

Circle of Service Award



History

The CIRCLE OF SERVICE was the “brain-child” of Mori Soglow of Plant City, Florida, during the spring of 1985. Mori, who at that time had been asked to be moderator of a LEGACY panel on Awards and Recognition, conferred with Chet Vetier, also of Plant City, who at that time was chairman of LEGACY'S Leadership and Education Committee, and co-ordinator of LEGACY Panels to the National Convention to be held in June 1985, in Birmingham, Alabama.

The original title of the CIRCLE was “Wheel of Progress,” but while Kit Waldorf of Pensacola, Florida, was completing the design of the emblem, the title was changed to the CIRCLE OF SERVICE. The new title, together with Kit's original design, was introduced to the Panel on Awards and Recognition conducted by LEGACY at the 34th National Convention in Birmingham, in 1985.

The presentation was acted upon and made a part of the Square and Round Dancing activities by the committee.

Those initially receiving this honor at the Panel meeting were Brock and Mary Brockwell, vice chairmen of Panels at Birmingham; and Bob and Dottie Elgin, chairmen of LEGACY from Pennsylvania.

The following day at the LEGACY Board meeting, Dan and Mary Martin of Georgia, Ernie and Barbara Stone of Indiana, Bill and

Colleen Wilton of Wisconsin, Gordon Goss and partner Valarie of Mississippi, Vivian McCannon of Texas, and Vera Chestnut of Wisconsin, were all presented the CIRCLE OF SERVICE.

This CIRCLE is a symbol of service to square and round dancing. It is designed to be worn with pride by DANCERS who, for three or more years, are determined to have made a significant contribution to the Square and Round Dance movement.

In the CIRCLE OF SERVICE emblem, the hub of the CIRCLE, formed by a pattern of arcs, symbolizes the importance of each individual to the total picture. The circular shape flows outward to help define interlocking squares and stylized musical symbols. This linear interplay suggests the strong bond between the two “sister” dance activities, Square and Round Dancing.

Those presenting the CIRCLE, must have themselves been recipients of the award at an earlier date. Through this method of presenting the honor, it was felt that the CIRCLE would gradually spread throughout the dance activity, thus honoring and recognizing many whose accomplishments have for so long gone unrewarded.

Research and write-up of the history of this award was completed in 1988 by L. Duke McCleskey. He and his wife Doris were vice chairmen of the 1987 National Square Dance Convention. It was printed in the August 1997 edition of “Grapevine,” a publication of the North-east Florida Square and Round Dancers Association, Inc.