

DANCE PATTERN with Ken & Myrna:

Get to Know the Program Chairmen

Hello from Ken & Myrna Allen! We are your Program Chairmen for the 2017 National Square Dance Convention in Cincinnati, OH. This is the 1st in a series of a monthly article under the byline of *DANCE PATTERN with Ken & Myrna*. For each of the next nine months, Myrna and I will be providing an article for National Squares Online magazine. Each month we will focus on some aspect of the convention program that you may find of interest. Also, there will be a DANCE PATTERN tab on our website, <http://66nsdc.com/>, which will be updated with this same information and more. We will be listing all of the callers that are registered, so check it out periodically for the latest information. This first month is a teaser, which includes information about what we are doing to make Cincinnati 2017 someplace you will like to go, as well as an introduction to Myrna and me. Future articles will address our revamped approach to competition squares, specific hall information, levels of dance, and exhibitions.

Myrna and I are proud and very pleased to have the opportunity to be scheduling your dances for you. There will be 9 dance halls with plenty of enjoyable dancing from Mainstream through C2 as well as Rounds through Phase 6; all from many of the best dance leaders in the world! Helping us do this work as Vice Chairmen are some great callers and cuers who have been attending National Conventions for many years. We all are pledging ourselves to make your trip to Cincinnati worthwhile.

In the future we will introduce you to the Vice Chairmen who are specifically scheduling the halls. I will have them each give you some insight into their plans.

When we get closer and more of the dance leaders have completed their registration and paper work, we will tell you about the great callers we have lined up. Currently we have registrations from big names known in the more popular halls (Mainstream – Plus) like Tony Oxendine, Scot Byars, Dee Dee Dougherty, and names equally well known in the various challenge halls like Ken

Ritucci and Barry Clasper. There are many, many excellent callers at all levels who have verbally committed but who don't quite have their paperwork submitted, so I can't mention them yet.

As the title of the article suggests, let us now tell you a little bit about your Program Chairmen. Myrna and I live in Beavercreek, Ohio, a suburb east of Dayton. We completed Plus classes in 1997. We currently square dance through the C2 level. While we started attending weekends within two years of our Plus class completion, since our retirement, 2012, we have been gone for months at a time going to square dance weeks and weekends. We spent January and February in McAllen, TX where we danced 16 times per week! During our dance tenure we have been to 8 National Square Dance conventions, attended many state conventions in the Midwest region, and participate in operations of 2 local clubs and a weekly workshop. The bottom line is that we have had significant exposure to what happens in the dance community and the callers, and think we can bring you a program that will be worth your time and money.

Myrna and I are looking forward to seeing you in Cincinnati in 2017; and hopefully, before then at a dance, weekend, or festival from California, to Texas, Florida, or, Ohio.

Ken and Myrna Allen