



UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

SQUARE DANCE – AMERICAN FOLK DANCE



USDA Beyond The Dance Floor

New Callers, Cuers & Dance Leaders

Care & Nurturing From The Club and Association Perspective

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Why are New Callers, Cuers, and Dance Leaders so Important?

- ▶ **New Callers & Cuers teach more dancers in more areas, and new dance leaders help their clubs and associations thrive.**

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What are the keys to promoting & preserving the joy of our dance for future generations?

- ▶ **1. New Callers**
- ▶ **2. New Cuers**
- ▶ **3. New Dance Leaders**
- ▶ **4. Focus on Social Connections**

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What is already being done to increase the number of new callers and cuers?

- ▶ **CALLERLAB & ROUNDALAB missions**
 - * Free caller schools at Nationals - GSI
 - * More caller coaches and more schools
 - * CALLERLAB & ROUNDALAB Conventions
 - * Mentoring by existing callers & cuers
 - * Online information is flourishing
 - * Local Caller Association mentoring

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What new ideas are being tried?

- ▶ “So you think you might want to call/cue” events.
- ▶ Online schools
- ▶ Online and Zoom mentoring
- ▶ Caller Schools before a Convention
- ▶ CALLERLAB Knowledgebase
- ▶ <https://knowledge.callerlab.org>

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What are the two most important steps now?

- ▶ 1. Spread the word throughout the dance world to increase awareness of the importance of having new callers, cuers, and dance leaders.
- ▶ 2. Challenge every leader and dancer to help in their own way.

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Why are those steps so important?

- * More leaders and dancers need to know how critical this effort is.
- * Every leader and dancer has a role they can act on now.
- * This effort is ongoing and continuous.
- * We are all our best ambassadors.

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Why do we call it care and nurturing?

Encouraging and introducing the idea of calling, cueing, or leading should be done:

- ▶ tactfully
- ▶ at their own pace
- ▶ with mini steps
- ▶ positive reinforcement
- ▶ keep it fun

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What is the best way to start?

- ▶ 1. Introduce the idea
- ▶ 2. Start simple with one step
- ▶ 3. Help mentor them to the next step
- ▶ 4. Keep it going and not overwhelming
- ▶ 5. Don't push too hard
- ▶ 6. Keep it fun

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Action Steps Now

- ▶ Sponsor an event with your club or local association
- ▶ Personal invitations are best
- ▶ Use online resources for support
- ▶ Social Connections are important
- ▶ Keep it positive and FUN!



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