

MINNESOTA

DANCER

February 2016



Snow Ball Competition
2016

Professional Dancers
Vladimir Velev &
Lily Kolman
from New York

 **RYANKENNER**
PHOTOGRAPHY
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BALLROOM DANCERS



Beginner Cha Cha

Sunday, February 7th — 2:00 pm
Sunday, February 14th — 2:00 pm
Sunday, February 21st — 2:00pm
Sunday, February 28th — 2:00 pm

Classes with Eliecer Ramirez at

**COSTA RICA
BALLROOM**

Dance Studios

816 Mainstreet Hopkins, MN 55343

CALL-OR-TEXT:
612.240.9053



www.usadance-minnesota.org

info@usadance-minnesota.org



Through the National FastDance Association
dance activities are licensed by:



USA Dance offers dance instruction to members for \$3. Members who joined for the first time in 2015 attend free up to their 2016 membership expiration date, after that they pay \$3. Non-members pay \$8.
Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

DANCER

An Official Publication of
USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 was formed in 1991. Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members receive discounts on admission to monthly dances, as well as other benefits.

The Minnesota Dancer is published monthly by the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011, to provide information and news about ballroom dancing.

Executive Editor/Layout: Tom Crable
Assistant Editor: Leland Whitney
Advertising: Bonnie Burton
Mailing: Committee member

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to tcrable3s@gmail.com.

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

FEBRUARY
Saturday, February 20

Costa Rica Ballroom
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins MNI

7-8 pm lesson—Cha Cha
Instructor: Eliecer Ramirez
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

MARCH
Saturday, March 19

Dancers Studio, Sterling Hall
415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul

7-8 pm lesson - Foxtrot
Instructors: Neli Petkova and Nick Westlake
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

April
Saturday, April 16

Cinema Ballroom
1560 St. Clair Ave, St Paul

7-8 pm lesson—Tango
Instructor: Martin Pickering
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

\$ 5 Students under 25 with ID
\$10 USA Dance Members
\$15 Non-Members

USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, December 1st, 2015
Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Lee Whitney (President), Ed Soltis (Vice-President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Carol Post, Joyce Thompson, Dan Fitzgerald, Karen Maldonado
Absent: Tom Crable (attended via phone)

Location: DanceLife Ballroom Studio, 6015 Lyndale Avenue South, Mpls., MN 55419

Call session to order:

1. Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the agenda.
2. Confidentiality – Meeting discussions are confidential. Chapter minutes are posted in the Minnesota Dancer.
3. Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the amended minutes from the November board meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the November's treasurer's report.
 - 4a. Lee distributed a handout outlining the Annual Business Calendar for USA Dance Chapters.
5. Social Dance, Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Reports
 - 5a. Social Dances.
Monthly Dances:
November – A profit was made.
December – DanceLife, samba.
January – Dancers Studio, west coast swing.
February – Costa Rica, cha cha.
-Survey results indicated requests for dance hosts at the monthly dances. The hosts would dance with new attendees and beginner dancers from 8:00 – 9:30 pm. Each host would be skilled in at least bronze level technique. An article detailing this opportunity will be in the January Minnesota Dancer.
 - 5b. Special Projects
 - Joyce and Carol are planning an event to celebrate our chapter's 25th anniversary.
 - February 13 is the Rochester Ballroom Scrimmage. Our chapter is providing the floor.
 - Carol will chair the 2016 Tea Dance.
 - 5c. Project Dance – We continued the discussion of ways to defray the cost. A motion was made, seconded and approved to charge \$3 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. Project Dance will not be held in December and July, on major holidays weekends, or on a 5th Sunday in any given month. An article detailing this change will be in the January Minnesota Dancer.
 - 5d. K12 Coordinator Report – Dancing Classroom's, Color of the Rainbow event will be held on Sunday, December 13 at Dancers Studio.
6. Communications Coordinator Report.
 - 6a. Minnesota Dancer - A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reduce the printing and mailing costs of the Minnesota Dancer by going to a fully electronic copy beginning in March, 2016.
 - 6b. Website, Facebook, Constant Contact – Business as usual.
7. Membership Coordinator Report.
 - 7a. December 31st, 2014 – 277 members.
December 1st, 2015 – 369 members.
8. Board Meeting Location – Carol and Bonnie will work together to identify a new location.
Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5th, 2016, 6:00 pm, Location TBD.



LOVE TO DANCE?

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USA DANCE
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**FRIENDLY.
FUN.
BALLROOM
DANCING.**

Join online at: www.usadance.org/membership/



Sponsored by USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011
www.usadance-minnesota.org or info@usadance-minnesota.org

DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

USA DANCE

USA Dance – Monthly – 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, February 20, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - Cha Cha. Instructor: Eliecer Ramirez.

Project Dance, Sunday, 2—3 pm, February 7, 14, 21 and 28, Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson is Beginner Cha Cha. Instructor—Eliecer Ramirez.

WEEKLY DANCES

Cinema Ballroom – Wednesdays, Practice Party, 8 – 9 pm.

Costa Rica Ballroom – Wednesdays, Practice Party, 9 – 9:45 pm.

Dancers Studio – Wednesdays, West Coast Swing, dance 8 - 9 pm.

Dancers Studio – Thursday, Variety Dance, dance 8- 9 pm.

DanceLife – Fridays, Variety Dance, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-9:30 pm.

American Classic - Fridays, Dinner and Dance Potluck Variety Dance Party, 8 - 10 pm.

Ballroom & Latin Dance Club - Fridays, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-10 pm.

BIWEEKLY DANCES

American Classic – Sunday Pizza Practice Parties, February 14 and 28, 7 – 9 pm.

Café Bailar Dance Club – Saturday Variety Party – February 13 and 27, Costa Rica Ballroom, 7:30 – 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, February 5 and 19, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom - Sunday Night Dancing with The Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra, February 14 and 28, 6:15 to 10 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, February 3 and 17, lesson 6 – 7 pm and dance 7 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, February 7 and 21 at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 11 pm.

OTHER DANCES

American Classic Ballroom, Winter Showcase, February 6, 5 - 10 pm.

Linden Hills Dancing Club, February 13, Dinner and Dancing from 6:30 -10:30 pm.

Tango Society of Minnesota, milonga at Four Seasons Dance Studio, February 13, lesson 8:30 - 9:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am.

Cinema Ballroom, Ninth Annual Dance Extravaganza, February 27 - 28. Saturday 8 am - 11 pm and Sunday 11:30 am - 3 pm.

DANCE CONTACTS

If you would be liked to be listed on this page, send your contact information to tcrable3s@gmail.com

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM
550 Market Street, Chanhassen
952.934.0900
www.acballroom.com

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul
651.227.3200

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB
1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville
952.292.0524
www.ballroom-club.com

BLUE MOON BALLROOM
2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester
507.288.0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.com

CINEMA BALLROOM
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul
651.699.5910
www.cinemaballroom.com

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE
STUDIOS
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins
952.303.3339
www.costaricaballroom.com

DAHL DANCE CENTER
4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester
507.252.1848
www.dahldance.com

DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT
3701 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington
651.605.5784
tricia@danceandentertainment.com
www.danceandentertainment.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA
10 Southdale Center, Edina
612-564-5483
www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCELIFE BALLROOM
6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis
612.345.4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

DANCERS STUDIO
415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul
651.641.0777
www.dancersstudio.com

DE Studios
3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington
952-392-9631
www.de-studios.com

FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO
1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis
612.342.0902
www.fourseasonsdance.com

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO
1975 Seneca Road, Eagan, MN
651.451.6300
www.FredAstaireMN.com

MILL CITY BALLROOM
www.millcityballroom.com

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO
Bloomington, MN
612.799.4147
Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio

RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO
Minneapolis
612.872.1562
www.theplacetodance.com

STUDIOJEFF
701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201,
St. Cloud
320.266.4137
www.studiojeff.com

CLUBS

AQUA GLIDERS DANCE CLUB
612.869.3062

Café BAILAR
www.cafebailar.com

COTILLION DANCE CLUB OF
STILLWATER
stillwatercotillion@gmail.com
651/238-7636
Contacts: Patty & Stephen Ogborn

LADANZA DANCE CLUB
Stillwater, MN
651.439.3152
Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub
Contacts: Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB
320.763.6432
danceclub@lakesideballroom.org
www.lakesideballroom.org

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB
www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB
763.442.1618
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB
952.941.0906
www.tcrebels.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB
952-475-0586, billcarlson@usinternet.com

STARDUST DANCE CLUB
stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE
CLUB
Woman's Club of Minneapolis,
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis
952.894.1412
www.suburbanwinterset.com

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA
612.224.2905
www.mntango.org

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER
3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis
612.722.2914
www.tapestryfolkdance.org

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BALLROOM DANCE CLUB
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Mariusz Olszewski	612.242.5159
Mary Rosenstiel	612.720.2584
Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

COMPETITION CALENDAR

February 20-21, 2016

USA Dance Senior IV National DanceSport Championships

Hosted by Mid-Eastern Chapter #6001, Bethesda, MD

February 20-21, 2016

Mid-Atlantic Championships – 2016 NQE

Hosted by Mid-Eastern Chapter #6001, Bethesda, MD

April 1-3, 2016

USA Dance 2016 National DanceSport Championships

Hosted by USA Dance, Baltimore, MD

May 13-14, 2016

New England DanceSport Championships – 2017 NQE

Hosted by MASSabda Chapter #3002, Waltham, MA

June 11-12, 2016

NJ DanceSport Classic Summer Sizzler – 2017 NQE

Hosted by Mario Battista & Wendi Davies, Hackensack, NJ

June 24-26, 2016

Gumbo DanceSport Championships—2017 NQE

Hosted by Louisiana Gumbo Chapter #5031, Baton Rouge, LA

July 6-9, 2016

Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Hosted by Scott and Amy Anderson in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Sep 10, 2016

Kansas City Dance Classic

Organized by Matt & Ellen Pansing, Overland Park, KS

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2016

Carolina Fall Classic – 2017 NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder, Charlotte, NC

Oct 28-30, 2016

Chicago DanceSport Challenge – 2017 NQE

Hosted by Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001, Chicago, IL

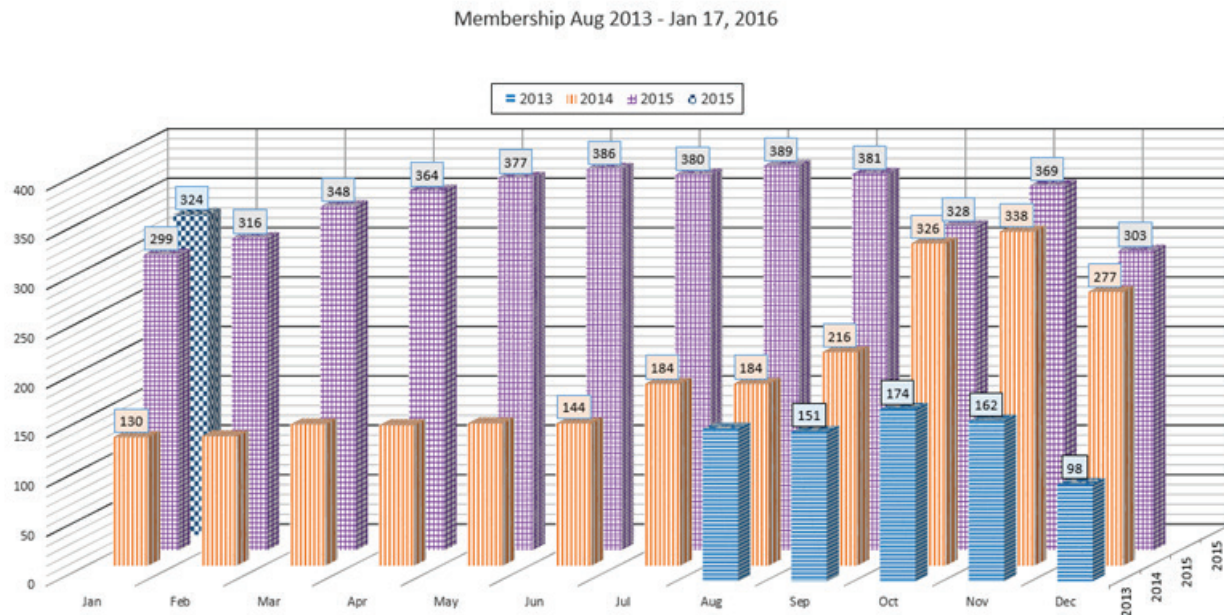


PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leland and Leslie Whitney plan to compete at the USA Dance Senior IV National DanceSport Championships, Feb 20-21, 2016.

By Leland Whitney, President,
USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 continues steady membership growth. Our mission is to increase the quantity and quality of dancing, so growth is a priority.



An apple-to-apple comparison is to look at 2016 vs 2014 membership, both board election years. At the end of January 2014 membership was 130, today, 17 January 2016, it is 324.

The Sunday afternoon Project Dance lessons continue to be a driver of growth. Attendance at the first two Sundays in January was 57 and 54 respectively. At the first lesson 7 new members joined our chapter and 2 members renewed. At the second lesson 1 new member joined and 2 members renewed.

Also exciting, many of the new members from Project Dance are coming to the monthly dances and are expressing interest in being volunteers with the chapter.

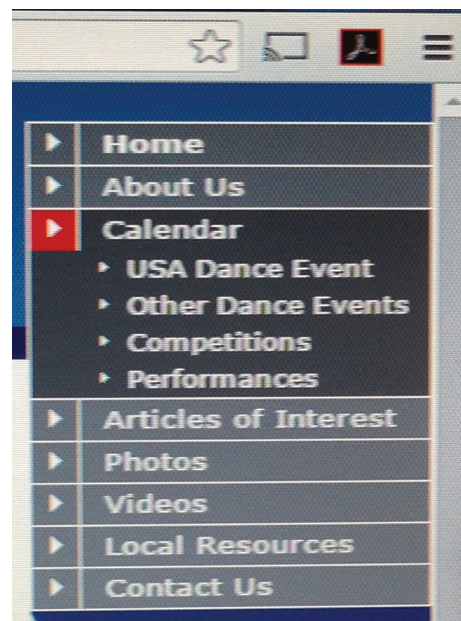
Minnesota Dancer Goes Paperless in March 2016

by Tom Crable

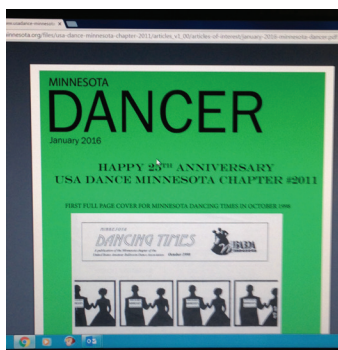
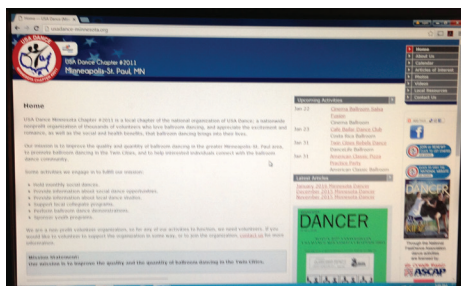
Starting in March 2016, the Minnesota Dancer will be going paperless (electronic version). You can go to your computer and type in usadance-minnesota.org to go to the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 web-page.

On the right side of the page is an area labeled Latest Articles that list the last 3 issues of Minnesota Dancer and a picture of the front cover the latest issue. Click on the picture of the front cover of the issue and it will go to the electronic version of the issue.

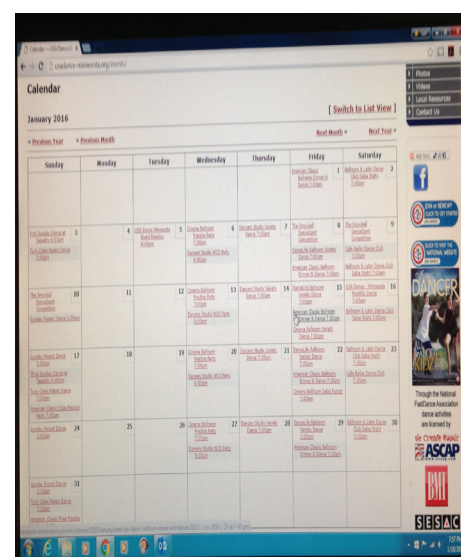
If you want to go to the calendar with dancing activities, go to the right upper side of the home page and click on the arrow by the calendar box.



After clicking on the arrow by the calendar, the calendar will appear on the web page.



Once at the electronic version, you can scroll up and down thru the issue.



Wanted

"DANCE HOSTS"

When: Monthly USA Dances

What: Dance with new attendees, beginner dancers and singles.

Time: 8:00 pm-9:30 pm

Qualifications: Proficient bronze level dancer or above in
Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Cha Cha, Rumba and E. C. Swing

Compensation: Admission free to the dance

Sign up to become a "dance host" by contacting:

Joyce Thompson:

email: contactjoycethompson@gmail.com

phone: 651-483-5456

Survey results indicated a strong request for "dance hosts". Dance Hosts will provide new attendees, beginner dancers, and singles, with an opportunity to improve their dance skills and meet other dancers.



Cotillion Dance Club

2105-2016 Season
10/10/2015 11/14/2015 2/20/2016 4/16/2016
(pre-registration is required)

Heights Hall & Club
5880 Omaha Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082
(wood dance floor approx 58' x 35')

<https://sites.google.com/site/stillwatercotillion>
stillwatercotillion@gmail.com
651.238.7636 Patty & Stephen Ogborn

*Dinner &
Dance
Venue*

*Membership,
Club Info &
Contacts*

Super Bowl XXVI and USA Dance

by Carol Post

It was 1992 and Minnesota was the site of Super Bowl XXVI. The halftime show entitled “Winter Magic and the Winter Olympics”. Minnesota dancers of all types were a part of this show. Local ballroom dancers (see picture next page), jazz dancers, in line skaters, and the Minnesota Marching Band, among others danced in front of a filled stadium and to a national television audience. Olympic champions Dorothy Hamill and Brian Boitano skated on a Teflon “ice rink”. Gloria Estephan, who had been recovering from a back injury, sang from a stage that slowly elevated her to a position over 30 feet above the field.

In latter 1991, performers were auditioned, selected and began to learn the choreography for their part in the half time show. Since we were performing in front of a television audience, we were required to lip synch the words to the song “Winter Magic”. Depending on the link, vid-

eo or CD that you view, you will see close ups of Andy Nordberg, Carol Post and Mark Lee, Donna Edelstein and Burt Fink doing just that. Footage of the half time show also featured theatre arts moves by Robert and Jennifer Foster and Nathan Hawes and Deanne Michael.

As a performer, I remember the excitement of running on to the stadium field, hearing a deafening cheering crowd, lights and getting into position along with dozens of other dancers. Dancing in front of a full stadium AND thousands of live TV viewers for about seven minutes was beyond amazing.

Our involvement in the Half Time Show not only provided visibility for ballroom dance, but also for our USABDA (now USA Dance) chapter. Since February 1992, most of the dance partnerships formed for the Half Time Show have dissolved or changed. Despite that, many of these same dancers remain connected to USA Dance, our chapter or active in the dance community at large. This 1992 super bowl half time show was one of many “firsts” for our chapter in our “First 25 Years”. I’m looking forward to more firsts for our chapter in the next 25 years.

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.

<http://www.organizersonduty.com/testimonials.html>

Dance address book also on the website

USABDA Dancers at Super Bowl XXVI



Back row- Shinya McHenry, Bill Nun, Andy Nordberg, Jim Flaskerud, Scott Anderson, Hub Nelson, Mark Lee, David Pease, Burt Fink, Bobbie Tarnowski, Jack Caine

Middle row- Marcy McHenry, ???, ???, Susan Januska, Amy Anderson, Carol Post, Donna Edelstein, ???, ???, Ellen (Neuman) Ardery, Pat Kingston, Karen (Middlestadt) Voles, Jeff Chinn, Lisa Erickson, Nels Peterson

Front row- Monica Mohn, Tom Severson, ???



Lakeside Dance Club
Lakeside Ballroom • Glenwood MN
Live Music! 3-7 p.m.
Velvet Brass • Jan 10 Feb 7 Mar 13
Jerry O'Hagan • Apr 17
Adm: \$10 pp • \$5 17-30 yrs old
lakesideballroom.org
danceclub@lakesideballroom.org 320-763-6432



I have been dancing since 2000, first folkdance and all of the country dance forms done at Tapestry. Classes with Cindy and Terry are what eventually led me away from folk dance forms and down the variety ballroom path. Cindy Gardner and Shawn Lavelle provided information for this article.

Dancing in the Twin Cities V: Country, Cajun and Line Dance

by Bob Anholt

This is the fifth in a series of articles about places to dance in the Twin Cities aiming to describe the culture of local dance events: types of music, participants, size of the dance floors, etc. These articles are designed for new dancers, out of towners, or even experienced local dancers who want to try a new place. This article describes places to dance country two-step, Cajun and line dance. It is intended as a supplement to Lynne's List or Dancer's Night Out in this magazine and others which should be consulted for date, time, location, and cost information. Lynne's List can be found at www.organizeronduty.com/testimonials.html.

The most popular place for country dancing in the twin cities is at Starks Saloon in Burnsville on Wednesday nights. A new-dancer lesson in country or line dance is taught at 7:30 pm followed by dancing from 8 pm on. The dance floor is crowded at 8 pm and begins to thin out after 10 pm. All of the music is DJ'd by Ken Douglas, who provides a good variety of country, west coast swing, night club, waltz, hustle, cha cha and a few others. Most country dancers dance waltz straight ahead as opposed to diagonal wall-diagonal center, and the tempos are intermediate between slow and Viennese waltz. The cha cha's are usually to country music, lacking the snap of the Lat-

in cha cha music. For many tunes, line dancers occupy the center of the floor and for the most popular line dances (like the samba line dance usually done to Sex on the Beach at Starks) line dancers occupy nearly the entire floor. Starks Saturday night dances also provide country plus variety music to fewer participants.

A few clubs and bars provide live country music with enough floor to dance. The longest running place to dance is at Lee's Liquor Lounge on Monday nights, where Dan Lund and Bufaloaf play classic country. Classic country music goes back to bands like Bob Wills and Asleep at the Wheel and

provides plenty of variety for dancing country, west coast , cha cha, night club and waltz. Lee's floor is small and a regular crowd of dancers who mix attend (though thanks to a recent time change, the number of dancers there is currently declining). Lee's often has other country bands, the most popular being Trailer Trash. However, with Trailer Trash, the small dance floor is often cluttered with people who are standing and drinking, reducing the dance space even further.

The Eagles Club in Minneapolis has country bands nearly every Sunday afternoon. Being a larger floor than Lee's, it accommodates more dancers. But this tends to be dominated by seniors, so it is not a good place for singles under 60 years old to find partners.

The Twin Cities has a very active Cajun dance community. Cajun music is always live and the vocals are always in French. One of the bands, New Riverside, was recognized nationally as the best Cajun band outside of Louisiana. Cajun dancing is usually either straight ahead two step or waltz (continuous change steps), but one also sees single-step swing dance (they call jitterbug), zydeco (bachata footwork with less

hip action and a funky arm action), mamou and country two step. Regular dances are held at Eagles Club on second and fourth Mondays and on some Thursdays. A local organization, Krewe de Walleye, hosts dances bringing in Louisiana bands a few times each year.

Line dancing is huge, well-organized international subculture complete with international congresses, an on-line database with choreography sheets for over 80,000 dances, and a weekly newsletter with a survey of the top dances that week. Most of the 80,000 line dances are choreographed to specific pieces of music taking into account bridges of varying length and specific sub-rhythms, but for some popular 32bar dances, the dance leader can choose many different turns. Approximately every ballroom rhythm has many line dances for it.

Locally you can go to line dance classes at the following places:

Starks on Thursday nights (7pm).

Tapestry on Friday nights (7pm).

Cowboy Jacks (Woodbury) Tuesdays 7pm.

The Eagles Club in Minneapolis on Tuesday nights (7pm).

The Medicine Lake community center on Wednesday (6:30 pm), and Tuesday/Thursday nights (7pm).

Except for the Medicine Lake Tuesday/Thursday classes, all of these teach dances that start with beginner-friendly dances early and grade up to improver or intermediate level over the course of the evening (or advanced in the case of Medicine Lake Wednesdays). All the classes are walk ins and the number of participants varies from week to week anywhere from 6 to 20+ people. The Tuesday/Thursday Medicine Lake classes are devoted to teaching line dances done at the International Congresses and listed on the weekly top-20 list.

On Fridays when there is a west coast swing dance at B-dales, Starks has an all-line dance party from 8 to 11 pm with a lesson at 7 pm. Line dancers also dance at many other country dance events, the largest numbers show up Wednesday nights at Starks where there is often a line dance lesson at 7:30 pm.

Snow Ball DanceSport Competition 2016

Largest and Most Exciting Ever

by Donna Edelstein

The Snow Ball DanceSport competition held January 8 - 10, 2016, at the Hilton Mall of America, experienced huge growth this year. The competition had almost 5200 entries and 300 competitors from across the United States and around the world.

The 17 person judging panel also had an international flavor of World Class and Championship judges from Columbia, England, Germany, South Africa and of course the United States.

This was a year of firsts at The Snow Ball — The first time the competition expanded to three days. The first time offering Senior Pro-am Scholarships. The first time having beginner 1 and beginner 2 levels for newer dancers. The first time with a Novice Professional division in both Smooth and Rhythm. The first time with Open Professional Ballroom and Latin events. The first time having the National Anthem sung live by top dancers, Darren Franco, Markus Cannon and Gordon Bratt. The first time celebrating Friday night with free custom blue and white snowflake cookies for everyone in the ballroom. The first time having extra fun with winter hat day on Saturday with the judges and some competitors wearing fun and funky hats. The first time having a student appreciation party for all competitors and teachers with food and a wine, beer and non-alcoholic tastings.

While there were a lot of firsts at The Snow Ball, many things remained the same — A beautiful ballroom decorated to the hilt to provide an arena for the dancers to feel special and dance their best. Friendly and caring service throughout the event. Great food, all taste tested in advance by

the organizer. Competition that is action packed and runs on schedule. A full ballroom with cheering spectators. A smooth beautiful dance floor. And a genuine love of dance and dancers creating a special environment that brings competitors and fans back year after year.

Some of the top awards from Snow Ball included:

Top Large Studios:

1. Superior Ballroom
2. FADS - South Metro
3. Cinema Ballroom

Top Small Studios:

1. FADS - Rochester Mn
2. Dance New York
3. Dance With Us America

Top Male Teacher - Eric Hoyer, FADS Rochester, Mn
Top Female Teacher - Kelly Bartlett, Dance Tonight Fort Wayne

Top Grand Slam Students (Placing the best across scholarship and multi-dance events)

1. Lauren LaPointe
2. Janice Stanton
3. Charlie Carboneau
4. Kate Stolp
5. Dee Iannone
6. Bozena Kochanska

Top Grand Slam Teachers (having at least 4 students placing the best across scholarship and multi-dance events)

1. Tom Neterval - Get Out & Dance
2. Gene Bersten - Dance With Us America
3. Markus Cannon - Cannon Studios
4. Scott Anderson - Twin Cities DanceSport

5. Darren Franco - Superior Ballroom
6. Eric Hoyer - FADS Rochester Mn

The overall top students for the Snow Ball were:

Top Newcomers: Jay Lammers and Kate Stolp

Top Bronze: Larry Witting and Elaine Feldman

Top Silver: Charlie Carboneau and Nichelle Kennedy

Top Gold: Ha Tuong and Anna Gilbertson

Top Open: Chris Wilson and Lauren LaPointe

Top Overall: Paul Cedarberg and Janice Stanton

Top Amateur Couple: Doug and Sheree Blasius

If you want to see highlights from Snow Ball 2016 we've posted quite a few video clips on The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition Facebook page. You can check out pro/am, am/am, and professional snippets, plus the national anthem, introduction of judges, and more. A more complete listing of scholarship, multi-dance and professional winners can be found at www.thesnowballcomp.com

Next year the Snow Ball will expand to a full three days so mark your calendars now for January 13, 14, and 15, 2017, and be a part of the excitement!

Snow Ball Photos
by Ryan Kenner Photography



Tarah Pritchard with
Jay Larson



Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer. She works in Sales for a digital forensic company. She's active in her church including dancing with a Hebrew worship dance team, gardening and walking her two bichons.

MN USA Dance Chapter Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

by Suzi Blumberg

I talked to Jeff Chinn about the beginning of MN USA Dance Chapter and learned some very interesting history. Back in the early 90's, Dr. Ken Bloom, a local physician who was an avid ballroom dancer, had heard about a national group of ballroom dancers called USABDA (United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association) and wanted to get this going in the Twin Cities.

Jeff was a part of group of dance friends who Ken was trying to encourage. These friends were Dr. Maria Cremer (who married Jeff later that year), Jan Nugent, Roger Whitman, Tom Nelson, Karen Middlestaedt (Voels), Tom Sorensen, Sandy Navin, Jean Kornmann, Jim Flaskerud, Carol Post, Pam Severson, Sue Januska, Mark Lee, Stephanie Borden, Dale Johnson and Owen Seeley.

Ken kept bugging Jeff to get it started and be its president. Jeff

wasn't particularly interested. The group met at a restaurant not too far from the Bel Rae Ballroom each Sunday for a bite before they would go to the Bel Rae for a night of dancing. Ken met with this group one night to talk about starting a USABDA group. They had heard of the group and were interested in what Ken shared and decided to do some research on it and possibly get it started.

They decided to give it a go. Along with eight others, they signed the document to form a chapter. In January, 1991 the Minnesota Chapter #2011 began. They elected a Board, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Scott Sorenson, who later became a Pro, was the first president, Jean Kornmann was vice president. Later presidents were Jim Flaskerud and Owen Seeley. Sandy Navin was an attorney who helped with the legal aspects of setting up the Minne-

sota chapter.

They sought all age groups and anyone who was interested in ballroom dance on a competitive or social level. It was the first time a group of amateurs had formed an organization in the dance community. It was very positive for the entire dance community as well as the franchised studios because people were taking lessons and also attending more dances.

The club got going and started to grow. Carol Post told me that the Minnesota USABDA chapter totally changed the face of the Twin Cities dance community. Money was needed so they started fundraising by becoming 'taste testers' and getting paid for it. Other fundraisers were Dance Demos first headed by Jan Nugent and assisted by Yvonne and Dan Viehman who later took over. They danced in parking lots and

shopping malls for events like the opening of Jeff Nehrbass' On Your Toes Dance Studio. Later Yvonne and Dan started "Dancin' the Night Away", a dance troupe starring local dancers that promoted ballroom dance with performances at the Festival of Nations, Fitzgerald Theatre and MN State Fair and an annual show at the Hopkins Fine Arts Theatre.

By 1994 there were 150 members and a monthly newsletter had begun. Dorothy Jones was the first editor of the Dancin' Times newsletter and won a national award for producing a first-rate publication. Anne LaTourelle took over years later and was editor for ten years. This 'newsletter' lives on currently in much more the form of a magazine than a newsletter. Old issues dating back to February 1994 can be seen on the website at <http://usadance-minnesota.org/>. In the beginning, the newsletter ran about eight pages. Now it runs between 28 and 32 pages and is bursting with news about our local ballroom dance community.

Saturday night dances were held at Dale Johnson's Twin Cities Ballroom Dance Club on West 7th Street in St. Paul. Karen remembers that their legs got warmed up for dancing by climbing three long flights of stairs to get to the ballroom. Occasionally, they would encounter bats flying around in the stairwell. Mark Tepley was their first music DJ and did music for dances and events for many years until Pete

Maki took over. Other dance venues the group enjoyed were Medina, Arthur Murray Studio in Bloomington hosted by David Pease and Fred Astaire Studio in Bloomington run by Scott Anderson.

It was Jeff's idea to have a spring ball. After he and Maria were married, they held a spring ball planning meeting at their home and suggested it take place at the Lafayette Club. Their wedding reception was held there and they loved the place! Monica Mohn suggested that it be called a "Tea Dance". Jeff was Chair of the first one and it was a lot of work! Karen Tepley took over and led it for many, many years, followed by Dede Oeuren.

One of the early dance competitions was called the Minnesota Open, founded by Bill and Arlene Kroll. Steve Vespested organized the MN State Games, which became the Star of the North. This event encouraged experience dancers to mentor and dance with inexperienced dancers and was a first step for many new dancers to enter and compete in their first competition.

Minnesota Dancers competed at National Competitions. In 2002 to 2005, the USABDA National competitions came to Minneapolis. Mike Jones headed up a large team of volunteers that did an amazing job! Beginning in the late 1990's and continuing on for the next ten years, several Minnesota couples were consistently

ranked first in divisions across American Smooth, American Rhythm, Theatre Arts, Cabaret and Standard. This earned these dancers the unofficial title of 'The Minnesota Mafia'!

Gary Stroick, a local dancer, was elected as the North Central Regional DanceSport Delegate in 1997 and then USABDA Vice President of DanceSport in 2000-2006. Carol Post was on the USA Dance DanceSport Council as Anti-Doping Chair and was a member of the IDSF (now WDSF) Anti-Doping Commission. Steve Vespested was also on the USA Dance DanceSport Council and was responsible for bringing DanceSport to the State Games across the country.

I'm really grateful for our Minnesota Dance USA chapter. In its first 25 years, our chapter has an impressive track record of promoting ballroom dance and dance opportunities to the Twin Cities. As you can see, it takes a lot of people and volunteer time to run this organization. USA Dance is a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing not only as an art but as a healthy sport. If you would like to get involved, please talk to anyone on the Board. They would welcome your help and they're a really great group of people to work with!



Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, President, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd.

Inspirations for New Solo Dance Costumes

by Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

You want a new solo dance costume, but you may have a few questions about exactly how to get to the final product. What style and color do you want? Where do you find inspirations to create a new look for yourself? How do you even begin the process?

As the Head Designer for a custom costume manufacturer, my design team and I are faced with creating fabulous, unique costumes for teams and individuals every day. One way we expedite our process is by asking that our potential clients present their ideas to us, so that we can get our creative juices flowing in the direction that fits with our client's desires. Images are always the best way to do this!

If we are given no visual aids, and simply told 'I want something flattering', the process is

considerably more difficult. As designers, it's a given that we always strive to create costumes that are flattering. It is more difficult when a particular design idea is not going to be flattering – we need to then diplomatically steer this client in the direction of something that could be more flattering for them.

The hardest situation for us to face is a blank page or screen with little visual inspiration to base the design on. It's similar to a writer facing a blank screen, without an outline, planning on writing the next great novel. It is very helpful if we are given rough sketches or photos of design details that show us what our client likes.

So where can you find these photos or inspirations? What if you're not a fantastic artist and have difficulty drawing a

sketch of your own?

When we are tasked with coming up with something 'new and fresh' from scratch, we review the images stored in our imagination (from previously seen fashion shows, dance performances, fashion magazines, television shows and movies that may have included interesting silhouettes, fabrics, colors, or specific details such as an interesting neckline or skirt hem), along with the thousands of costume designs that we have already created for other individuals and groups.

Leafing through costume history books or old movie or musical photos is another way that I personally add to the creative closet in my head. I may not be able to recall certain historical facts, but I can recall with clarity a specific color, fabric drape or design detail feature,

between the cobwebs of my brain.

I personally take in as many Broadway musicals as I can, always buying the program to preserve some of those images to keep in the recesses of my creative mind, hoping to pull out a fun or stylish detail that I can suggest to a client. Watching televised awards shows with all their Red Carpet glamour is a great way to see what's new in the fashion world. Many pull gowns from the latest fashion runways – either exactly as they were presented, or customized for themselves. Watching the costuming of current pop stars and their backup singers or dancers is another inspiration inducing activity. Always be thinking about what details you appreciate and how they can be borrowed for your own future costume!

When you are attending or participating in dance competitions or performances, take photos of interesting costumes, if possible, and/or jot down what details you saw that you liked. You never want to copy someone else's costume verbatim, but borrowing certain aspects of designs that you like is always a great way to create an interesting costume.

It is said that copying is the sincerest form of flattery. Copying a sleeve or a neckline, or a

particular trim detail is a wonderful way to add to your arsenal of ideas to use on your own costume.

A design feature should 'inspire' a new design that may be reminiscent of the original design feature. Can you recreate that costume, with changes, such as color or other changed features at an altogether different performance? Yes, but use common sense! You never want to show up with an exact or nearly exact copy of a dance costume, competing against that costume. For example, using a figure skating design detail or features from a Red

Carpet dress on a ballroom gown would be okay. But using a ballroom dress you saw at a competition last weekend as the sole inspiration for your new ballroom dress, may not be the best way to go!

In closing, remember that when looking to design a new solo costume, you have many options ahead of you. Simply keep your eyes open and your imagination ready to 'see' how you can use a design detail in your new costume!



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Private Lessons Versus Group Classes

by Gary Narducci

When I was first learning ballroom dance I became relatively obsessed about it. I took a private lesson every week and attended group classes every evening and Saturday afternoons. Also, I attended the practice party every Friday after the group class. It was hard to keep me off the dance floor.

You might ask “Which did you prefer?” In actuality, I preferred the private lessons. I used the group classes to perfect the things I learned in the private lessons. During the group classes I did my very best to maintain the frame I was taught in the private lessons. I also concentrated on good technique all around. I watched the instructor’s feet very closely. I developed my sense of timing. One very important thing I observed and often asked the instructor to do was a demonstration of the specific pattern we were learning.

I used the private lessons to ask about patterns I saw other more proficient dancers do. I asked my instructor how that pattern was properly led. The private lessons are a very good place to have your dance questions answered. The best instructors were the ones who actually danced the pattern

several times during the lesson. In private lessons, a good instructor can break down the patterns so each section is learned correctly. I got very frustrated with the ones who talked endlessly during the class. In my opinion dancing involves doing not talking.

In addition, I closely watched those dancers who only took group classes. What I observed was their technique was greatly lacking. They often used their arms to lead a pattern and not a stable and solid frame. It seemed they were more interested in learning a lot of patterns than good dance technique.

It should be noted that one must dance to the level of the follow. The follow should not be led through complicated patterns if the lead is not good enough to guide them correctly. Once clearly defined and understood a strong and solid lead can do wonders for individual technique. A solid frame will also get a person asked to dance quite often.

Private lessons can clean up the lead or follows abilities. The lead must be very clear. In addition, the follow must let go and not “back lead.” It is the job of the instructor to teach that to both lead

and follow. Private lessons do that for both.

By attending every available class and private lessons too I got reasonably proficient in a very short period of time. I have been dancing since 1996. Because I listened to my instructor about proper leading I was asked to dance nearly every dance at the practice parties. The potential partner knew I would not muscle them through a complicated step. Both lead and follow know which dancers will do their jobs correctly.

Private lessons cannot be stressed enough. Those leads who muscle their partners through patterns will find themselves sitting out a lot. Leading and following should appear effortless. The only real way that can happen is through private lessons. Group classes are great to practice the skills obtained through private lessons. Group classes are NOT a substitute for private lessons. Knowing a lot of patterns, you cannot properly lead is poor dancing. That can be seen by almost any observer. It is better to have fewer patterns you can lead well than a lot of patterns that look and feel sloppy.

Congratulations to the Dancers Going to the National Championships

We wish you all the best as you
compete in your respective
ballroom dance categories!

Hannah Alyea & Kyle Condiff

Bonnie Burton & Ed Soltis

Ligaya Carlos & Gregory Bajer

Shelby Gilliland & Seth Westlake

Lisa Mohr Guinta & Tony Guinta

Audrey Haugen & Josh Dowell

Lorie Hurst & C.J. Hurst

Jordan Lanasa & Russell Alliev

Allison Lund & David Molstad

Karen Maldonado & Kevin Viratyosin

Allison Montano & Dom Pandy

Rosemary O'Connell & Daniel O'Connell

Tijen Petersen & Joel Torgeson

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Sue Prasch & Greg Prasch

Veronica Quinones & David Huang

Jill Smith & Greg Warner

Rebecca Steinkruger & John Burns

Yuko Taniguchi & Jeremy Anderson

Taylor Wall & Michael Kasinkas

Elizabeth Weaver & Joel Torgeson

Leslie Whitney & Leland Whitney

Andrea Wynn & Tyler Bridges



Rebecca Steinkruger and
John Burns

AMERICAN CLASSIC CONSIGNMENTS: A QUICKSTEP AWAY FROM THE PERFECT FIT

By Sue Richardson

Many of you have expressed interest in selling your gently used ballroom gowns and accessories. And many others would like to be able to purchase gently used ballroom wear at discounted prices. Now there is a place where the buyers and sellers can connect! The American Classic (AC) Consignment shop located at American Classic Ballroom (ACB) in Chanhassen is accepting clothing and accessories now.

For those who may not know, a ballroom consignment shop is a place where you can sell your gently used or unwanted dance wear items that are in good condition. You keep 80 percent of the sale price, and a small percentage of the sale (20 percent) goes to the consignment shop.

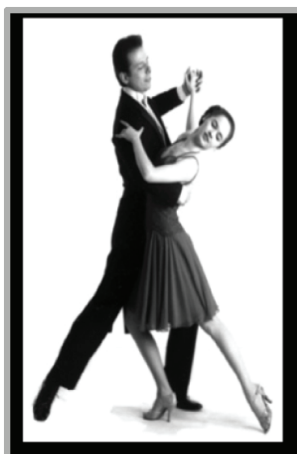
The benefit of this kind of consignment shop is that it deals only with specialty ballroom wear that caters to the ballroom community. We

will accept anything from social dance wear to formal ballroom costumes. Another benefit is that your item(s) will be advertised on the American Classic Ballroom's facebook page.

Lastly, a big advantage of coming to American Classic Consignments is that we have over 30 years of experience in sewing, design, and tailoring, which means we repair your items in order to make

them sellable. We can also do fittings and any alterations needed for items you wish to purchase.

We are accepting men's and women's clothing and accessories now! Please call Sue Richardson at 952-746-5539 to make an appointment to see if your item(s) will be accepted. All items should be clean and in good condition.



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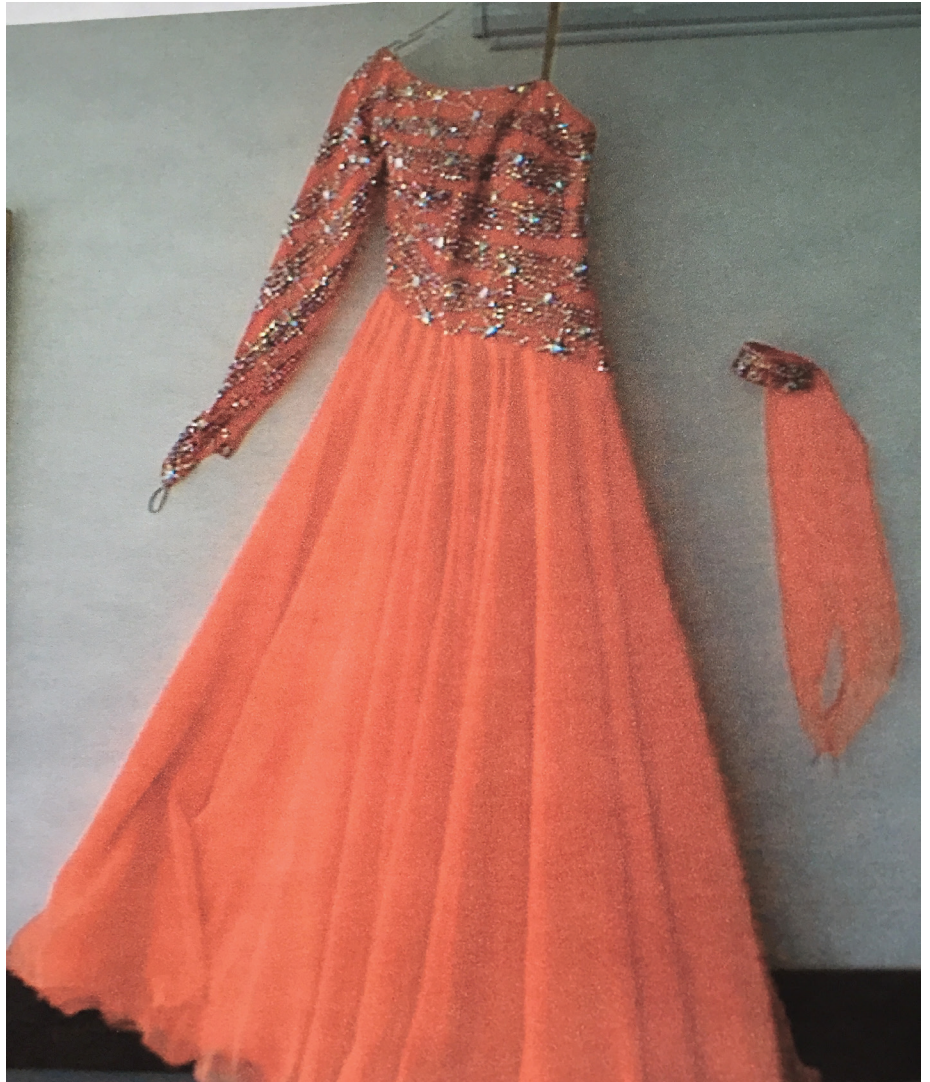
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USA Dance Membership Application

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2.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
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Home Phone		Work Phone	Cell Phone
1.			
2.			
Email Address			

Is this a renewal application? ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, Member # _____, # _____

Name of USA Dance Chapter I wish to be affiliated with: _____

Name of College or Youth Club you are affiliated with (if applicable): _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Recreational: Social Ballroom Dancer	\$45	\$	Dances for enjoyment and works to improve but does not compete . May include retired DS Athlete.
Recreational: Social Adult Dancer	\$35	\$	Enjoys and appreciates the physical, mental, and social benefits of social dancing.
Recreational: Social Youth Dancer	\$10	\$	A social dancer under the age of 19. Often a family member or friend of adult member.
Recreational: Social Dance Teacher	\$60	\$	An individual who is engaged in the teaching of social dance.
DanceSport: Adult Athlete*	\$70	\$	A competitive dancer who is age 19 or above.
DanceSport: Student Athlete*	\$25	\$	A competitive dancer age of 19 or above but below age 35 and is enrolled in school full time.
DanceSport: Minor Athlete*	\$20	\$	A competitive dancer who is below the age of 19.
DanceSport: Professional Athlete*	\$75	\$	A competitive dancer who declares him or herself as a professional or dances as a professional in competition.
DanceSport Official*	\$80	\$	An individual who serves in an official capacity in the field of DanceSport and/or ballroom dance, i.e. judge, emcee, music director, invigilator, independent comp organizer, chairperson of judges, WDSF adjudicator etc
DanceSport: Special Olympics Athlete	\$10	\$	Qualifies for participating in Special Olympics competitions only.
DanceSport: Unified Sports ® Partner	\$25	\$	Dance Partner of Special Olympics Athlete -for participating in Special Olympics only.
DanceSport Supporter*	\$40	\$	This category of membership is designed for those who are not active competing athletes but who want to show support for the DanceSport initiatives of USA Dance. This would include former athletes, parents or other family members of athletes, and general supporters who would like their voice counted on DanceSport matters.
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- Thursdays - Bachata with *Keri Simonson*
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- Fridays - Salsa Variety Dance Party with *Keri Simonson*
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