



WESTERN STAR DANCERS

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Policy Index as of September 5, 1991

Revised July 16, 2007

Affirmed by the Board of Directors November 19, 2007

Policy Statement No. 1

CLUB PARTICIPATION IN JOINTLY SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

GENERAL

All proposals to Western star Dancers for participation in jointly sponsored activities must be made in writing before the Board of Directors can consider the proposal. The following sections constitute WSD's position on jointly sponsored activities. While the Board of Directors will consider negotiation of some of the points, this statement of policy should be considered fairly inflexible.

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of a jointly sponsored activity should certainly be for the enjoyment of the groups' members and to provide an enjoyable square dance experience. However, ***the ultimate purposes should be for the benefit of some charity or outside organization.***

FINANCIAL

2. The amount charged at the door for participation should be a standard amount for a regular dance in the Bay Area, or in the locality where the event is to take place.
3. Expenses to be paid in advance will be shared equally by all participating groups, as well as accountable expenses which are settled subsequently to the event.
4. Any loss will be borne equally by all participating groups.
5. Any profits after expenses will be given to a pre-determined charity or outside organization.

6. It is WSD's experience that the following activities are associated especially with a dance. All these responsibilities should be equally shared and executed.

- A. Advertising
- B. Hall rental
- C. Refreshments
- D. Decorations
- E. Caller fees
- F. Sound system
- G. Hosts to work the door
- H. Set up of hall
- I. Clean up of hall

The activities/responsibilities are subject to change and/or adjustment to meet the needs of the particular activities.

COORDINATING ACTIVITIES

7. Each group will appoint their own central coordinating representative. Only these representatives will make decisions which affect the activity as a whole. Subsequently, special committees may be established, but the committees will seek their guidance from the coordinating (or steering) committee.

8. There will be no solicitations for individual groups from the microphone. An information table will be available for distribution of printed literature.

DANCE FORMAT

If the activity is a square dance, these criteria must be met:

9. The level of the dance is proportionate to the total number of dancers in the groups dancing at those levels. For example, if 70% of all dancers in the groups are Mainstream, then 70% of the tips are Mainstream. The definitions of "levels" are as defined by Callerlab.

10. The dance format should be as a standard square dance; that is, a tip consists of one hash and one singing call or of three singing calls with no hash.

11. There must be at least one accredited caller engaged for the dance; however, caller trainees may be invited to participate.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 8, 1984

Revised June 2007

Policy statement No. 2 DRESS CODE

GENERAL

Western Star Dancers recognizes that, in the world of square dancing, there is considered to be a general style of dress appropriate to square dancing. However, because of the composition of the Club members, WSD has determined the following to be its policy on acceptable attire.

GUIDELINES

1. For any class or club night, dance, or exhibition sponsored by Western Star Dancers, there is no required form of dress imposed upon any participant. This is to be interpreted in the broadest possible terms.

2. For the purpose of exhibitions outside the Club where the Club is being represented by the participants, the participants may agree among themselves to adopt a certain form of attire.

3. WSD has adopted an official uniform: White shirt with the WSD logo on the left breast, black trousers, and black shoes. Club vests from past years are all acceptable. The uniform is seldom proscribed. All members are encouraged to purchase the white uniform shirt (available through our on-line vendor) or other item with the WSD logo, and to wear it as often as possible, especially when participating in square dance activities outside of WSD.

4. When members participate in square dance activities not sponsored by WSD, the Club strongly encourages those members to dress in attire that is considered appropriate by the sponsoring club or organization.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 3, 1984

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy statement No. 3 SELECTIVE DANCING

GENERAL

As with all square dance clubs, Western Star Dancers cannot tell its members with whom they can dance. Since selective dancing, or consistently squaring up with the same people, defeats the social purpose of a square dance club, WSD makes the following policy.

PURPOSE

All activities of WSD are to be directed towards satisfactory dance/social experiences for the Club as a whole. In order to avoid the creation of cliques within the Club, WSD wishes to state that consistent selective dancing will not be tolerated.

GUIDELINES

1. Couples and close friends may wish to be considered a pair and to always dance as a pair. It is not acceptable for groups of four pairs to consistently square up.
2. All club and class members are encouraged to dance with as many different people at each dance activity as possible. This will promote the development of friendships and will help develop a sense of cooperation and achievement among all participants.
3. Dancing with many different partners and squares provides experience necessary for participation in square dance activities sponsored by other clubs or organizations.
4. All club and class members are expected to be aware of guests who may be present and to welcome them to WSD. They are not to be ignored when squaring up nor expected to find their own partners. WSD members are expected to take the initiative in asking guests to dance, even if more than one member should offer.
5. In determining whether or not a square is consistently selectively dancing, the members should be guided by whether or not they are expanding friendships made at (not before) the Club activities and whether or not they can recall dancing with most of the members.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 3, 1984

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy statement No. 4 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL

Western Star Dancers sponsors annual Mainstream classes, and graduates of those classes are automatically members in the Club.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set the guidelines for acceptance as Club members of those who request membership and have not attended classes sponsored by the Club.

GUIDELINES

1. Graduates of the Western Star Dancers Mainstream Class are granted the rights and privileges of membership for the remainder of the calendar year. Each graduate is given a name badge. They are no longer exempt from paying admission at club events. Membership is not granted to anyone who completes Plus Class with WSD after completing Mainstream elsewhere.
2. It is the policy of Western Star Dancers to encourage membership in the Club among those who dance with the Club on a regular basis.
3. Applicants who are already proficient in the Mainstream calls may become eligible for membership upon satisfaction of the following requirements:
 - A. Completion of an Application for Membership (Form One or Form Two).
 - B. Demonstrate proficiency in the full Mainstream program as defined by Callerlab.
 - C. Payment of Club dues owed through the remainder of the current year.
4. Final decisions will be made by the Board of Directors according to the membership policy set forth in the By-Laws of Western Star Dancers.
5. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, recommend reasonable methods for applicants to restore full Mainstream proficiency if they have been unable to dance for a period of time.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 29, 1984

AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March, 1986

AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July, 1986

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy statement No. 5 TAGGING-IN

GENERAL

Tagging-in is a procedure which allows all available dancers to participate in a single tip when there are dancers willing to dance but a complete square cannot be formed. It is, however, potentially disruptive of the dance.

PURPOSE

The guidelines which follow should be acted upon with courtesy and fairness on Club nights and at formal dances.

GUIDELINES

1. Each club night and dance will have an announced general program level.
2. Tagging-in is neither necessary nor desirable during tips called at the general level; there is always ample opportunity for all to dance during the course of the evening.
3. Dancers are encouraged, however, to voluntarily trade out in favor of others if the turnout is small and especially if guests are waiting to dance.
4. There may be only one or two higher-level star tips at most dances; therefore, the procedure outlined below may be followed to allow all qualified dancers to participate:
 - A. The cue square is not available for tagging-in unless it is the only square on the floor.
 - B. Up to three couples may tag into the same square.
 - C. All couples, including those tagging-in, must be in place before the tip begins and remain with the same square throughout the tip.
 - D. Individuals may tag in following the same rules as couples.
 - E. Before the beginning of the tip, persons tagging-in stand behind couple #1 (or #2 or #3 respectively for additional couples). Each time the active dancers return to a squared-up formation, those waiting tag in and those tagged out rotate and wait behind the next position along the line of dance.

DURATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy for tagging-in is considered a temporary policy in effect until December 31, 1984. After that date, it must be reviewed and appropriate action taken by the Board of Directors.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 29, 1984

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS A PERMANENT POLICY

June 10, 1985

Policy statement No. 6 SISTER CITY CLUB

BACKGROUND

In April, 1984, after the close of the First International Gay Square Dance Convention in Seattle, Washington, a group of nine Western Star members went to Vancouver, B.C., Canada, to dance with the gay square dance club Squares Across the Border on their class night. There were ten of their members at that class, and we socialized for many hours after class. The clubs enjoyed each other so much that those members present decided that the two clubs would become sister city clubs. This follows the precedence of San Francisco having a sister city in another part of the world.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to memorialize the fact that this arrangement exists between Western Star Dancers and Squares Across the Border. This gesture is in keeping with the highest ideals of square dancing in that it encourages the growth of friendships and promotes square dancing around the world.

BADGES

The two clubs agreed that the nine Western Star and ten Squares Across the Border members who danced together in April, 1984, would be given a club badge of their sister city club signifying them as "honorary" members. Thereafter, any other members from one club who danced with the sister city club at one of its home functions would receive an honorary member badge from the sister city club.

CHARTER HONORARY MEMBERS

The nine charter honorary members from Western Star Dancers are:

Scott Carey
Dennis Hopkins
Ron Douglass
Russ King
Reisa Glickman
Cap Moran
Alan Hall

Freeman Stamper
Bert Hobbs

The ten charter honorary members from Squares Across the Boarder are:

Tony Flavell
Murray Lush
Kevin Floen
David Ogilvie
Stan Gabriel
Carol Roberts
Allan Gillis
Thumper
Elgin Hodgkin
William Trachtenburg

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 23, 1985

Policy statement No. 7

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

BACKGROUND

Many Western Star Dancers members are with the Club for varying lengths of time and then, for a variety of reasons, are no longer able to participate with the Club. However, during their association with Western star, they make contributions which significantly benefit the Club as a whole. Likewise, the Club is the recipient of services from individuals who are not square dancers but their efforts add immeasurably to the overall organization of the Club and the rewards inure to the membership as individuals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to establish a formal procedure by which extraordinary service to Western Star Dancers by former members and non-members may be recognized in a public and continuing manner.

PROCEDURE

1. Club Members who provide significant extended, exemplary services to Western Star Dancers may be awarded the designation of "Lifetime Member of Western Star Dancers."
2. Persons who are square dancers and provide significant services to Western Star Dancers may be awarded the designation of "Honorary Member of Western Star Dancers."
3. Persons who are not square dancers and provide significant services to Western star Dancers may be awarded the designation of "Friend of Western Star Dancers."
4. It is intended that the awarding of these designations will be done with a degree of restraint so as not to dilute the importance of the award. While there are no prescribed guidelines for measuring the amount of service necessary for consideration, it is anticipated that "significant" will be considered as sustained, exemplary or extraordinary performance of service.
5. Any of these awarded designations can be done only by a majority vote of the full Board of Directors.
6. As an honorary member or a friend, the individual will not be required to pay membership dues and will have no right to vote or hold office. The benefits accorded the designee are an appropriate Club badge and the opportunity to be listed in the Club's Directory with an indication of his or her awarded status. Lifetime members retain their right to vote, but are not required to pay membership dues.
7. The appropriate badges for recognized individuals shall imitate the club badge, but with a silver grey background. The word "Friend," "Honorary," or "Lifetime" will be prominently featured
8. In the event an honorary member returns to dancing with the Club on a regular basis to participate as a regular member or a friend becomes a square dancer and participates with the Club as a regular member, he or she will be expected to pay dues and, thus, receive all the benefits of a regular member of Western Star Dancers.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 23, 1985
Revised June 5, 2007

Policy statement No. 8

REPRESENTATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS

BACKGROUND

The International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs ("IAGSDC" and "the Association") By-Laws requires each member club to appoint a representative to the Association to act as a liaison between it and the member club and to serve on the Executive Board of the Association. Western Star Dancers is a member of the Association. Because the Association conducts its business at meetings in conjunction with the annual convention, representation cannot be fixed to an annual calendar basis.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to establish a formal procedure for the selection of the Western Star representation to the IAGSDC, define the responsibilities, and set the tenure for such representation.

PROCEDURE

1. Positions: The Board of Directors shall appoint the following positions:
 - A. Representative (synonymously referred to as "delegate")
 - B. Assistant Representative (synonymously referred to as "alternate delegate")
2. Criteria for Appointment: The Board of Directors may appoint any Club member who it considers is qualified to fulfill either position.
3. Nominees: Persons considered for both positions may be brought to the attention of the Board by either self-nomination or nomination of another Club member.
4. Tenure:
 - A. "Term" Defined. A term is considered to be any full or partial period between IAGSDC conventions.
 - B. Representative. Appointed at least one month prior to the current-year convention to begin serving as the Representative at the close of that convention through the close of the immediately following IAGSDC convention. May serve in this position no more than two terms consecutively. If the Representative is not succeeding him/herself, the newly appointed Representative will serve as the Assistant Representative from the time of appointment through the close of the current-year convention.
 - C. Assistant Representative. Must be appointed at least one month prior to the current-year convention, but may be appointed at any time prior to that date. Serves from the time of appointment until the appointment of a new Assistant Representative. If the Representative is not succeeding him/herself, automatically becomes the Representative for the following term. If the Representative is succeeding him/herself, continues to serve as the Assistant Representative until the appointment of another Assistant Representative. Additionally, should the term of the Representative not be fulfilled and there is an incumbent filling this position, the Assistant Representative automatically becomes the Representative through the completion of the current term.
5. Removal: Either incumbent may be removed by action of the Board of Directors for just cause.
6. Duties:
 - A. Representative. Shall faithfully express to the Association the thoughts of Western Star Dancers through his/her communications with the general membership and/or the Board of Directors. S(he) shall comply with all requirements of the IAGSDC in keeping Western Star Dancers an integral part of the Association. S(he) shall also regularly consult with the Assistant Representative on matters of correspondence to the Association and decisions in order to prepare the Assistant Representative for future responsibilities.
 - B. Assistant Representative. Shall be ready to assume the responsibilities of Representative whenever designated. S(he) shall regularly consult with the Representative on matters of correspondence to the Association and decisions in order to prepare for future responsibilities.
7. Board of Directors status:
 - A. Representative. Shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of Western Star Dancers and is expected to regularly attend Board meetings. As an ex-officio member, s(he) is expected to maintain all levels of confidence expected of all elected members.
 - B. Assistant Representative. Is not an ex-officio member of the Board and attends Board meetings only at the request of the Board as communicated through the administrator.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 12, 1985

Policy statement No. 9 OUTSIDE CLUB PRESENTATIONS

BACKGROUND

Western Star Dancers receives requests from time to time to do demonstrations of square dancing for a variety of organizations and activities. Other clubs in the Bay Area are also asked to do demonstrations, and the type of demonstration given by the individual clubs is determined greatly by the "personality" or philosophy of the club.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the present philosophy of the general membership of the Club regarding outside Club demonstrations.

TERMINOLOGY

Although it is just a question of semantics, since Western Star Dancers does not have an established, regularly practicing group for exhibition purposes, all activities of an exhibition or demonstration nature will be referred to as "presentations."

REQUESTS FOR PRESENTATIONS

1. All requests for participation of Western Star Dancers at an event must be submitted to the Board of Directors. The Board will determine the most suitable type of presentation and shall appoint one or more Board members who shall be responsible for the presentation.
2. The Board retains the right to decline an invitation if it is deemed not to be in the best interest of the Club.

STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRESENTATIONS

1. Whenever possible, the Board should plan for a teaching-type of presentation.
2. Proposals for participation should be presented to the general membership for its input and for finalization of the proposal.
3. Depending on the lead time available, the Board and the general membership should expect to handle these matters on a Wednesday Club night with or without prior notice.

APPROVED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

September 18, 1985

Policy Statement No. 10 ALCOHOL SALES

GENERAL

It is the policy of Western Star Dancers not to sell alcohol or allow open consumption at our Club, Class or Plus nights as well as at any of our dances. Exceptions to this policy would be at those events which are primarily for socializing or for entertaining and not dancing; such as: parties, after-dance events, retreats, or benefits such as "La star 1985" which, as defined above, were primarily for the socializing or entertainment of our members. In any case where the application of this policy is not clear, the Board should request the decision of the general membership.

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

March 26, 1986

Policy statement No. 11 CLUB INTERVENTION IN DISPUTES

POLICY

In regard to disputes which have a direct effect on Club activities, a Club member may request that a Board member investigate and suggest a logical course of action. Major disputes may require consideration by the full Board.

BACKGROUND

After discussion in several meetings, the Board agreed on the text above as Western Star Dancers Policy. The sense was that while some problems might require official intervention, Board members would prefer as much flexibility as possible rather than a rigid structure for dealing with such difficulties. The Board had cause to address the issue of disruptive, offensive behavior by individual club members because the matter had been placed on the general meeting agenda several times.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

about February, 1988

Policy statement No. 12 REPEAT STUDENT CLASS FEES

GENERAL

Any paid-in-full class member may repeat that same level of class dancing the same gender in the next scheduled class at no additional cost.

DISCUSSION

Western Star Dancers has no policy of refund of class fees paid. Some students find it necessary to drop out before the end of a particular class, and some students miss significant amounts of class. Some students have gained inadequate proficiency in that particular program, and the Club may wish to suggest that the student

repeat the class. In all instances, it is best for the dancer and the Club for the student to repeat that class; however, the Club does not wish to cause a financial burden.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 8, 1989

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy statement No. 13 PUBLICATIONS

GENERAL

The purpose of WSD's publications is to improve communications (1) within WSD and (2) between WSD and the IAGSDC Community. The content of each publication is directed specifically towards the audience which reads it. The selection of material is the prerogative of the Editor and is directed by the purpose of the particular publication. Opinions expressed are those of the author of any given article and reflect the opinions of WSD or the Board of Directors only when specifically noted.

ADVERTISING

WSD will not advertise any event, product or service which discriminates against any person or group on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, age, gender or sexual orientation.

THE WESTERN STAR

1. The purpose of THE WESTERN STAR is to disseminate information of a time-sensitive nature to all members. It is mailed monthly to all members, and as a courtesy to all IAGSDC clubs.
2. The categories of information which may be included have the following priority:
 - a. Calendar and time-sensitive announcements of WSD events
 - b. Members' personal advertisements -these are complimentary
 - c. Announcements of other IAGSDC club events at the Basic, Mainstream and Plus programs
 - d. Announcements of other square dance events at the Basic, Mainstream and Plus programs, or other events which may appeal to the majority of our membership
3. Editing is directed solely towards achieving accuracy of scheduling information at press time; errors in contributed material are the responsibility of the contributor. Schedule changes which occur after press time will be noted on the club's website (www.westernstardancers.org) and in email sent through the club's Yahoo! Groups mailing list.

WWW.WESTERNSTARDANCERS.ORG

1. The purpose of the club website are to provide current information, promote a positive image of WSD and square dancing, offer an archive of photos and memorabilia, and list pertinent contact information.
2. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Webmaster to maintain the site.

WSD YAHOO! Group

1. WSD maintains three Yahoo! Group mailing lists:
 - a. WSD Members—All club members are encouraged to enroll in this list. This list is open to any one who wishes to receive email noticed intended to all members.
 - b. WSD Dancers—All members of the current Mainstream class are invited to join this group to receive the latest class information and reminders from the archangel.
 - c. WSD Board—All Board of Directors are subscribed to this board.
2. Any club member may post to WSD Members, but posts should be limited to square dance related topics. Violators will be removed from the list.
3. The lists best serve for disseminating factual information. Debates or discussions should take place in more appropriate, ideally, face-to-face settings.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 28, 1989

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy Statement No. 14 INSTRUCTION PHILOSOPHY CONCERNING CLASS STRUCTURE

GENERAL

Western Star Dancers periodically offers classes in the Basic, Mainstream, and Plus programs as defined by Callerlab. The purpose of these classes is to prepare the students to be able to enjoy square dancing activities at their current levels of proficiency outside their class both within and outside the Club.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines by which the students and the Club can attempt to measure the accomplishment of the instructional goals. Additionally, this policy outlines a philosophy by which students may make choices among other available social and recreational activities.

A. INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS & PRIMARY PHILOSOPHIES

1. WSD provides instruction that is paced in a particular program to bring an average student to a standard of proficiency at which the dancer may independently support him/herself in a square.
2. WSD exposes students in its classes for all programs to non-standard dancer/partner positions. This is referred to as DBD (dance by definition) and APD (all-position dancing).
3. In addition to square dance instruction, the Club provides sufficient non-dancing social activities so that the students have the opportunity to develop friendships outside of class.
4. Western Star Dancers subscribes to and emphasizes the etiquette standards as prescribed by Callerlab or which are generally accepted by the greater square dance community.
5. All class and Club-related activities which are considered necessary for instruction or are primarily for square dancing are substance free.
6. Teaching styling which impedes an understanding of the definition of calls or allowing styling which is learned outside of Western Star's class is not encouraged. Styling may be incorporated in the instruction at the discretion of the caller/instructor(s).
7. WSD encourages all students to dance with many different dancers.
8. It is the policy of this Club to have the greatest degree of latitude possible in recommending graduation from a particular program. Graduation from the Basic, Mainstream and Plus programs is not considered to be automatic. A consensus of the instructor(s) and Club members responsible for the coordination of the class is derived from an evaluation of current knowledge, demonstrated progress, and the ability to continue to progress.

B. DISCUSSIONS

1. Duration & Fee

- a. The length of a class is stated in number of weeks but is not to be considered an absolute. The general personality of each class and the administrative details for the Club, as well as other factors, may increase or decrease the duration of the class.
- b. The fee announced for a particular class is considered to cover all the calls in that program, not a specific number of weeks.
- c. If completion dates are extended, other types of Club dance activities may already have been scheduled on nights which are newly-designated as class nights. Attempts will be made to provide class-level dance opportunities on those dates; however, a supplemental dance fee may be assessed. Attendance at these non-class evenings is optional to students.

2. DBD/APD Concepts

- a. All programs taught will emphasize the Callerlab concepts of DBD (dance by definition) and APD (all position dancing). To achieve average proficiency requires an understanding of these concepts.
- b. Teaching non-traditional, or non-standard, positioning is particularly important in allowing the Club to provide dance opportunities which are both fun and challenging. This "double exposure" may necessitate extending a class beyond the normal, or standard, duration. Incorporating the APD/DBD concept from the beginning builds stronger, more flexible dancers.
- c. The Club recommends that a student dance only one partner position throughout the entire instruction for a particular program. In the gay square dance community exists the word "bidancual"-- meaning a dancer is capable of dancing either the left- or right-hand position with enough proficiency to support that position in the square. with experience, students as well as Club members are encouraged to become bidancual. This is encouraged, not required.

3. Workshops

- a. During instructional periods, the Club attempts to provide workshops for which attendance is optional. The purpose of workshops is to provide instruction for those who have missed a class, need additional exposure to particular calls, or simply wish to have additional dance experience.
- b. From time to time, the consensus of the instructors and the class archangel may result in the recommendation to a student(s) that attendance at workshops is beneficial to his or her best interest, as well as that of the other students.

4. Square Dancing As Social Activity

- a. Square dancing ~ fun, as well as physically and mentally stimulating. Square dancing is a cooperative activity and requires dancers to develop the ability to interact with many different personalities.
- b. As with any education process, all learning is not fun. Classes require a balance of fun in learning and satisfaction of achievement by the majority of the students.
- c. Students are encouraged to attend as many activities as possible which are socially, not instruction, oriented. It is believed that these social activities outside the class environment will help to minimize the need of some students to use the class solely as a fun social experience.

5. Etiquette

- a. Etiquette is considered as vital to square dance education as learning calls. with a few exceptions which are closely aligned with the gay square dance community, WSD practices the etiquette standards as prescribed by Callerlab or which are generally accepted by the greater square dance community.
- b. The specific points which are addressed below are not all the aspects of etiquette which are part of the Club's program, but they are of paramount importance and need to be emphasized early in the class environment.
- c. Punctuality allows class to begin on time. Other students are not disrupted by rearranging partners and/or squares once the tip has begun.
- d. The caller/instructor(s) are supreme during the tip. If mistakes in instruction are made, continue with the tip and clarify the situation during the break. Corrections by the caller/instructor(s) can be made at the beginning of the next tip.
- e. Rough/rude dancing will not be tolerated as it is not only impolite but also unsafe. others can be injured by unexpected forceful movements. A forceful dancer could be wrong in attempting to correct other dancers.
- f. Once a square has formed or the tip has begun, it is extremely discourteous to leave a square for any reason other than an emergency. Learn to hang in there and do your best. There can always be a different square next time.
- g. Use of alcohol and other substances is not part of standard square dancing. The enjoyment of those in a square depends upon everyone performing his/her part independently and accurately. All people (students and Club members) who arrive at class intoxicated or under the influence of other substances will be asked not to participate that evening. There are some activities sponsored by the Club at which the consumption of alcohol is permitted. However, where the primary purpose of a Club-sponsored event is square dancing, alcohol is not permitted. The presence of alcohol would prohibit participation by those dancers who desire not to associate with these substances. It is important to remember that the primary purpose of our club being a square dance club is to square dance.
- h. Instances of behavior or performance which is disruptive to the class will be addressed by the caller/instructor(s) , the Board of Directors, or the Board's designee on an individual basis.
- i. Styling can be fun, but it is extremely disruptive when not executed the same way by all dancers. Students are taught the basic calls without styling in order to build a strong, flexible dancer in the DBD/APD concepts. One of the cardinal rules of etiquette is that styling is dropped completely for the tip when the styling becomes disruptive to any of the members of the square. Therefore, the basic definitions of all calls must be understood and practiced without styling.

6. Prearranged Squares

- a. It is standard courtesy for all students to dance with each other, not just a select few. Students should take the initiative to ask someone to dance or move immediately to the floor to the nearest existing uncompleted square or to form a new square and wait for someone to join them as a partner.
- b. Western Star Dancers is considered a singles club in both the gay and non-gay square dance community. The Club recognizes the importance of couple relationships, whether as domestic partners or friends. Couples are not discouraged from consistently dancing together. However, groups of students should not consistently form squares so that they do not have the opportunity of dancing frequently with other members of the class.
- c. From time to time, it may be necessary for the caller/instructor to rotate couples or individuals from square to square in order to diplomatically allow less-proficient dancers the opportunity to dance with more-proficient ones. It may also be necessary to rotate entire squares in the hall to ensure that the caller/instructor(s) has the opportunity to observe all students as they dance in the front of the hall.

7. Angels

- a. A club member who is not the instructor will be designated as the archangel to serve as a liaison between the students and the instructor(s) , the angels, the Board of Directors, and the Club. The archangel acts as the students' confidant (e) and advocate should issues arise.
- b. Club members who have already completed the class program are available to assist in the orderly administration of class activities and are called "angels." Angels are present to help students, not impede them. If an angel is disruptive, students should discuss the matter with the archangel.
- c. Students may ask specific angels to be a partner or angels may from time to time choose specific students as partners in order to reinforce instruction. However, it is the policy of this Club that students should get as much time as possible. Angels will be asked to withdraw from a square in order to get all students on the floor. This is true even for occasional tardiness.

8. Graduation

- a. There are no specific measurements by which to determine proficiency in a given program. Assessing proficiency is a highly subjective process, and the recommendations vary according to the individual. Being a good dancer is related to experience--how often one dances while learning and how considerate one is of other dancers in the square.

- b. Dancers are not expected to be of equal proficiency. The ultimate consideration is whether or not a student can have enjoyable dancing experiences after graduation and whether or not other dancers will enjoy dancing with the student at his/her current level of proficiency.
- c. The following points are part of the evaluation process but are not conclusive:
 1. Command of fundamentals such as corners, opposites, circulate, trade, turn through, and facing lines.
 2. Frequency of mistakes and repetitiveness of certain mistakes.
 3. Degree of assistance which the student can provide to his/her partner or corner.
 4. Ability to adapt a familiar call to a new formation.
 5. Precision in finishing calls such as circulating exactly once and a half and aligning with walls for linear movements.
 6. Ability to recognize the need for recovery assistance and willingness to accept assistance.
 7. Demeanor when dancing--one of confidence and control or one of confusion and frustration.

9. Beginning Successive Programs

- a. The policy of Western Star Dancers is not to encourage a student to begin another program until he/she has an adequate understanding of the calls in the program he/she is currently dancing.
- b. Since learning more square dance calls is a building-block process, it is unfair to the students for the Club to introduce new programs too quickly. Additionally, it is disruptive to other dancers for students to incorrectly assess their proficiency and begin another program prematurely.
- c. It is the policy of Western Star Dancers to provide adequate experience to improve response time in executing calls so that students beginning another program will be strong, flexible dancers.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 28, 1990

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy Statement No. 15 **CLASS FEES FOR CURRENT & PRIOR CLUB MEMBERS**

GENERAL

WSD uses angels to complete squares in its classes. Many of the Club members like to angel to learn the other role or to reinforce prior instruction. However, the Club is committed to having the beginning students dance at all times, and it is frequently necessary for angels to be asked to step out of a square to be replaced with a beginning student in the program being taught. Additionally, the Club usually has current members who for various reasons have periods of inactivity and wish to attend class to regain lost proficiency. Also, from time to time, former Club members wish to rejoin the Club but feel they need to go through class again because of the amount of time lapsed since their last regular dancing.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to establish the criteria, fee structure, and responsibilities of current and prior Club members who wish to be considered students in current classes. Through this policy, the Club believes it will encourage its members to stay with square dancing for longer periods of time and, at the same time, maintain a higher proficiency in its regular dance programs.

POLICY

1. Any square dancer who is or ever has been a dues-paying member of Western Star Dancers may enroll in any Western Star class for which they have had prior instruction as an official student. "Dues-paying member" are the operative words.
2. The class fee to any student enrolling under the provisions of this policy is one-half the advertised fees for that class. Members who may have taken a class but now wish to learn the following program, will be expected to pay the full class fee. For example, a dancer who completes the Mainstream class and now wishes to learn the Plus program would pay the full class fee for Plus.
3. Students under this policy will receive the same privileges and instructional attention as regular students. They will not be considered angels and be subject to removal from a square in favor of newer dancers.
4. Students under this policy will be expected to adhere to the expectations of regular students, especially as concerns regular attendance, punctuality, and attentiveness to the instructor. These students are not to consider themselves angels and should assist in correcting problems in their square only if they are certain their assistance is accurate and can be done unobtrusively.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 29, 1990

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy statement No. 16 **CLASS FEES TO INCLUDE CLUB PUBLICATIONS MAILINGS**

BACKGROUND

The Club has information which is mailed to its Club members as a benefit of membership. However, most of the information is of value to students who are enrolled in the classes of the Club and frequently concerns activities in which the students are encouraged to participate. Keeping students aware of the activities of the Club and getting them involved immediately has proven to be a strong bonding element for the Club's classes. The most timely and efficient manner in which to distribute this information to the students is to include them in the mailing process.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to present the guidelines for inclusion of students in Club mailings. This policy does not dilute the value of the benefit of being a member of the Club, for that benefit is still a part of the Club's membership package. When mailings are necessary which are appropriate to only Club members (such as ballots for electing members of the Board of Directors), students will not be included in the mailing

POLICY

1. The fee charged for any class of Western Star Dancers will be structured to include the cost of mailing Club information which is published for the benefit of the Club's members.
2. A student will receive mailings as a part of his/her class fee only as long as the student is actively participating in the class.
3. A student will not receive mailings if s(he):
 - a. stops attending the class.
 - b. does not continue to the next class.
 - c. does not join the Club upon graduation from Plus.
4. Students repeating a class under Policy Statement No. 12 (for free) and prior club members attending a class under Policy Statement No. 15 (for half price) are both covered by this policy.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 19, 1990

Revised June 5, 2007

Policy Statement No. 17 **CLUB SPONSORED CALLERLAB MEMBERSHIP FOR BMI/ASCAP LICENSING** **COVERAGE**

BACKGROUND

BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) and ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) are the legal representatives administering copyright control for the composers and publishers of most of the singing call music currently used in the square dance activity. Patter call music is often in the public domain, which means it is old enough to no longer be covered by copyright or it was never covered. In October, 1990, many clubs and callers received a mailing from BMI offering contracts for the use of copyrighted music. Callerlab entered into negotiations on behalf of its members in order to relieve the clubs of this licensing responsibility. Effective April 1, 1991, Callerlab membership dues will include the negotiated annual licensing fees, and any club using a caller who is a member of Callerlab will be covered for regular dances, workshops, and classes. Western Star Dancers, as many gay square dance clubs, depends heavily upon records and tapes and caller apprentices who may not wish to become members of Callerlab. There is no category of membership in Callerlab which covers entire clubs.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to protect Western Star Dancers from possible allegations by BMI/ASCAP of copyright infringement and incurring legal fees to defend itself against the allegations and incurring penalties for allegations which might be sustained.

POLICY

1. The Club will reimburse a maximum of two dues-paid members for the cost of apprentice caller membership fees in Callerlab.
2. The Board of Directors will select on an annual basis the two individuals to receive reimbursement. A particular individual will not be considered to be automatically renewed by fact of past repeated selection.
3. The individuals selected must be:
 - a. Active dues-paid members of WSD at the time Callerlab membership fees are paid.
 - b. Actively involved in the instruction/calling/dance activities of the Club.
4. The maximum reimbursement for Callerlab membership fees cannot exceed the minimum fees required by Callerlab to sustain apprentice caller membership. If an individual wishes to sustain a Callerlab membership at a higher level, the individual must pay the difference between the minimum fees for apprentice caller and the desired level.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 26, 1991

Policy Statement No. 18 CONTINGENCY FUND

POLICY

Western Star Dancers will maintain a separate account for the long-range purpose of funding future fly-ins, conventions, or other activities. The account can also be used for emergency dance space rental or other unforeseen expenses. The amount maintained in the account should be consistent with our non-profit status.

BACKGROUND

Cost overruns on a major event in the 1990s evidently eliminated the Building Fund, along with most of the rest of the club's assets. Since that time, the club has established Certificates of Deposit in addition to the club's working checking account. These are intended for important celebrations (anniversaries, fly-ins, conventions) or emergency situations.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 27, 1991

Revised June 6, 2007

Policy Statement 19 DEFINITION OF THE ROLE OF ARCHANGEL

General: The role of Archangel is crucial to the smooth conduct of the classes. This description is to provide objectives for the role.

1. The archangel will act as the liaison between the current class and the Board of Directors. The archangel should be a mentor, a role model, a big brother/sister. Regular attendance is presumed.
2. The archangel will take attendance weekly, and follow-up student absences with phone calls or other communications to encourage attendance.
3. The archangel will monitor squares in class to ensure a good distribution of students and angels, strong dancers and weaker dancers.
4. The archangel will monitor dancers and facilitate extra assistance (instructional DVDs, websites, individual instruction, etc.).
5. The archangel will send weekly email notices of the week's dance schedule, future events, calls that have been taught, and other information.
6. The archangel will communicate with the caller/instructor, maintain a list of calls already taught, and relay that information to club night or dance callers.

Policy: Archangels will receive admission to the club's dances for the year of service, and membership dues will be waived for the year as incentive.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 19, 2008