

Caller's Partner

by Tim Marriner

There is no one correct or approved way for a caller and partner to interact. The single most important element of the caller/partner relationship is a shared and mutual perception of what each expects of the other. This understanding can only be achieved through an honest process of negotiated agreement.

The old stereotyped picture of the typical caller was a married male whose wife provided moral encouragement, logistic support, secretarial services, public relations assistance, physical labor, and various other duties to help support her onstage husband. Obviously, this is no longer the case. More and more unmarried callers have entered the field, and many female callers with or without male partners have achieved success. Today, some partners are not necessarily each other's spouses. Some partners have also come to recognize that it is not necessary for them to participate fully in order for the caller to have success. Yet, some enjoy an active role and do make a team effort towards their success. Each partner and caller must determine the balance of involvement that best suits their needs.

In any case, if a partner is involved, they can be a strong moral supporter. They can critique the caller's performance. They often times help on and off stage with club events, ambassadors to the dancers, and public relations representative. Dancers often times will bend an ear of the partner before they would even consider approaching the caller if there were any problems. Some partners are even involved with the business side of calling keeping track of bookings, bookkeeping, and social events. Again, whatever is agreed upon, a balance has got to be maintained. The caller usually gets all the recognition and if a partner is involved needs to be thanked publicly for the support. Praise and thanks is a good motivator towards a successful working relationship. In some cases, a caller's partner is the team's strongest asset!

Whatever the case, set priorities and stick to them, for better or worse.