WELCOME TO TEACHING



TEACHING

The “Poor” Teacher Tells……

The “Fair” Teacher Explains……

The “Good” Teacher Demonstrates……



The “Great” Teacher…***INSPIRES !!***

TEACHING

- Teaching people to dance is probably the most challenging, yet, rewarding aspects of the caller's job.

- Teaching goes with the territory.
  - Teaching a beginner class
  - Answering a dancer's question
  - Workshop tip at a dance
  - Workshop session at a weekend or convention

- Successful teaching is achieved by effectively communicating your message. The caller needs to understand the demographics of the audience to effectively communicate.

TEACHING

Top Ten Keys To Successful Teaching

1. Patience…Patience…Patience
2. Continued education and improving personal skills
3. Keep the teaching fun – It's still a dance!
4. Communicating to your audience
5. Presentation skills
6. Technical knowledge of the definitions
7. Preparation and Flexibility to schedule
8. Conformity and loyalty to the activity
9. Teaching Habits
10. Passion for the activity

Patience… Patience… Patience

- A caller needs to be humble and patient.
- New dancers are older. They don't learn as quickly nor do they retain as easily what they've been taught.
- Be sensitive to the groups ability to learn. People learn and retain differently.
- Control your frustrations. Remember this is a recreation for the dancers, not a vocation.



“cause I want to call all the neat stuff but can't...”

“cause I feel like I've taught the best possible way and they still don't get it...”

“cause they're talking while I'm trying to teach...”

“cause I worked hard preparing for the dance and it doesn't make a difference...”

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Continue Education and Improving Personal Skills.

- Educators need to stay current.

1. CALLERLAB / ACA / Local associations
2. Weekend seminars and workshops
3. Caller Schools
4. Publications
5. Local schools, colleges, online classes.



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Keep The Teaching Fun – It's Still a Dance!

1. Approach each session like it's a dance.

2. Use singing calls every tip. Good way to practice what you just taught.

3. If time permits, you might try using an easy line or mixer.

4. Angel tips might be OK but be careful.

Communicating to Your Audience

1. Communication is more than just talking or reciting to your audience.

2. Communication requires a two part success to be effective: Sending and Receiving

3. The sender must be able to control the situation in order for the receiver to be receptive.

4. Generally good listening only absorbs about 30% of what is actually heard. Therefore, review and repeat is essential.

Presentation Skills

Methods of presentation can make or break you. Several ways to present:

1. Obviously verbal, but don't over use the lecture.
2. Keep the music low when explaining. No music can be boring and lead to daydreaming.
3. Demonstration / Visual aids
4. Try to reword the definitions to be more understandable.
5. Put down the mike and walk onto the dance floor. Great effect! And gets their full attention…..or use a remote mike.
6. Try something different on occasion, i.e. 2-Couple squares, big circle, etc.



Presentation Skills…..continued

Key points of good presentation

- Leave your troubles outside the hall.
- A two-hour session represents only 1 1/2 hours of dancing and instruction time. Don't waste your student’s time.
- Know your material.
- Try and use short sequences. Don’t waste time trying to resolve if you lost it anyway.
- Don't teach material because YOU need it.
- Don't waste time showing off.
- Control your floor time. (15 to 20 min. max)
- Give individual help between tips.
- Observe floor for "overload."
- Treat every failure as if you caused it. (You probably did.)
- Think like a beginner.
- Maintain class attention at all times. (You are the teacher.)

Presentation Skills…..continued

Key points of good presentation

- Self-control - If you can't control yourself, how can you control a class?
- Reward with sincere praise. Don’t scold individuals.
- Try not to embarrass anyone.
- Humor helps, but laugh at yourself, or with them. **Never at them.**
- Don't allow a problem student to hurt the class
- Don't use phrases like "when you are a dancer.” They are dancers after their first step on the floor.
- Remember the objective is to teach them to dance, not just to provide more people and revenue for a club.
- Your appearance is the example they will follow.
- Don't teach something you will have to "unteach" later.
- Teach etiquette and philosophy. (You have a responsibility to the square dance activity.)
- Don't allow bad dancing habits to be introduced by your helpers.

TEACHING

Technical Knowledge of the Definitions

1. Teacher needs to be the expert. Many dancers will challenge definitions.

2. Stay current on changes.

3. Have a copy of the current definitions on hand. It's OK to refer to your definitions throughout an evening or if you get challenged. Better than trying to fake it and get caught.

4. Not a good idea to publicly second guess the validity of a definition or a suggested teaching order. If you don't like it, get on a committee to affect change.

https://callerlab.org/general-documents/

Preparation and Flexibility to Schedule

Preparation is important.

1. **Lesson plans**
2. **Are your Angels trained?**
3. **Location, lighting, temperature, dance floor, sound, refreshments**



Factors requiring flexibility include:

1. **Not all people learn at the same speed. Assuming that they do can lead to failure. Some need more repetition than others.**
2. **Unfortunately, not everyone is going to be at class every week. Emphasize the importance of attendance and how it positively and negatively affects the rest of the group.**
3. **Control the troublemakers and class clowns. This is a tough one, but these are the guys that will throw you off schedule.**

Conformity and Loyalty to the Activity

1. Subscribe to a code of ethics. You are responsible as an ambassador to square dancing. New people will form their initial opinion of the activity based upon your leadership.

2. 23 really smart callers got together in 1974 and created a standardized form of square dancing. People all over the world can now travel and dance with their square dance brothers and sisters without worry. Let's keep it that way. You may not agree with everything they accomplished or created….but guess what….you can create and promote positive change by getting involved.

3. Try to work with your local callers and teachers associations to stay standard in your own areas. Nothing more frustrating than calling a "halfway" or "hi-lo" dance to folks who are learning from different teaching orders or lists that don't even include all the calls.

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Teaching Habits

1. Stay focused on the subjects at hand. No crusading.
2. Prepare a lesson plan. It shows when you're not prepared.
3. Give a summary of what you will be reviewing and what is on the agenda for the evening.
4. Don't waste new dancers time promoting a dance or an upcoming project that only experienced dancers can attend.
5. Try to learn names and use them.
6. Positive reinforcement is important. Don't belittle anyone.
7. Know when to quit. Let people be successful. Try not to teach on the last tip or two.
8. Try to not be late or go over the allotted time.

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Passion for the Activity

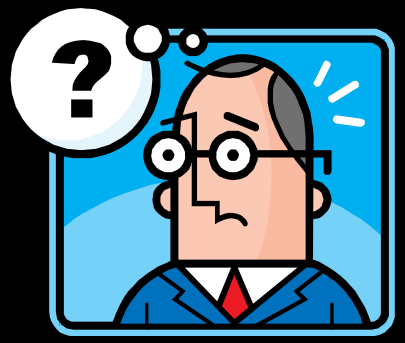
- ***Passion is a powerful emotion, such as love, joy, or anger.***
- ***Passion is the energy that comes from bringing more of YOU into what you do.***
- ***Passion is the drive that keeps you positive and focused during times of suffering.***

TEACHING

A Typical Jack Pladdys Teaching Night

6:30 – 7:00	Set up equipment, computer rotation, and greet dancers.
7:00 – 7:10	Call an easy patter focusing on material from two weeks prior.
7:10 – 7:15	Singing call (I use pretty much same figure all the way through.)
7:20 – 7:35	Review material taught previous week. (About 5-7 minutes of walk-through with 8-10 minutes of patter.)
7:35 – 7:40	Singing call.
7:45 – 8:00	New material teach.
8:00 – 8:05	Singing Call.
8:10 – 8:25	New material teach.
8:25 – 8:30	Singing Call.
8:30 – 8:40	Depends on situation. Might do a quick angel tip (very short patter and a singer) early in the year. Later in the year could use time for an extra class tip or line dance.
8:40 – 8:45	Club announcements. Keep them pertinent to the class.
8:45 – 9:00	Last tip. Patter and a singer. MUST BE A CONFIDENCE BUILDER!!!

QUESTIONS



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ANSWERS

