960s Batman

TV series. His artistic vision contributed to mainstream acceptance of car customization as a legitimate form of creative expression.

Additionally, Boyd Coddington played a vital role from the late 20th century onward, elevating the craft of custom car building with his meticulous craftsmanship and innovative techniques. His influence is evident in the modern custom car industry, inspiring countless enthusiasts and professionals.”

### Examples of customization



Elaborate pinstriping



Flames



Colorful graphics



Customizing/advertising by Von Dutch