November 2018



MINNESOTA

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



Minnesota Dancer



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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.

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

November

Saturday, November 17 Dancers Studio 415 Pascal St. N, St. Paul 6:30-7 Annual Meeting (Attend the meeting and the dance is free!) 7-8 lesson-Night Club 2 Step Instructor: Troy Lerum 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music Food Drive-Bring a non-perishable food item

January

Saturday January 19 DanceLife Ballroom 4444 West 76th Street Edina 7-8 lesson-Mambo Instructor: Shinya McHenry

December

Saturday December 15 Cinema Ballroom 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul 7-8 lesson-Viennese Waltz Instructor: TBD 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music Holiday Gala!

If you join USA Dance at a monthly dance, you attend that dance for free!

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

Dancer's Night Out

USA DANCE

USA Dance-Monthly-3rd Saturday Variety Dance, November 17, Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St N, St. Paul. Annual Meeting 6:30–7 pm; lesson 7–8 pm; and dance 8–11 pm. Lesson-Night Club 2 Step. Instructor: Troy Lerum.

Tapestry–Social Dance with USA Dance, 2nd Friday, November 9, DJ is Leland Whitney, lesson is Night Club 2 Step II, instructor is Duayne Wincell, lesson from 7–8 pm and dance from 8–11 pm.

Project Dance–Sundays in November (4, 11, 18), Night Club 2-Step with Troy Lerum at Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St., St. Paul, MN

WEEKLY DANCES

American Classic Ballroom–Fridays, lesson 6:30–7 pm and Dance 7–9 pm. No Practice Party on November 2 and 23.

Awakened Dance (at 'nMotion Dance Center)-Fridays, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-9 pm.

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

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

Costa Rica Ballroom–Wednesday, Practice Party, 8:15–9 pm.

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

Dancers Studio-Thursdays, Variety Dance, 8–9:30 pm.

OTHER DANCES

American Classic Ballroom–Dance Showcase, Saturday, November 17, from 5 - 10 pm. \$15.

Argentine Tango Milonga–Second Saturday of each month, November 10, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm–1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

Blues-A-Palooza–Saturday, November 24, 7-11 pm. Medina Entertainment Center, live music and DJ's, \$15 at the door. Presented by Scott Anderson

Café Bailar Dance Club–Saturday Variety Party, 2nd and 4th Saturdays, November 10 and 24, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30–8:30 pm and dance 8:30–11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom–Halloween Party, November 2, dance lessons and party from 7 - 11 pm. \$15 Advance. \$20 at the door.

Cinema Ballroom – Friday Night Fever, November 16, dance lesson from 7–8 pm and variety dance from 8–10 pm.

Cinema Ballroom–Sunday Night Dancing with Jerry O'Hagen and His Orchestra, November 11 and 25, 6:15–10 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club–2nd and 4th Fridays, November 9 and 23, B-Dale Club, Roseville, 7:30 pm lesson free with admission and 8:30 dance.

Tapestry–Variety Dances 1st and 3rd Sundays, November 4 and 18, dance 6–9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels–WCS and Variety Dance, November 4 and 18, at DanceLife Ballroom, 4444 West 76th St, Suite 250, Edina, dance from 7–10:30 pm.

Lynne's Dance News

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.





www.lynnesdancenews.com



Photo by David Chin

Dance! Dance! Dance!

By Yvonne Viehman, USA Dance-Minnesota #2011 Dance Demo & Performance Coordinator

On Sunday, October 7, 2018, USA
Dance-Minnesota hosted a fantastic
75-minute showcase of incredible dancing
in the Twin Cities! We were delighted to
fill the Mall of America Rotunda floor
with a multitude of dancers!

The show opened with a foxtrot/swing flash mob that was created by USA Dance National and was circulated throughout the chapters. Our flash mob had many participants including the following: Sam Aanestad, Bob Becker, Lance & Karen Boole, Mike Checky, Maryann Kudalis, Judy Coughlin, Christian Eckert, Rick Ernst, Laurel Fischbach, Karen Greer, Nicole Grottodden, Barbara Hoffman, Wayne Holmgren, Mary Ihlen, Gary Jedynak, Julie Johnston, Kathy Kaufman, Michelle Krekelberg, Bill Lawrence, Herb Lindsay, Sue Martin, Glen Orcutt, SuAnne Schloo, Sue Simonett, Lyndon Smith, Sarah Stevenson, Gary Stroick & Carol Post, Mike Szmanda, David Tsang, and Leland Whitney - an amazing turnout for this debut performance! Many thanks to Janie Nordberg for leading the local instruction. Thanks also to Gary Stroick, David Tsang and Leland Whitney who assisted with the coaching. Thanks, too, to Joyce Thompson and

Carol Post for coordinating the practices – a necessary thing when you're bringing this many eager dancers together to learn choreography!

One of the show-stopping dance groups were the mighty Samba kids from Dance With Us America consisting of the following: Isabella Bersten & Mishe Long, Alissa Vladimirov & Nikita Ginzburg, Eva Brouillard & Vladik Ginzburg, Emma Stain & Mia Margolin. They were very focused and confident in their execution of the dance – what a joy to watch!

A long-standing performance team to the annual MOA showcase has been the Twin Cities DanceSport Formation Team. They have new and intriguing routines every year and this year was no exception with a nightclub two-step to a Beatles favorite! Thank you to: Cheri & Art Rolnick, Bernie & Scott Osborn, Karen & Lance Boole, Ember Reichgott Junge & Dennis Yelkin, and Vicki Nauschultz & John Burns. Kudos to Scott Anderson and Deanne Michael for their continued creativity with each number! We really want to get back on this team one of these years!

Janie Nordberg choreographs for the Rhapsody & Rhythm Team and this

year they enticed us with two dance numbers – a playful cha cha and a riveting tango! Beautiful costuming and precise footwork made for stunning performances! Their dancers included: Emily Boole & Brennan Gensch, Nelly Dorovskikh & Nick Benish, Joy Davitt & Ehren Kluge, Stephanie Riley & Tony Carlsen, Kelly Grandquist & Jack Carlson, and Natalie Simsna & Frank Kohlasch.

"Beautiful costuming and precise footwork made for stunning performances!"

Some new dancers joined the ranks of this year's showcase – the Dominican Bachata Team with tantalizing music and energetic dancers including: Angie Liuszzi & Chuck Chen, and Amelia Canavan & Charles Kronschnable. Thank you for sharing the nuances of bachata!

Dance With Us America also provided a two-couple teen formation team who displayed exquisite dancing for their



Flash mob members.

Photo by David Chin

young age! Their Viennese Waltz song happened to match their performance: "Perfect"! Aleks Sick & Alena Khoroshevcev and Jordan Sick & Sofia Evenson made up the team. Please keep dancing as you captured our hearts with this number!

We are always grateful for our Music Around the World – Polka Spotlight TV show dancers as they danced Old Time Waltz and Polka! This year's famous foursome included: Doris & Ron Lazarski, Sally & Dale Eppenberger, Vicki & Les Milverstedt and Elaine & Lynn Boergerhoff.

The show continued with a sensational high-kicking holiday number from 16 talented ladies we have come to know and love as the Sleigh Belle Dancers! They never disappoint as their polished choreography and effervescent energy draw us in every year! They will be joining us on November 25 and December 16 as we head to Rosedale Mall for performances there at 1pm and 2pm each day, so come and cheer them on again. Thank you to these wonderful ladies: Barbie Albers, Amanda Ayd, Sarah Rudell Beach, Samantha Bretz, Pat Dechaine, Trisha Foster, Diane Frey, Lori Goldstein, Nicky Hemann, Lisa Hopkins, Gretchen Novak, Marie Reilly, Stephanie Riley, Stevie Roles, Shannon Saleck, and Bonnie Worhal.

We then enjoyed many dancers as we hosted freestyle waltz, tango, foxtrot and Viennese Waltz dances. A plethora of dancers filled the Rotunda floor! It was wonderful to see so many bringing joy to all as they danced. These folks included: Cheri & Art Rolnick, Yuping Zheng & Bob Anholt, Deb & Paul Lundgren, Linda & Tom Crable, Sue Martin & Bill Lawrence, Jackie Dalton & Jerry Bursh, Laurel Fischbach & Brad Fredrickson, Dolores Houle & Ray Stiff, Lisa Wu & Daniel Lai, Maryann Kudalis & Mike Checky, Kathy Kaufman & Herb Lindsay, Arica Bjornberg & Mark Lange, Peter Radford & Gail Gavin, and Vicki Nauschultz & Glen Orcutt.

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Dan & Yvonne Viehman, Dance Demo Coordinators, USA Dance-MN #2011

Photo by David Chin

By Bonnie Burton

Dan & Yvonne Viehman have been coordinating dance performances and demos for USA Dance-Minnesota #2011 for 20 years! In 1998, they developed a production for the chapter called Dancing the Night Away, which included 100 dancers performing in 35 numbers. They produced a new show every year for six years; and the shows all had different themes. Whether the theme was flying around the world, or cruising the ocean, Dan and Yvonne strove to be inclusive, and they invited dancers of all skills and abilities to participate. The annual show played at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, had an annual budget of about \$12,000, and was entirely self-funded with revenue from ticket sales. Props were often built by Dan in his garage; and not only did they dance in the show, Dan and Yvonne were the directors, rehearsal coaches, and emcees! Incredibly, their contributions and efforts were all volunteer.

Dan and Yvonne continue to bring professionalism, organizational

skills, and inclusiveness to their work arranging dance demos for USA Dance Minnesota, including the holiday demos at local malls; and performances at nursing homes, churches and synagogues, and service organizations. Each fall, they coordinate the large ballroom demonstration at the Mall of America for National Ballroom week.

In addition to their volunteer work as the USA Dance performance coordinators, they are also volunteer hosts of a show called Polka Spotlight, which is produced through Community Education television. They video multiple episodes on Saturdays, and the show airs each day from noon – 1 PM. Polka Spotlight plays to a potential audience of 1 million viewers, although most of its viewers are retirement age. Dan and Yvonne are often recognized as local celebrities by fans who ask them for their autographs!

Thank you, Dan and Yvonne Viehman, for all you do for USA Dance-Minnesota!

Dancers from Minnesota Dance Collaborative brought some fantastic routines that night also including a jazz and a high-kick holiday number! Their energy was contagious and we thank them so much for being a part of this year's festivities. Their dancers included: Emily Helm, Jersey James, Jenna Lau, Brynn Melius, Stephanie Meyer, Allison Pink Maanum, Kaia Schomburg, Lawson Sharrer, Miranda Shaughnessy, Libby Ulm, Ada Walton and Jess Erickson. Many thanks to Holly Bryant for her help in coordinating these groups.

The teens from Dance With Us
America returned with a peppy jive
number "Beach Fantasy" complete with
simulated surfboards! The talented four
couples included: Aleksandr Vladimirov
& Michelle Seminovich, Jordan Sick &
Gwyneth Moen, Aleks Sick & Alena
Khoroshevcev, Sean Scullin & Sofia
Evenson. All of the kids joined in a
five-dance latin round which rocked the
house! Many thanks to Elena & Gene
Bersten of Dance With Us America for
instilling dancing in so many young
people – what a gift they can enjoy their
entire lives!

Peter Radford & Gail Gavin then entertained the crowd in a solo Argentine Tango! I applaud them for their courage and conviction as they told their tale. We then sizzled up the floor with a variety of rhythm dances including chacha, rumba, west coast swing and east coast swing. Many dancers joined in and showed the crowd just how much fundancing can be! These included: Jeralyn Mohr & Ha Tuong, Laurel Fischbach & Brad Fredrickson, Linda & Tom Crable, Kathy Kaufman & Herb Lindsay, Deb & Paul Lundgren, Arica Bjornberg & Mark Lange, Jackie Dalton & Jerry Bursh, Peter Radford & Gail Gavin, Deloros Houle & Ray Stiff.

I want to thank Joyce Thompson for her help 'ring-side' as she and the Mall of America sound technician Josh, coordinated to the music for the evening, which ran seamlessly! Hooray! Many thanks too as well to Carol Post who stepped up as on-deck captain. She and Joyce were instrumental in getting all of the dancers checked in prior to the show's beginning. Also, my gratitude goes out to Leland Whitney for his help in coordinating music in advance – you know how to make things happen. I could not have done this without all of you volunteering, or without the help of my fabulous husband, Dan Viehman. It was an afternoon of pure fun! So many friends coming together to dance – I didn't want the party to end!

Please join us on November 25 and December 16 as we head to Rosedale Mall at 1 pm and 2 pm for 30-minute 'Mini' shows like this one. We'll be at Center Court near Banana Republic. Let me know if you want to be added to the line-up for these shows via email: danvman@aol.com or call me at 763.245.7936.

Life is short - keep on dancing! All the best to you, Yvonne Viehman



Photos by David Chin





Dance...It's a Social Thing!

By Julie Johnston

In celebration of Ballroom Dance Week, friends and members of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 coordinated a flash mob routine to be performed at the Mall of America rotunda on October 7.

DanceLife Ballroom, Edina, MN donated space for the flash mob lessons which were taught by Janie Nordberg in four weekly sessions. This was followed by three sessions of practice hosted at Tapestry Folkdance Center.

It became a true social event when David Tsang stepped up to the plate, offering the use of his condo's yoga room for practice, and assisting dancers in learning their part of the routine. This additional practice helped to make the event an outstanding performance. Understand that David is not a dance instructor, but a retired executive from a Minnesota Company, and one of many volunteers who offer their time and talents to USA Dance-Minnesota.

David recruited people to go to Mall of America for a dry run before the event. During the practice, Sam Aanestad, who works at the MOA, noticed the dancing and came down to see what was happening. Sam's father is a dance instructor, and as he has danced some, Sam was recruited as a member of the flash mob. David taught Sam the routine



Julie Johnston has been a ballroom dancer for three years, a childhood dream that was never realized. She is a full time graphic designer in educational textbooks.

and by doing so, provided an unpaired follow with a well-trained lead.

A week prior to the event, my partner had to bow out of the performance. I continued practice to know the routine in case another follow had a last minute cancellation. David learned of a lead that knew the routine, but initially thought they couldn't make the performance date. Thus, Bob Becker became my new partner! Bob and I were able to get a practice in at David's condo two days before the performance. There was only one other couple there and thus, we got to know Lance and Karen Boole.

All of our practices were in typical ballrooms, generally square-shaped and with far less space than we would have at the rotunda. USA Dance President Gary Stroick and David made an advance trip to the Mall of America to check out the space. David created detailed visual maps that dancers could refer to for line up, position, direction and spacing.

David also arranged with Stark's Bar and Grill to use their dance floor for a final practice the morning of the event. Most flash mob members showed up to enjoy a hearty breakfast before the final practice. (I hope Stark's regular patrons don't anticipate entertainment with their Sunday breakfast from now on!)

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Seated next to my friend Michelle Krekelberg (whom I recruited to join the flash mob), our end of the table had other dancers from our studio to share our stories with from watching the prior two nights of a showcase event. This was also time to talk to Sam and find out the details of how he had been recruited. Sam's father is a dance instructor in Colorado and although Sam has done some dance with his father, his interest is mostly in theater. Well that's terrific!

My friend Michelle's partner Christian Eckert is also in theater and does the Renaissance Festival. I've always enjoyed networking people of similar interests, let me introduce you two!

It's not always possible at the studio to balance dance and conversation. Often we only get to talk to leads if we are follows, and vice versa. This event brought dancers together from different studios, different dance styles, levels and more. A true social event!

Many thanks to DanceLife Ballroom for donating studio space for flash mob lessons; Janie Nordberg of DanceLife Ballroom for teaching the flash mob dancers; Tapestry Folkdance Center and Stark's Bar & Grill for practice space; Gary Stroick, Lee Whitney and David Tsang for coaching and final staging; and ALL of the participants who made this flash mob a huge success.











Annual Meeting 6:30–7 PM Come to the meeting, attend the dance free!

Lesson & Variety Dance 7–11 PM Food Drive

Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Keystone Community Food Shelf.

Dancers Studio 415 Pascal St. N., St. Paul, MN





Nightclub Two-Step

Sunday, November 4 - 2:00 pm

Sunday, November 11 — 2:00 pm

Sunday, November 18 — 2:00 pm

Sunday, November 25 — No Class

Classes with Troy Lerum at



415 Pascal Street North St. Paul, MN 55104 651.641.0777

www.usadance-minnesota.org info@usadance-minnesota.org Follow us @USADanceMN





USA Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$5. Non-members pay \$10.

Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org or fill out a membership form available at class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

USA Dance National Election 2018; Remember to Vote in November!

By Francis Degnin, National Election Chair

The membership of USA Dance, Inc. elects National Officers and DanceSport Delegates every two years to serve four-year terms. Positions are staggered so that approximately half are elected every two years. All elected officers, delegates, and appointed directors and committee persons serve USA Dance as volunteers.

The positions open for this election are:

- Senior Vice President
- Treasurer
- DanceSport Vice President
- DanceSport Delegate 3
- DanceSport Delegate 4

Terms begin January 1, 2019. Electronic Voting will be Open November 1 to November 10, 2018.

Candidate Statement and Photos can be accessed at https://membership.usadance.org/page/ElectionsCustom. You will need your USA Dance logon and password to view the election site

and to vote. For help recovering your username or password, contact Herb McGurk at membership-dir@usadance.org

There are also changes to USA Dance bylaws which have been requested by members to be put on the ballot. Some of these are quite complex, it may take some time to read through them. I encourage members to read them carefully and so as to make informed decisions. [Editor's note: the member petitions and the national organization's response to the petitions starts on page 28 of this newsletter.]

During the last election, USA Dance experimented with three forms of voting: Electronic (computer), phone, and paper. The experiment was a success and the vast majority of votes were cast via the website. Due the fact that so few persons voted by paper or phone, as well as the general availability of web access, the Governing Council

has decided to forgo the cost of voting via phone and paper.

Therefore, all voting will be done via the website.

This will also avoid the need for manual tabulation. *Simply Voting*, an independent company, has been hired to conduct and tabulate the votes.

All USA Dance members whose membership is in good standing as of October 1, 2018 are eligible to vote. For help recovering your username or password, contact Herb McGurk at membership-dir@usadance.org

For questions, email Francis Degnin, Chair at national elections-dir@usadance.org

USA Dance is a democratic institution, which means that all members have a voice and a vote. This is your chance to exercise yours!



USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 Elections 2018

By Greg Warner, Minnesota Election Chair / Sr. Vice-President, USA Dance National

Every organization needs leadership. USA Dance Chapter 2011 is fortunate to have a rich history of very dedicated, selfless leaders supporting the USA Dance mission of improving the quality and quantity of dance.

As the Chapter approaches another important election, I was asked to facilitate this process. I was happy to volunteer to do this. Joining me on the Election Committee were Patty Fitzgerald, Yeun Chou, Tom Crable, and Donna Francisco. I would like to give special thanks to each of them for

their outstanding work and support in providing you this outstanding slate of prospective Chapter #2011 board candidates.

The National USA Dance Governing Council changed many of the Chapter election policies in 2018. These changes were designed to provide local Chapters with more flexibility and control with election procedures such as determining the number of board members and how officers are elected. USA Dance is fortunate to have a growing number of chapters and it is not surprising that

no two chapters are the same. These new changes address the uniqueness of chapters, allowing for more local control with elections and the number of board members, among other things.

Minnesota Chapter #2011 will have elections this year at the November Annual Chapter Meeting and Dance, November 17, 6:30 PM, at Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal Street N., St. Paul, MN. The following candidates have volunteered to provide leadership to Chapter #2011, if elected. Here is an abbreviated summary for each candidate:





Leland Whitney

Leland is the current President of USA Dance Chapter #2011. He has served in this role for a number of years. He has been instrumental in increasing membership of the chapter. He serves as DJ at many of the local USA Dance chapter dances and many other chapter sponsored events. He is also the Social Dance VP for USA Dance, nationally. Leland and his wife Leslie, have won several national championships at the Championship Level in Smooth, Rhythm and Nine Dance. Although a committed DanceSport athlete and competitor, he is equally committed to social dance and the growth and health of our Chapter.



Bonnie Burton

Bonnie is yet another volunteer who happily serves our Chapter and also USA Dance national. She is currently Editor of our Minnesota Monthly Magazine. She has held multiple positions over the years on our Chapter board including Vice-President and President. She has also volunteered on the Survey Committee, and Tea Dance Committee where she served as Chair in 2014; she has participated in many other activities. She serves as a District Director for National USA Dance where, just as with our Chapter, she assists other chapters with their challenges and provides direction for their wellbeing and growth. She and her husband Ed Soltis, are competitive dancers as well as social dancers and you will see them at most of our Chapter dances.

Joyce Thompson

Joyce has volunteered for many of our Chapter activities. She was a board member from 1994-2004 and was Treasurer for five years. She rejoined the board in 2015 and is seeking re-election. Her lists of volunteer activities for our Chapter includes: assisting with monthly dances, planning venues and music; she coordinates the Project Dance; serves on the Tea Dance Committee, the National Ballroom Week Flash Dance, is an avid promoter of our dances and is often seen approaching new dancers to help them with questions and to make them feel welcomed.

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Carol Post

Carol is a current board member and serves as secretary. She is a founding board member of USA Dance Chapter #2011, has served 12 years on the board and continues to be very active. Her special events activities include Chairing the Tea Dance Committee and organizing the Tea Dance's 25th anniversary event. She is also very active at the USA Dance national level serving on the anti-doping committee. Carol and her husband Gary Stroick, hold several National Championships. As a DanceSport athlete, Carol holds the same commitment to social dance and the chapter as previously mentioned.



Stephanie Clausen

Stephanie is a current board member. She has been a social dancer for a number of years. She is interested in continuing her volunteer service to our Chapter by assisting with website updates and helping our chapter continue to grow through her participation on the Membership Committee.



Russell Alliev

Russell is our newest candidate for a Chapter board position. Russell has stepped forward to volunteer for the Board for the first time. Russell is an instructor at DanceLife Ballroom and he began his competitive dancing while on the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club. He brings financial expertise to our board along with his passion for dance. One of Russell's application comments particularly struck a chord with me. He stated that he has been coming to our dances for several years and he felt it was time to give back. Thank you!



Leslie Whitney

Leslie is a current board member and has served as secretary in the past. She is very active in many if not all chapter activities. Leslie and her husband Leland, have won several national championships at the Championship Level in Smooth, Rhythm and Nine Dance. She is equally committed to social dance and the growth and health of our Chapter.



Gary Stroick

Gary is a current Chapter #2011 board member and the current President of USA Dance. He understands better than most the importance of healthy, growing chapters and our DanceSport activities. He has been involved with local and national USA Dance activities for 20 years. He brings a rich history and dedication to our Chapter.

I hope these brief bios will demonstrate the talented and committed volunteers that have stepped forward to serve us in our Chapter, even though I didn't have space to list every contribution each of these candidates has made to our Chapter. As I had the privilege to read their applications and list of contributions, I was humbled and grateful. Thanks very much!

Our chapter is successful, very successful, because we have experienced leadership with a mix of new, energized volunteers coming forward. We welcome and need both. Thank you all for stepping up to volunteer for these very important roles.

The Chapter election policy allows for up to 11 board members. I don't anticipate as of this writing, we will exceed that number

continued on next page

of people seeking positions on our board. As noted earlier, chapters now have more flexibility with the local election process. If we have fewer than 11 candidates, at the annual meeting we can and will call a voice vote for a unanimous confirmation of these volunteer candidates.

The newly elected board members will elect officers and the positions that will fill one-year terms and those that will fill two-year terms. This was another of the changes that went into effect this year.

Thanks once again to the returning candidates and our new candidate. I am confident this slate of candidates, if elected will continue to provide the leadership to make our Chapter even more successful than it is!



Photos by David Chin





USA Dance National Qualifying Event

16th Annual Competition Presented by USA Dance, Royal Palm Chapter # 6016

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Day & Evening Sessions at the Renowned Goldcoast Ballroom — Dinner Buffet Included!

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with Extended Vacation Stay Option — Reserve NOW while Rooms Last!

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www.RoyalPalmDanceSport.org

Project Dance - Seven Years and Going Strong!

By Joyce Thompson and Stephanie Clausen, USA Dance-Minnesota #2011 Board Members

At the close of the year, Project Dance will celebrate seven years of excellent ballroom dance instruction! Project Dance is a great way to introduce new dancers to the world of ballroom dance and for experienced or lapsed dancers to reconnect with foundation steps and technique. We estimate that through the years, approximately 2,500 students have participated in these lessons sponsored by USA Dance-Minnesota #2011! This year's lessons included Foxtrot, West Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Bolero, Waltz, Samba, Tango, and Rumba - with Night Club 2 Step coming in November.

Attendees' experience varies from zero, to a few group classes, to experienced dancers. New(er) dancers come to learn the foundations. Lapsed or experienced dancers come to focus on foundation steps, to assist the new dancer, and to learn the opposite Lead/Follow role. As new dancers, we found that when practicing with an experienced dancer, our learning curve increased greatly.

Attendance averages 20-30 dancers per session. Project Dance encourages dancers to join USA Dance-Minnesota. For example, this year, almost 50 people joined or renewed their membership with us – and there are still 5 sessions remaining for the year!

We have some exciting initiatives in store for the 2019 coming year. Chapter members requested lessons beyond the four (4) weeks of basics. As a trial, we offered Tango lessons for the months of August (foundations or beginner level) and September (intermediate level). Project Dance lesson sets are progressive. The additional weeks allowed for incorporation of technique, frame, footwork, posture, and lead/follow skills.

Attendance remained steady and feedback was positive. All participants enjoyed having the additional instruction, which allowed for improvement in skill and self-confidence in the dance style. In addition, a number of past Project Dance attendees renewed their membership and attended the second month. The board voted to continue this format offering the same dance style for two consecutive months through 2019.

Want to focus on ballroom foundations? Learn the opposite role of Lead/Follow?

Come to Project Dance!

Know someone who wants to learn ballroom?

Invite them to Project Dance!

Want to meet fellow dancers with a shared interest in learning?

Check out Project Dance!

Attendance is encouraged, but not required, for the full style set of lessons. A newer dancer may decide to come for the first sets of lessons. The experienced dancer may decide to come for the later sets.

Project Dance is the best deal in town! An hour lesson and a half hour practice session is just \$5 per lesson if you're a member! (\$10 non-member). The \$35 annual membership with USA Dance-Minnesota #2011 pays off in just seven lessons. With regular Project Dance attendance and practice, you will gain the skills and confidence to attend the monthly dances, the annual Tea Dance, and participate in the flash mob. That is progress!



Joyce Thompson is a long time volunteer of Minnesota Chapter #2011, and is current Vice President of the chapter.



Stephanie Clausen has been a social dancer for a number of years. She is currently a volunteer with the Minnesota Chapter and participates on the Membership Committee.





There is no Project Dance in December

Project Dance classes will resume January, 2019.

See you then!

Sponsored by USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011

USA Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$5. Non-members pay \$10.

Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org or fill out a membership form available at class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

www.usadance-minnesota.org info@usadance-minnesota.org Follow us @USADanceMN





The Overuse of "Nude" Straps on Skimpy Dance Costumes

By ® Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

What is one of my most often mentioned pet peeves when I critique "Dancing with the Stars" costumes? It is the overuse of "nude" elastic straps on dance costumes.

Why do I dislike nude elastic straps? Because, to be frank, they are a lazy way to deal with the physics of creating wearable women's dance costumes. It shows a lack of well thought-out, strategic designs and, often, they aren't as "nude" as they should be. Just as mismatched or poorly crafted straps can destroy the look of a classy costume, straps made of thin elastic strips that supposedly match the dancer's skin can have the same negative effect. And the clear plastic elastic isn't any better, as these straps are extremely shiny, and are very noticeable. They are not 'invisible'.

Straps that we are to think are 'invisible' is what separates a social dance dress with a costume dance dress. We do not have supposed 'invisible' straps on our 'out to dinner' or social dancing dresses. That would look tacky.

Construction is key when creating costumes for an adult woman's body. The bodice must cover the bust area, show just a hint of cleavage (but not so much that it will create a distraction if the costume shifts too much), and remain secure throughout the performance.

Securing a minimally covered costume typically requires one of two options: sheer (or presumed sheer) mesh fabric or genuinely uncovered skin with straps. If you'd like to use a mesh fabric instead of flesh, you're in luck! Mesh is very 'in vogue' on the red carpet these days, and it's a great alternative for giving the illusion of bare skin in dance costumes. It also keeps all the parts of a costume smooth and flat against the body. When straps anchor a particular part of a costume, other areas can bow or buckle out with dance movement.

If your desire is to have uncovered skin, there are certain anchor points that need to be secured by a strap of some sort. Besides the bust area, straps or mesh sometimes needs to anchor sleeves or sleeve bandings in place, a top of a costume to a bottom of a costume, and of course, securing a bra-section of a top or bodice.

With the bra-section or top of a bodice, those points are generally in line with the top, middle and bottom of an actual brassiere as well as the point where a strap holds up the cup area of a bra, on the front. A neck-strap can then either attach at the back of the bra, or as a 'halter-strap' going around the back of the neck. A decorative 'halter-strap' is much more attractive than just a nude elastic strap, wouldn't you agree?

"Construction is key when creating costumes for an adult woman's body."

If straps are needed to keep a costume up, they can match the garment and become an integral part of the design. Adding rhinestones, beads, studs or chains to straps can easily enhance the costume. If designed well, these decorative straps can greatly add to the visual flow of a costume.

Aside from the distraction that nude elastic straps (that rarely even accurately match a dancer's actual skin tone) can cause, the elastic that attaches one part of a costume to another part of a costume can also create an unwanted focal point. The pulling of the costume causes a peak or point and, when viewed from a distance, all you will see is the straining of the fabric. How does our brain process this? It causes a distraction from the lines of a costume.



Deborah Nelson is the Founder and Head Designer of Satin Stitches Ltd, a custom performance costume manufacturer in Minneapolis. Deborah is a leader in the fashion/costume industry with 40+ years of professional design, fitting, alterations, and patternmaking experience. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Major: Fashion Design) degree and is a former instructor at The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD). For more information about Satin Stitches, visit their website at: www.satinstitches.com

In my opinion, the worst distraction is when a bra-top ends mysteriously at the side of the body near the underarm, defying all laws of physics. So why do costume makers keep doing this? I assume that it continues to be done for one of three reasons:

- 1. "It has always been done"
- 2. Dancers continue to request it for the 'open back' look
- 3. Designers cannot create a decorative strap that would be visually attractive in its place.

I don't typically mind the elastic straps that anchor one bra-cup to the other or the strategically placed elastic straps that hold a costume together at the back waist to keep a nice deep 'V' line. Wide set sleeves also require a little reinforcing so that they don't fall off the shoulder. In this case, an elastic strap across the top of the shoulders is also useful and not distracting. Without these strategically

Continued on next page

placed straps, the costume would not work and, usually, if you squint your eyes these costumes look fine.

I'll conclude by leaving you with one piece of advice, dancers: challenge yourselves (or the designers of your costumes) to creatively incorporate your straps into the design of your dance

www.satinstitches.com

costume. Don't settle for nude straps and don't just tack on random fabric or straps so your costume doesn't fall off! Use your straps as an opportunity to add to the design and lines of your already gorgeous costume.

Maybe you, too, will now be more attuned to good strap design. Perhaps you will think about superb design the next time you marvel at how those skimpy costumes actually stay up on your favorite "Dancing with the Stars" dancers!









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Two Left Feet and a Flash Mob

By David Tsang

Five years ago I never imagined I would be dancing, let alone dancing in a public performance. However, in October, I was one of thirty-two dancers of all skill levels, dancing a choreographed foxtrot and swing flash mob at the Mall of America.

Learning to dance was a struggle. I dreamed of letting go of my fears of feeling awkward and foolish, getting lost in the moment with my partner, our footsteps intertwining in an intricate dance of life ... until I stepped on her foot. Ouch, oops, sorry, need more dance lessons.

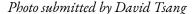
The journey from a non-dancer with two left feet and no sense of rhythm to performing publicly and helping others to learn the flash mob required pushing myself out of my comfort zone. One of my inspirations was a quote by Ted Hughes – "The only calibration that counts is how much heart people invest, how much they ignore their fears of being hurt or caught out or humiliated. And the only thing people regret is that they

didn't live boldly enough, that they didn't invest enough heart, didn't love enough. Nothing else really counts at all."

Learning to dance requires motivation, letting go of inhibitions, lessons, going out dancing, dance partners, and practice, practice. I've met many new friends at dance lessons and social dances. My new friends helped me practice. With many dance friends, it was easy to find a flash mob dance partner. My flash mob partner was Laurel Fischbach, who has been a very encouraging and supportive friend. She spent many hours practicing with me, helping other dancers to learn the flash mob, and providing valuable feedback on my dancing and in the writing of this article. Her passion for dancing is contagious. She has only been dancing 18 months, but has already danced competitively, danced in 8 performances during National Ballroom Week, and cohosted several dance events.



Sue Simonett, Rick Ernst, Laurel Fischbach, and David Tsang.





Dave Tsang is a retired General Mills executive who is passionate about health and wellness. His many interests range from writing poetry, dancing, playing the piano, pickle ball, biking, lifting weights, and climbing 100 flights of stairs.

The flash mob required hours of lessons and practice over several months to learn the dance routine. Learning the routine was a lot of hard work for 2 minutes and 39 seconds of glory on the dance floor. But dancing, as in life, is about living the journey, being present in every moment of learning and growing. Life happens in the journey, not the final destination or performance.

During my adventure of learning the flash mob, I became more involved in helping it to be successful. I recruited dancers, paired up dance partners, coached others, held extra practice sessions at the yoga studio in my condo building, and helped clarify the choreography. In dancing as in life, it's in the giving that we truly receive. My extra involvement had many benefits including new experiences, meeting new people, and forming new friendships.

Along the way there were many memorable fun moments. I remember clearing away kitchen furniture to practice dancing all while ducking to avoid hitting the kitchen chandelier. Two weeks before the performance, while practicing at the Mall of America, we met a Nickelodeon character performer. He was curious as to what we were doing

continued on next page

and before we knew it we had recruited him to dance in the flash mob. Four days before the flash mob, we were measuring the Mall of America rotunda dance space. Mall security came along with a confused look and a host of questions. Gary Stroick and I were asked for our driver's licenses and a security check was run. I smiled in amusement as Gary danced around trying to explain why he did not have an ID on him. We carried on a 10-minute conversation about dancing as mall security vetted our story of preparing for the flash mob. Finally on October 7th, we performed the flash mob as the opening dance for a showcase of 25 performances, promoting National Ballroom Week.

Being an active participant and volunteer for the flash mob was a fun and rewarding experience. If you have never danced in a public performance, I highly recommend the experience. So keep on dancing. Enjoy your journey. It's not about how you perform, or what you perform, but with whom you are sharing the moment with and what you share with others in your dance journey. Life is about the moments we share. It's about making a difference with every act of kindness, integrity, courage or sacrifice that enriches, encourages, and empowers others in their dance of life. I hope you continue to share your gift of the song in your heart as you dance to the rhythm of your life.

Lynne's Dance News

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.





www.lynnesdancenews.com

COMPETITION CALENDAR DECEMBER 2018 JANUARY 2019

1

California State DanceSport Championships NQE Oakland, CA **25-27**

Southeastern DanceSport Championships - NQE Birmingham, AL

FEBRUARY 2019

9

Royal Palm DanceSport Championships - NQE Coconut Creek (Fort Lauderdale), FL

FEBRUARY 2019

22-24

Mid-Atlantic Championships NQE Bethesda MD

Dance Contacts

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to bonnieburton@comcast.net

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM 1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria, MN 952,934,0900 www.acballroom.com

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

AWAKENED DANCE COMMUNITY (at 'nMotion Dance Center) 7988 University Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432 www.awakeneddance.com

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

BLOOMINGTON BALLROOM DANCE CENTER 3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington 952.392.9631 www.bloomingtonballroom.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 651.605.5784 tricia@danceandentertainment.com www.danceandentertainment.com

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY 3142 1st Ave S, Minneapolis 612.822.8436 www.mndance.com

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

DANCELIFE BALLROOM 4444 West 76th Street, Suite 250, Edina 612.345.4219 www.dancelifeballroom.com

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

THE FLYING PIG DANCE STUDIO 6232 Lyndale Ave. S., Richfield 612.598.1094 www.tfpstudio.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

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

T 4 DANCE COMPANY 2307 Cleveland St, Eau Claire WI 612-968-2401 www.t4dance.com

CLUBS

CAFÉ BAILAR www.cafebailar.com

LA DANZA 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

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN Email: latindc@umn.edu sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/ group/3713/

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB info@mwcsdc.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB 952.941.0906 www.tcrebels.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB 952.475.0586 billcarlson@usinternet.com

www.mwcsdc.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 www.mntango.org

Dance Contacts (cont.)

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER 3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis 612.722.2914 www.tapestryfolkdance.org UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB bdc@umn.edu Is.gd/umnbdc USA DANCE, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011 info@usadance-minnesota.org www.usadance-minnesota.org

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USA Dance -MN Chapter #2011 Board Meeting Minutes-7 September 2018

Submitted by Carol Post

Attendees: Lee Whitney (President), Joyce Thompson (Vice President) Carol Post (Secretary), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Gary Stroick and Leslie Whitney, Excused: Bonnie Burton, Stephanie Clausen and Marla Heisterkamp.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

- 1. Agenda: Approved 6/0/0.
- 2. Board Minutes August 2018: Approved 6/0/0
- 3. Treasurer Report: Approved 6/0/0
- 4. Special Projects:
 - a. NBDW- Demos will be performed at MOA on October 7. Flash Mob will perform. Practices scheduled. A special thank you will be extended to DanceLife Ballroom and Tapestry Dance Center for their generous donation of practice space for the FlashMob.
- 5. Communications: Chapter website undergoing improvement. Communications report accepted.
- 6. Monthly Dance:
 - a. Chapter Social Dances September 15: DanceLife Ballroom, EC Swing (Theme: Flat fee entry for celebration of NBDW); October 20: Dance With Us America Ballroom, Rumba (Theme: Halloween); November 17: Dancers Studio, Night Club 2 Step (Theme: Food Drive); December 15: Cinema Ballroom, V. Waltz (Theme: Holiday Gala).
- 7. 2nd Friday Dance-Sept 14. (Co-hosted with Tapestry).
- 8. Project Dance:
 - a. Trial run of teaching same dance for 2 consecutive months continues.
 - b. September: Dance Life Ballroom (Shinya). October: (3 Sunday's) 'nMotion Dance Center Rumba by Jennelle Donnay. November: (3 Sunday's), Dancers Studio Night Club 2 Step by Troy Lerum. December: No Project Dance
- 9. K-12 Report: Reports will resume after school year begins.
- 10. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Report: St Thomas and Macalester--will forward contact info to Communications and add to chapter Constant Contact, chapter FB, etc.
- 11. Chapter Growth: National effort to grow memberships through "satellite" groups. Satellite group conducts ballroom dances and activities with funding and guidance provided by "parent" chapter. The satellite representative must be a USA Dance member and would attend monthly chapter board meetings and provides updates. Ongoing discussion planned,
- 12. 2018 Nominations Committee: Applications on Chapter Website. Due by Oct 1.
- 13. Annual Chapter Meeting will be prior to the November Monthly Dance. Volunteer of the Year nominations to be sent to Bonnie. Chapter presidents are excluded from nomination.
- 14. Membership Report:

2017 Aug 31: 260

2018 Aug 31: 270

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Next Meeting: 6 PM Tuesday Oct 2, 2018. Washburn Public Library 5244 Lyndale Ave S MN 55419



USA Dance-Minnesota #2011 cordially invites you to our

Holiday-Gala Dance

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Pertormances Retreshments & Fun!

7 pm Lesson *8-11 Variety Dance

CINEMA BALLROOM 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul, MN







Response to Anonymously Circulated Petition Containing Motions to Amend USA Dance's Bylaws

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Under Article XX, Amendments and Conflicts, USA Dance Bylaws can be amended or repealed by 2/3 of votes received from voting members in good standing. On June 28, 2018, the Governing Council invited all USA Dance members to make recommendations for potential bylaw amendments via membersvoice@usadance.org. Shortly after this, a petition was circulated at the Gumbo DanceSport Championships and online. The Governing Council has been asked for its views regarding the proposed changes in the petition. Below is the language of the petition motions and the Governing Council's initial responses regarding the petitions arguments and proposed amendments.

Notably, the authors of the petition are anonymous, and a review of the petition shows that many arguments advanced in the document contain false and misleading statements, and the proposed amendments would not achieve the goals advanced in the petition arguments (either by design or poor drafting). Furthermore, the changes in the proposed amendments are not in the best interests of USA Dance and in some instances could have significant negative repercussions for the organization, its chapters, and members. Given the false and misleading statements in the petition, poor wording of the proposed amendments, and likely negative effect on the organization if the proposed amendments were passed, the Governing Council encourages all members to vote **no** to the petition proposals.

Please submit any questions to membersvoice@usadance.org. Thank you for your continued support.

PETITION MOTIONS AND GOVERNING COUNCIL RESPONSES

A. Petition Motion to Change How Bylaws are Amended

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, per removal of Article XX.A.3 of the current Bylaws, changes can only be made by a vote of the members of USA Dance. The Governing Council may make recommendations to the membership for bylaw revisions but does not have the authority to incorporate any changes into the bylaws until the voting members of USA Dance have voted affirmatively on the changes via an election.

ARTICLE XX - AMENDMENTS AND CONFLICTS A. AMENDMENTS: These Bylaws may be amended or repealed by two-thirds (2/3) of votes received from voting members in good standing by mail, electronic, or telephonic ballot. 1. Amendments may be proposed by the GC on its own initiative or upon petition by any one hundred (100)





voting members in good standing. All such amendments shall be presented by the GC to the membership with or without recommendation. 2. The ballot to amend these Bylaws shall be at a time determined by the GC, but in no event less than once each calendar year if amendments have been proposed. 3. A vote by 400 or more of USA Dance's voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. B.

BYLAWS REVISED BY GOVERNING COUNCIL: As an alternative to Article XX.A., the GC at its discretion, may amend or repeal these bylaws by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the filled positions of the GC members not recusing themselves from the vote.

Governing Counsel's Response and Concerns:

In the early 2000's, the Bylaws were updated to permit direct amendment by the Governing Council for the following clear and justifiable reasons:

- 1. Requiring approval for Bylaw changes by the membership at large caused significant delays in the operation of the organization because this could only effectively be performed during an election, and elections are infrequent, time consuming to organize, and expensive.
- 2. Requiring approval for Bylaw changes by the membership at large was difficult because the number of votes returned didn't always meet the minimum amount required under the Bylaws (it should also be noted that in the late 1990s and early 2000s, USA Dance's membership was larger than it is today).
- 3. Requiring approval for Bylaw changes by the membership at large was problematic because the varying constituencies within the organizational membership frequently were not familiar or invested in specific issues, whether those issues were Governance, Social or DanceSport related. Consequently, votes were not cast by many members, and frequently only the votes of a limited constituency were considered.
- 4. The amount of volunteer time to produce, collect, count, and report on ballots was significant and deemed to be better allocated to other organizational functions.

All of the above reasons remain valid in the current environment. In addition, the organizational cost for running a separate vote is now approximately \$2,000.

It should also be noted that although there have been a series of Bylaw changes during this administration, these were largely to address inconsistencies created by Bylaw changes that had occurred over the prior decade where Bylaw language was amended without sufficient consideration for maintaining consistency in terminology, meaning, and requirements of overseeing organizations such as the United States Olympic Committee. The current administration took the initiative to correct these problems and to improve the management processes of the organization.





Although most of these updates have been made, changes to conform to clarifications of legal and statutory terminology as specified by the United States Supreme Court still remain to be made. For example, the Supreme Court has stated that the word "shall" is ambiguous and can mean "may," "must" or "will." Accordingly, the Governing Council is in the process of reviewing the multiple areas where the Bylaws use the word "shall" and clarifying the meaning of those sections. This type of detailed review is not well suited to amendment via a ballot.

Additionally, as future changes in federal or state laws are made the Bylaws may need modification to conform to such legal obligations. Restricting Bylaw updates to the membership at large under such circumstances may put the organization in legal jeopardy given the time involved for membership approved changes.

Finally, under the current Bylaws, amendments require a vote of 75% or greater by the Governing Council. Consequently, only changes that are strongly supported are implemented.

Recommendation:

For the above reasons, the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

B. Petition Motion to Remove Protections for Confidential Information

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, add the following language to the current Bylaw of Article IV – Governing Council

- D. QUALIFICATIONS: As a requirement of service on the Governing Council as either an elected or an appointed Officer/Director, a person must agree to hold in confidence information they may acquire in their position with respect to:
 - a) Personal medical information of another member
 - b) Tax or financial information of another member
 - c) Complaints officially filed by one member against another
 - d) Examination results or specific credentials or scores regarding a professional license
 - e) Membership details of another member

No other policies or additional language shall be imposed restricting the transparency and disclosure of any persons serving as volunteers on any National or Chapter level.





Governing Counsel's Response and Concerns:

Currently, confidentiality obligations are imposed on chapter officers through the Section 8.1 of the Code of Ethics, and on the Governing Council and national committee members through both the Code of Ethics and a Confidentiality Agreement. This proposed bylaw would eliminate confidentiality obligations under both the Code of Ethics and any confidentiality agreement. The proposed bylaw imposes confidentiality requirements only on GC members and explicitly prohibits any disclosure restrictions on any other volunteer at a national or chapter level. This means that any information that goes through a non-GC member is automatically not confidential – regardless of the type of information. This would effectively remove all confidentiality from sensitive USA Dance operations and place USA Dance in legal jeopardy.

Under this proposed bylaw, bank account information held by chapter treasurers would not be confidential. Neither would tax information collected by chapter members or by any volunteer who is not a GC member (even if the volunteer were on a national committee or interning for USA Dance's treasurer). Drug testing results and medical information collected by a volunteer who is not on the GC would also be deemed non-confidential. Likewise, membership details, which are shared with chapter boards, would not be confidential.

Furthermore, almost all USA Dance complaints are handled by USA Dance's Ethics Committee (only one of which is on the Governing Council), and therefore would be non-confidential under the proposed rule. Under this proposed bylaw, a SafeSport issue involving a young child would not qualify as confidential information because 1) it is very unlikely it would be received as part of a formal complaint, and 2) it would be investigated by the Ethics Committee, which under the proposed bylaw cannot be restricted from disclosing the information publicly. The lack of confidentiality in such instances would be damaging to all parties involved.

Governing Counsel and national committee members are frequently privy to confidential and sensitive information of the national organization and are asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. The confidentiality agreement in use today was approved by the Governing Council by email vote on May 25, 2017. Prior to this vote the need for a confidentiality agreement had been openly discussed at GC meetings. All members of the Governing Council were, and are, free to discuss this vote, and this is the same process the Governing Council and Executive Committee have used to make decisions for decades.

Confidentiality agreements are standard in virtually all organizations in order to protect the organization from a myriad of issues. As an organization USA Dance is no different from any other in that it consists of a number of stakeholders (members), must survive in a competitive environment, and needs to protect its proprietary processes and





technology. The characterization of the current Confidentiality Agreement in the Members' Motion as one appropriate for a high-tech company with corporate research and development secrets is inaccurate at best and a blatant misrepresentation at worst. Although the Confidentiality Agreement does address proprietary technical information it also covers proprietary processes, operations, and personal data, among other items.

Contrary to the statements in the Members' Motion document very few individuals have chosen not to sign the confidentiality agreement. Currently, over 70 volunteers have chosen to sign the confidentiality agreement in order to work with USA Dance at a National level and receive access to USA Dance confidential and sensitive information.

The authors of the petition argue that those who sign the confidentiality document may not share the terms of the agreement with others. This statement is incorrect and unfounded. Indeed, the anonymous authors of the petition presumably have seen the current confidentiality agreement, since they make claims about the content of the agreement.

The petition also argues that the language of the agreement should be in the Bylaws. This would be a mistake, particularly when paired with a motion restricting how the Bylaws can be amended. What is deemed confidential can and does change over time. For example, the recent passage of Federal Law regarding Safe Sport requires certain actions be performed by USA Dance as well as the confidentiality of certain materials. In contrast to increased confidentiality obligations under USOC Safe Sport guidelines, several states are also considering whether to limit the confidentiality of certain conduct and materials. Changing Bylaws to accommodate such changes would not only be costly, but also could take months or up to a year. This is simply unacceptable.

Moreover, the list of items in the motion is woefully incomplete. It does not address technology decisions or processes, business processes, other confidential membership information, among numerous other items. A recent example of the sensitive negotiations demonstrates why a list will always be incomplete and cause organizational problems. Recently our information technology provider informed USA Dance that they would be moving to another platform and that it would cost USA Dance another \$15,000 (on top of current payments) to finance this move. The Governing Council researched and discussed alternative solutions, as well as other potential providers for months after receiving this notification. On August 1, 2018, the information technology provider gave USA Dance notice that it would be erasing our data on September 15, 2018. Because the Governing Council had been looking into other potential providers, we were able to respond with a notification on August 9, 2018 that USA Dance would be terminating all services with the provider and request an orderly transition of data and services before the September 15th termination date. Despite this notice, on August 17th the provider turned off all the chapter and national websites.





Fortunately, because we had been putting contracts in place with another information technology provider, and because we had researched and collected data for our web sites while seeking competitive bids from other providers, we were able to recover from the shut down within a couple of weeks. Now imagine what would have happened if the provider had been made aware of our decision to seek competitive bids, and had shut down the services months ago, early in the process. USA Dance and all the Chapters would have been out of operation for months. This compelling need for business propriety is not recognized or contained within the petition's motion.

Finally, this petition implies the Governing Council is or cannot be transparent under the current Confidentiality Agreement. This is totally erroneous. The Confidentiality Agreement only exists to protect confidential information and nothing else. Any information that is discussed that is not confidential may be discussed with any member of the Governing Council and any information that is no longer deemed confidential may also be discussed (such as the search for and contracting of an alternative information technology firm as outlined in the above example).

Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

C. Petition Motion to Remove Membership Requirement to Serve on the Governing Council

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, revise the language of the current Bylaw Article IV – Governing Council D. QUALIFICATIONS to strike the words shown below:

Article IV. D. QUALIFICATIONS: The USA Dance Voting Delegates on the GC shall have been members in good standing for not less than one (1) year preceding their holding any Voting Delegate's position on the GC and shall remain voting members in good standing in order to qualify to continue to serve on the GC.

Governing Council's Response and Concerns:

Although likely unintentional, the wording of this proposed bylaw motion calls for the striking of the entire Article IV.D and would **remove** the current requirement that non-appointed members of the GC have been members in good standing for at least one year before holding a voting position. Currently, such an exception is only permitted in the case of appointment to fill an open slot on the GC.

Because the argument in the petition discusses the need to have all members of the Governing Council be a member in good standing at least one year prior to serving on





the GC, this petition motion highlights two things: one, the petition authors were very sloppy in drafting the proposed bylaws; or, two, the petition authors seek to mislead potential signatories by advancing an argument that is directly contrary to the language of the proposed bylaw.

Currently, all GC members standing for election must have been members in good standing for at least one year. GC members who are appointed to positions, may be drawn from outside of USA Dance. This allows USA Dance to fill open positions, which sometimes remain open for months. In order for USA Dance to grow and prosper it needs experienced management to develop and implement organizational operations, tactics, and strategies. Successful organizations across the world bring in management from outside to introduce new ideas and approaches in order to prevent stagnation within their organization. Even companies such as 3M that historically have promoted from within have transitioned to a business model of bringing in executive and middle management from the outside.

The argument made pertaining to working knowledge and a stake in USA Dance is simply incorrect. USA Dance is much like other non-profit organizations from a management perspective. Like many volunteer organizations, relatively few members volunteer to serve on the GC or national committees, and a significant percentage of those who do are unprepared for the work needed to run the organization. This is particularly true in specialized areas such as information technology, finance, and legal affairs.

As a result, historically, work has not been completed (or started) on projects due to the election or appointment of individuals with inadequate experience or commitment to work on the Governing Council or its subsidiary committees (again using member only management).

Furthermore, the authors of the petition have not discussed the problems that have ensued and the work that has not been completed or started due to the election or appointment of individuals with inadequate experience or commitment to work on the Governing Council or its subsidiary committees (again using member only management). It is unfortunate but USA Dance has been exposed to this over many years with various directors and elected officials and we see the results today.

The authors of the petition have failed to communicate that since 2007, the membership of USA Dance has dropped by approximately 50% (using member only management) while the current management team (consisting of some new members) has halted this decline during the past year. Limiting the pool of appointees to members inappropriately restricts the pool of willing and viable volunteers. An example is our current Director for Administrative Support who single handedly rebuilt the National web





site in one day and the chapter web sites over the course of a week. This was done while working full time. No past Administrative Support Director or anyone else on the Governing Council or one of its committees could have accomplished this task in this time frame.

Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

D. Petition Motion to Remove Voting Power from Directors

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, all appointed National Directors including: Membership, Public Relations, Administrative Support, K-12, Collegiate, and any additional National Directors shall be nonvoting members of the Governing Council. The only individuals having a vote on the GC shall be the President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social VP, DanceSport VP, Professional VP, and DanceSport Delegates. No additional voting positions shall be created except by a vote of the members of USA Dance.

- 4. In addition, the GC is empowered to add nonvoting members from qualifying National Sports Organizations.
 - a. National Sports Organizations nonvoting members' slots are reserved for and limited to direct representation on the GC for any sports organization that conducts a national program or regular national DanceSport competition on a level of proficiency appropriate for the selection of DanceSport Athletes to represent the United States in international DanceSport competitions.

 b. The number of National Sports Organizations nonvoting members'
 - b. The number of National Sports Organizations nonvoting members' representation shall reflect the nature, scope, quality, and strength of programs and competitions of such sports organizations in relation to all other such programs and competitions in DanceSport in the United States.

Governing Counsel's Response and Concerns:

Director roles have existed in USA Dance for over twenty years, and during this time all the directors with the exception of the non-voting Director from Virginia have had voting rights. Removing the ability for directors to vote would make attracting and retaining individuals to work for USA Dance at a high level extremely difficult. If directors are not provided some representation in the decision process, and in particular in the area in which they are overseeing, this will substantially increase the difficulty in finding qualified individuals willing to make the time and energy commitments necessary to serve on the Governing Council. The difficulty in attracting volunteers (even when they hold voting positions) has been clearly demonstrated by the lack of response for





extended periods of time when announcements are made requesting applicants for open director positions.

Ignoring the likely effect of the proposed motion, the authors of the petition use inflammatory and fallacious statements to bolster their argument. The President elected in 2016 did not fire all the existing directors when he took office in 2017. In 2017, all the Directors serving USA Dance at the end of 2016 were up for reappointment as their terms had expired on December 31, 2016. No one was fired. The new President under the Bylaws appointed Directors that he felt would assist in the development of USA Dance. In addition, some of the appointees had been on the board during the prior administration as a Director (e.g., Hannah Cole – College Network) so again the statement that all Directors were removed is fallacious. The statement that all the appointed Directors were selected based on their loyalty to the President is pure conjecture and can easily be refuted by reviewing the voting record. Opinions of all elected and appointed members of the Governing Council were heard, discussed, considered and then voted upon. The implication that Presidents have, would, or could stack the Governing Council, ignores the processes that have been put into place to protect the organization. The current Bylaws specify, and the Governing Council minutes demonstrate, that the Directors are appointed and ratified on an annual basis. Furthermore, the Bylaws specify that these appointments expire on December 31 annually. This means that the first Governing Council meeting of the year is conducted to discuss and ratify director appointments. The attendees of this Governing Council meeting are the Governing Council members in the elected roles: President, Senior VP. Treasurer, Secretary, DanceSport VP, Professional VP, Social VP, and the four DanceSport Delegates as they are the only active Governing Council members at this time; not the Directors.

Thus, the President does not have the ability suggested by authors of the petition, and passage of this proposed bylaw amendment would likely decrease volunteer participation in USA Dance.

Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

E. Petition Motion to Extend Director Term of Office

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, strike the aforementioned Article IV.E.3 from the Bylaws and replace with the language of the previous Bylaws that reads:





3. DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT: Upon assuming office, the President shall appoint, for a four-year term subject to majority ratification of the voting members of the GC, the positions of Directors. However, in the case of the Senior VP assuming the office of President due to a vacancy, appointed Directors already in office shall continue to serve the unexpired portions of their terms.

Governing Council's Response and Concerns:

Currently, all director positions must be appointed and ratified by the Governing Council at the beginning of the calendar year and expire at the end of each calendar year. Contrary to the argument of the petition authors, the President does not have absolute power to place directors into roles on the Governing Council. Ratification is required by the elected positions on the Governing Council.

Limited terms for directors is important to the functioning of the Governing Council. As discussed above, a significant percentage of people who volunteer for director positions come onto the Governing Council with the best of intentions but are unprepared for the work needed to run the organization. This has unfortunately resulted in projects that have not been completed or started due to the appointment of individuals with inadequate experience or who find themselves overwhelmed by the work. As in all volunteer organizations few members volunteer and a significant percentage of those that do, do not perform to the minimum level needed. It is unfortunate, but USA Dance has been exposed to such inaction over many years and is operating under its consequences. When a director volunteer is not effective, there should be an ability to let the person go without removing "for cause." Although the Bylaws allow for the "for cause" removal of individuals during the calendar year, such radical action is rarely attempted, supported or successful because a two-thirds vote is needed to remove a director. If USA Dance is to be run as a business the leadership team needs to run it accordingly. Annual performance reviews of directors are a step in this direction. Based on such annual reviews the President will present the case for retaining or replacing each director. It is then up to the Governing Council to make a decision based on a majority vote.

Finally, the establishment of relationships with other national dance related organizations will necessarily involve their representation on our Governing Council in order to grow our sport and avoid the creation of additional competing organizations. This will make our organization stronger and increase our vitality by strengthening our membership and visibility in the United States. Furthermore, the inclusion of partner organization's dance views and perspectives will define new paths for our organization's future growth. Not allowing representatives of such organizations to have a vote on our Governing Council will only raise another obstacle in establishing such relationships.





Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

F. Petition Motion to Provide a Greater Voice to Past Presidents and Limit the Voice of Chapter Representatives.

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, replace the current language in 2018B Bylaws, which reads:

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC)

- C. NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: In addition to the attendance of the Voting Delegates,
 - 1. the following subject to invitation by the President or GC are allowed to attend and under control of the Chair have a voice at face-to-face and telephonic meetings of the GC:
 - a. Past Presidents of USA Dance
 - b. Chairpersons of National Committees
 - c. The USA representatives to the WDSF
 - d. Guests
 - 2. the following are allowed to attend and under control of the Chair have a voice at face-to-face meetings of the GC:
 - a. One chapter observer per chapter
 - b. One non-voting Director who shall be a resident of the State of Virginia and who shall act as the Corporation's registered agent in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia.

With the language of the 2017A Bylaws, which reads:

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC)

- C. NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: In addition to the attendance of the Voting Delegates, the following may attend and have a voice but no vote at all face-to-face and telephonic meetings of the GC:
 - 1. National Past Presidents of USA Dance who have completed their terms of office
 - 2. Chairpersons of other National Committees
 - 3. Any U.S. Presidium Member of the WDSF
- D. OBSERVERS: In addition to the attendance of the Voting Delegates and Non-Voting Attendees, the following members in good standing may attend as observers of all face-to-face meetings of the GC:
 - 1. One observer per chapter





2. One non-voting Director who shall be a resident of the State of Virginia and who shall act as the Corporation's registered agent in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia.

Governing Council's Response and Concerns:

Currently, for face-to-face Governing Council meetings, chapter observers and past USA Dance Presidents may attend and have a voice under the control of the chair. For telephonic meetings, past presidents and other guests may be invited to attend and have a voice under the control of the chair. The petition's proposed bylaw would reduce the representation rights of chapters at face-to-face GC meetings from having a voice to non-speaking observers. Reducing the rights of chapter representatives is simply unacceptable. The proposed bylaw would also nominally remove past presidents from being under the control of the chair of the meeting which could make such meetings unmanageable and therefore unproductive.

The Governing Council recognizes the importance of institutional knowledge, and such knowledge should be recorded in documentation associated with decisions, actions and programs. In addition, where historical information is needed from past presidents or others, that information can and would be requested. What the petition authors fail to recognize is that current members of the Governing Council and Executive Committee have experience on the USA Dance Governing Council and Executive Committee covering each of the past twenty one years. As such the administration has historical perspectives from Governing Council and Executive Committee members to draw upon.

The authors of the petition imply that the current administration has ignored the history of USA Dance and that this has caused organizational difficulties. The current Governing Council includes individuals that were DanceSport Delegates for two, six, and twelve years prior to the inauguration of the current administration, an individual that was DanceSport VP for eight years, and an individual that was a Director for four years. This group has historical knowledge of Governing Council decisions from 1997 through 2016. That knowledge is taken into consideration with every decision made by the Governing Council. Many of the difficulties experienced by the current administration are due to a lack of action by earlier administrations, and in some cases are the direct results of actions taken against the current administration by some prior officers.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Past Presidents Council was a recent development; put into place in 2013 and in effect for approximately three years prior to the 2016 election. The prior and current leadership teams recognize that USA Dance has been and should be run as a corporation. When one examines other corporations, whether for-profit or non-profit, one finds that when new leadership is installed the past leaders are not retained to give their views on the new leader's administration. Although such outlooks may have some value they can also be severe impediments.





Finally, the authors of the petition make a false and misleading claim when stating the current administration violated the Bylaws by not notifying and inviting past presidents to telephonic meetings. The Bylaws were followed as written. If prior administrations intended that the Past Presidents Council attend all Governing Council meetings they would have written the Bylaws to explicitly require notice to past presidents. Instead the Bylaws were written in such a way that allowed discretion regarding notice to and attendance by past presidents. Again, showing the sloppiness, or disingenuousness, of the petition authors, the proposed bylaw amendment would not actually achieve its stated goal.

Given the best practices of good corporate governance along, with access to historical USA Dance governance experience, this proposed bylaw would not improve the functioning of USA Dance and would limit the representation rights of chapters.

Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

G. Petition Motion to Leave the Functions of the Professional Division Unchanged

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, the Professional Division shall be limited to the activities provided in ARTICLE IX.A of the current Bylaws. The Professional Division's assumed/granted authority over USA Dance Competitions, USA Dance DanceSport Rulebook, Competition Organizers, Education, and Certification/Exams/Licensing shall be revoked and returned to the authority of the DanceSport Council and the PDC will fulfill only its functions as stated in the current Bylaws:

ARTICLE IX – PROFESSIONAL DANCE COUNCIL (PDC)

- A. FUNCTION: The function of the Professional Dance Council is as follows:
 - 1. to serve as the principal advisory body to the USA Dance GC in matters related to Professional Dance
 - 2. to implement and administer the Professional Dance policies and rules approved by the USA Dance GC
 - 3. to implement and administer the Professional Dance related administrative procedures and guidelines approved by the USA Dance EC
 - 4. to promote and regulate Professional Dance competitions at local, district, and national levels in accordance with the authority granted by the USA Dance GC
 - 5. to submit an annual business plan and budget to the President and Treasurer





6. to perform additional Professional Dance related functions as determined by the GC, EC, or President

Governing Council's Response and Concerns:

The goal of this motion appears to be to create ill will toward the new Professional Division without actually changing any bylaws related to the Professional Division. Notably, the language of the bylaws regarding the Professional Division remains unchanged, and the arguments in the petition contain numerous misrepresentations and falsehoods.

The first misrepresentation is the claim that the addition of a professional division is contrary to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 or the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). The implication is that the creation of a professional division is in some way in opposition to the Amateur Sports Act or the USOC. However, if one reads the Amateur Sports Act, or the Bylaws of the USOC, you will see no definition of amateur or professional exists in either of these documents. Furthermore, since 1978 professional athletes have been allowed to represent the United States in the Olympics from a variety of sports. Moreover, the current President of USA Dance met with USOC officials when USABDA (former name of USA Dance) was under consideration for admittance as a USOC member organization on April 10, 1999. One of the key questions asked at that time was whether USABDA would permit professional athletes to compete for positions on an Olympic team if DanceSport became an Olympic Sport. The answer to that question was yes. This was the answer that the USOC desired at the time, and it remains the answer the USOC desires today.

The Professional Division has been assigned some of the responsibilities previously administered by the DanceSport Council but not to the extent conveyed in the petition. While the Professional Council conducts administrative functions related to organizers, competition officials, and codes of conduct for officials, the Professional Division has not "become the managing body of dance competitions primarily held for amateurs. All matters pertaining to rules for competitions, granting of sanctions, and selection of officials are now under the control of this new professional division ..." All of these statements are false as these functions reside in other USA Dance organizational structures. For example, the DanceSport Council sanctions competitions, and all competitive rules are voted on by the entire Governing Council.

The petition also falsely and inconsistently states that the Professional Dance Council "does not have its own budget" and then follows this by stating that it "is a drain on the budget" and "expensive". The Professional Dance Council submitted a budget for 2018 at approximately 1.25% of the national budget.





The basis for every sport organization is competition, and competition is not conducted fairly without a set of officials to manage it. Every sport has the responsibility to provide training, certifications, and organization for officials. The Professional Dance Council fulfills this responsibility within USA Dance.

Finally, the proposed bylaw makes no changes to the existing Bylaws that specifies the function of the Professional Dance Council, and consequently does not change the function of the Professional Dance Council. As such the proposed bylaw does not address or fulfill the argument advanced in the petition, again demonstrating the sloppiness or disingenuousness of the petition authors.

Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

H. Petition Motion to Publish USA Dance's Budget/Business Plan to Nonmembers

Motion: Effective January 1, 2019, change the current language of Article VI.A to read as follows – changes provided in underlined text:

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

A. PRESIDENT: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of USA Dance and preside at all membership meetings of USA Dance and all meetings of the GC and EC. The President is responsible for executing the USA Dance Business Plan and Budget approved by the GC. The president must publish the USA Dance Business Plan and Budget on the National website for all members to access and review no later than February 1 for the current year. The President shall provide the guidance needed to ensure that the goals of USA Dance are achieved. The President, or his/her or her designate, shall represent USA Dance at meetings with other organizations or groups. Except for the Nominations Committee, the President shall be an ex-officio member of all USA Dance committees.

Governing Council's Response and Concerns:

The petition authors accurately note that the current Bylaws do not require publication of USA Dance's business plan/budget. Under the current bylaws, USA Dance's expenditures are available to all members, and the current administration has been more open to member review and audits than prior administrations.





The proposed bylaw would put USA Dance at significant business risk. Public disclosure of the annual budget could be used advantageously by vendors in negotiations, by competitors in assessing our business development tactics and strategies, and by potential business partners in the structuring relationships, among others. Annual budgets are considered sensitive business information by all corporations and are typically not released in any detail for the reasons cited above. In the current business environment, USA Dance cannot afford to be placed at a competitive disadvantage.

Recommendation:

For the above reasons the current administration does not support this Bylaw amendment and recommends that the membership vote against it.

Gary Stroick
President
USA Dance, Inc
On Behalf of the Governing Council