

Square Angels

Most callers appreciate the support and help of experienced dancers in the beginning classes, but "angels" can actually make the caller's task more difficult and discourage, rather than encourage, new dancers. Here are some DOs and DON'Ts for square angels.

Do wear a name tag.

Do offer your place in a square to a student who comes in late.

Do calmly regroup if a square breaks down. Do what the caller teaches in lessons to get a derailed square going.

Do dance figures correctly. New dancers have enough to learn without having to adjust to variations of the basics.

Do thank everyone in a square.

Don't ever pull or jerk a dancer into the right position! You can point or gently direct, but no one likes to be manhandled.

Don't look bored or disgusted! The caller is trying hard to make the learning enjoyable, and nothing dampers enthusiasm like a bored angel. If you can't be patient, you are not cut out to be a square angel.

Don't talk while the caller is explaining a movement. Maybe you could explain it better, but the new dancer can't listen to two people at the same time. Answer any question between tips or take the student to the caller.

Don't begin to execute a figure that the caller is teaching until he has finished his explanation and calls the figure.

Don't say anything, even in jest, that might hurt the new dancer's feelings.

Dear MVDC Angels,

My name is Darrell Vest and I am the new 1993 Vice President of the Miami Valley Dance Council. As VP, one of my responsibilities is to manage the operation of lesson classes held at the Michael Solomon Pavilion on Monday nights. I appreciate the Angels who dedicate their time to help out with these lesson classes and the volunteers who help me with my duties.

The "Square Angels" notes listed above is a reprint from the Fall edition of the Miami Valley Dance News, our bi-monthly newsletter. Please note what is required of an Angel and be beneficial to and a positive part of our class. Ideally, I believe a student square needs one Angel per student. We need to look at this from a student point of view if we want to encourage and increase future student populations.

Presently, I would like your input on our program and ideas that I can present to Council about MVDC Angeling.

Sincerely,

Darrell Vest

748-9296

To MVDC and member clubs:

From Darrell Vest, VP

The MVDC lesson class will have a Mainstream Dance on March 15, 1993 to celebrate the graduation of our lesson class students. We are inviting all clubs to send representatives to this dance and join in on the fun.

The MVDC will be sponsoring plus level classes starting March 22 at the Pavilion with instructor Keith Zimmerman. Any club may send students to this 12 week course at a cost of \$25.00 per person for all twelve weeks. Also, anyone wishing to improve on their plus level skills or double floor time can join this group. Anyone wishing to Angel this group should see me and I would love to see different clubs represented since this class belongs to the MVDC.

My phone: 748-9296