

“Unsung Heroes in Square Dancing”

By
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The American Callers' Association in its attempt to be of service to all callers, dancers, and associations has provided current, timely, and effective information 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 that will help the square dance community recruit, retain and retrieve square dancers as well as encourage the dancers to speak out on the cumbersome and segregationist dance programs.

This month's ACA Viewpoint advocates that despite our problems of declining membership and separatist dance programs it is always important to stop smell the roses and focus on a positive and encouraging side of Square Dancing. Square dancing is filled with stories of people who served the square dance activity and numerous less fortunate people throughout the years. Unfortunately, only a very few of these great people are known to fame and glory but many other square dancers who have gone unnoticed, unrecognized, and un-thanked are “Unsung Heroes.”

- Square dancers who have helped support church activities in supporting the infirmed are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers and square dance clubs who have helped raise funds to support such worthy activities as the Handicapable Square Dancer Activities are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers who understand that management and service to the Handicapable Square Dancers is a great honor and responsibility to bring immeasurable joy and happiness to these dancers are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers who work to recruit new dancers, retain current dancers and retrieve former dancers are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers who work as volunteers, unrecognized, in support of square dance activities such as jamborees are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers who are not callers but fill in for callers for extended periods of times often taking no compensation are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers who take the “fun, fellowship and friendship” values seriously and show by their thoughts and actions that their task is to live these values no just speak of them are “Unsung Heroes.”
- Square dancers who start new square dance activities where there are none are “Unsung Heroes.”

Sometimes the entire square dancing community sees the work of these “Unsung Heroes”. Oftentimes their work is only known to a crippled child, rest home resident, or someone in distress. To these square dance “unsung heroes” it doesn’t matter if their valued efforts are noticed or honored. For them, it is the service to the less-fortunate and other square dancers not the personal recognition, which matters.

“Unsung Heroism” is not a goal. It is a result of dedicated and caring people desiring to serve. “Unsung Heroism” is setting out to serve others. “Unsung Heroism” is not a matter of convenience. It is an irresistible impulse. An “Unsung Hero” does not help others when they have nothing else to do. They do it because it doesn’t occur to them not to do it.

During these times of conflict, unrest and decline in Square Dancing it might be very rewarding and inspiring to look at the actions of “Unsung Heroes.” They can be a source of pride and inspiration for us to muster the courage to recognize, imitate, and honor them and to heal our own wounds. As callers and square dancers it must be a great source of pride to realize that there are so many of these “Unsung Heroes”. It is an even greater pride to realize that they just like you – Are Square Dancers and Callers.

The Board of directors and all the members of the American Callers Association are honored to collectively thank these many “Unsung Heroes” and ask every person and organization in our beloved activity to join with us in honoring them.

Any individual, club, caller, or association who wishes to communicate his/her opinions on this subject is encouraged to contact the American Callers’ Association mac@americancallers.com or Dr. Patrick Demerath at pdemerath@troy.edu. Please visit our website and newsletters [@American Callers.com/news](http://AmericanCallers.com/news).
Until next time, happy dancing.