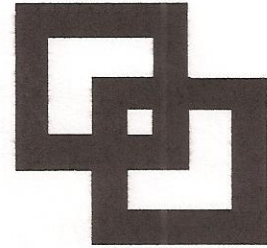




Lynn Nelson
Square Dance Caller/Instructor
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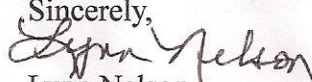


TO: KSDCA
RE: Scholarship

On Sunday, June 6, 2010, I arrived at the Kaw Valley Dance Center in Topeka, KS to attend the Heart of America Caller School, instructed by Jerry Junck, Paul Henze and Tim Marriner. All of these gentlemen are CALLERLAB certified caller coaches. We began about 2:15pm and worked until around 9pm, taking a 90 minute dinner break. The school continued until Thursday afternoon. Each day we would arrive at 9:00am and work until approximately noon. After a 90 minute lunch break we would return and work until 5:30pm and then return around 7:30 and work until between 9:30 and 10pm. There were 17 callers in attendance - 9 women and 8 men. The experience levels ranged from brand new to 28 years behind the microphone. Part of the time we were broken into 2 groups according to experience level and at other times, we worked as a single unit. Classes were fun and informative with positive reinforcement from the instructors. The topics covered ranged from basic choreography management, various types of sight calling, resolution, smoothness in choreography and singing calls, to showmanship, teaching and the business side of square dance calling. A complete syllabus was provided to each student for reference information and phone numbers were provided for each instructor with the invitation to call them at any time if we needed more information or clarification on anything covered in the school. A graduation dance was held on Wednesday evening for area dancers and each "student" caller participated in the program. The dance was well received with approximately 7-8 squares of dancers in attendance and 6 squares dancing all evening.

For my part, I explained that I wanted to polish my skills and become more proficient in calling in lines and recognizing relationships of the dancers while I did. I also wanted to increase my "showmanship" and smoothness in calling. All 3 instructors were willing to work with me to help me reach my goals. I learned not only from the instructors, but also from the other callers in the class. There was great comraderie and sharing of information.

I would recommend this school to anyone who would attend with an open mind and be willing to accept suggestions on how to improve their over all performance. The instructors helped us improve without ever making a negative comment in their critique of the callers' performance.

Sincerely,

Lynn Nelson