DANCE BULLETIN

USA DANCER

Where The Beat and Friendly People Meet
www.usadancememphis.com

December 2016 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

A deep winter chill was in the air as ninety-six USA Dance members and their guests gathered this month at Covenant United Methodist Church to honor our volunteers and celebrate the Holidays. Red and green dresses and Holiday ties were in abundance as the music floated across the floor and this group of friends began their celebration. The chill was quickly replaced by the warm joy of dancing feet.

Our Master of Decoration, Carole Eady, was at the top of her game with holiday decorations on the tables and buffet that ranged from tall glass candle sticks to toy boxes all surrounded by evergreen sprigs and holly atop red and green table cloths. These festive decorations along with the music program developed by our Music Committee spread a joyful atmosphere throughout the hall.

All in attendance were treated to a unique Hustle Showcase performed by Ben Stovall and Jorja Jolly of Ultimate Ballroom to the song *Disco Santa*. This was a very special high quality production. Fun holiday costumes and props supplemented the top-quality talent of these two professionals and produced a showcase that everyone is still talking about. For those who missed this outstanding performance or would like to watch a replay of the *Christmas Showcase of The Year*, Reta Black's video of it can be viewed on our group Face Book page "USA Dance Chapter #2012".

A major focus of our December event was the recognition of our volunteers. The efforts of these dedicated members extend the reach of our Board of Directors so there's a terrific group who are always willing to jump in and fill the gap when needed. This is also the time of year we announced our Volunteer of the Year – Dr. Tim Hnat. Photos of all follow in the newsletter.

The additions our dancers donate each month to our standard fare make our buffet so special. Our thanks go out again to every one of these dedicated dancers.

Local dance studios and independent dance instructors are the backbone of our dance community and their support is critical to our Chapter's success in expanding the quantity and quality of ballroom dancing. We were honored to have both Ben Stovall and Jorja Jolly of Ultimate Ballroom along with two of our independent dance instructors, Charles Cox and Joseph Rukendorfer, attend our December event.

Make your plans now to be a part of our ***Snow Ball Gala*** at Covenant United Methodist Church next month. Several announcements will be e-mailed to our Dancers List over the next few weeks but you might want to mark your calendar now for January 14. You do not want to miss this fun dance event.

Dance Photos - December Dance

DISCO SANTA & THE MS.

Ben Stovall and Jorja Jolly

Of Ultimate Ballroom Dance Studio

Preforming an unforgetable Surprise, Christmas Showcase, dancing to "Disco Santa" ending it with a 'NOEL TIDINGS' routine to 'YMCA'. See the video on USA Dance FB Page.

art/ Sylvia Rose
photo/ Tim Hnat

THE CROWD WENT WILD AT USA DANCE CHRISTMAS EXTRAVANGAZA ON DEC. 10, 2016

USA DANCE 2017 VOLUNTEERS

Tim Hnat named Volunteer of the Year

Is that a monkey on my back?

...and that's the way it is!
Where's the coffee?!

I'm Telling you,
this is what you
need to do!

FOULS
POINTS

GUEST
HOME
PERIOD
PLAYER-FOUL
FOULS

I'm sure I dropped it
somewhere around here!

Renewing USA Dance Members

The following USA Dance members renewed their membership since the last newsletter:

Natalie Spruell, Charles Garrett, Don Anishanslin, Lan Long, Rubye Harden, and Marilyn Kerr

USA Dance Membership Has Some Impressive Benefits

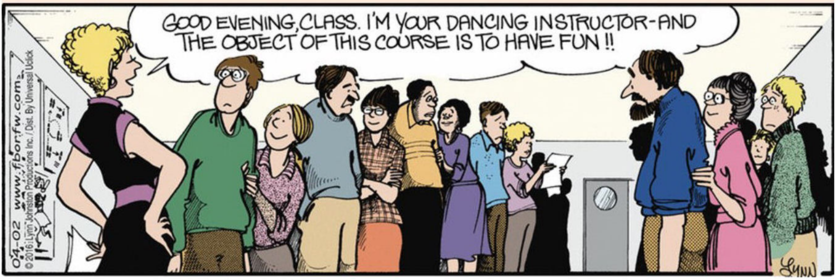
Renewing your membership is a smart money move. The discount on admission to our monthly dances alone will cover most of your renewal cost over the next year. In addition to the $3 admission discount, being a member of USA Dance is special and has its unique privileges.

If you purchase office supplies and are a USA Dance member, be sure to use your **USA Dance Office Depot card** (*Not membership card*) at **Office Depot** and get good discounts. Go online to download the card and take it to Office Depot to get it laminated for free!

For information on these and other programs, visit our website at
http://usadance.org/news/usa-dance-announces-an-exciting-opportunity-for-our-members/
Then go to http://usadance.org/extra/membership-value/ and click on the link
Members also receive a subscription to the USA Dance magazine, *American Dancer.*

Please renew your membership before the expiration date. Once your expiration date passes, the National Membership Computer pulls your name from the active member file.

Our members are the strength of our Chapter. If you experience any problems with the online system please let your Membership Chairman, **Doyle Caldwell** (dylcaldwell@yahoo.com or 901-355-3297) know promptly so that we may assist before your membership expires. We surely do not want to lose you as a part of our dance family.


GOOD EVENING, CLASS. I'M YOUR DANCING INSTRUCTOR-AND THE OBJECT OF THIS COURSE IS TO HAVE FUN !!
04-02 www.fborfw.com
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LYNN

Why Take Dance Lessons?

Robert B. White

The truth is that you don't have to. There are a lot of people who have never had a private or group dance lesson in their life but thoroughly enjoy the movement, rhythm and social contact of dancing. I have even heard comments from some dancers to the effect that the reason they don't attend USA Dance events is that everyone there has taken dance lessons.

It is next to impossible to wire a house properly, change out a two-way light switch, re-wire a ceiling fan, or operate welding equipment without proper training. However, dancing is one of those pursuits that one can participate in with almost no training at all.

Music touches something in the inner being and almost forces one to move. This phenomenon is easily observed as you watch someone unconsciously tapping a foot or finger as they become caught up listening to a tune on the radio that has captured their attention. Oftentimes, they stand and move, swaying to the tempo of the music. This is basically what you see on the dance floor from dancers who have had no formal dance lessons. These "natural dancers" have picked up enough foot placements from observing other dancers and combine it with their body movements that are in sync with the music tempo. *They are dancing*.

Most dancers, accomplished or not, enjoy attending social dances not only for the stimulation (both mental and physical) but also for the pleasure derived from meeting and dancing with others. But the only way to get the most out of social dancing and expanding your skills is to invest some time in formal instruction and combine it with time spent practicing. There's a cost for formal instruction, but you can get started with group classes that are quite inexpensive.

The group classes sponsored by USA Dance, for example, are very nominal in cost especially when you consider the quality of the professional instructors we engage to teach. There are, of course, other venues where one may formally start their ballroom dancing education, including senior centers, community centers, local churches, independent instructors, and ballroom dance studios.

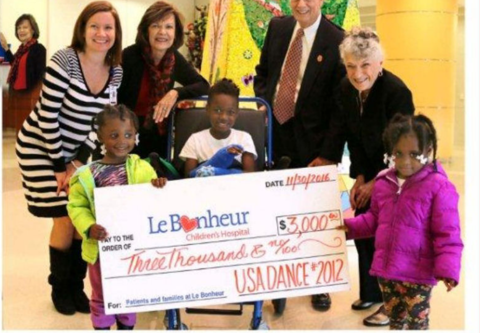
The goal of USA Dance lessons is to ignite the desire to dance while teaching enough basics so that one can attend a social dance and be a part of the action. We leave the advanced education to the studios and the independent dance instructors in the area. We hire professionals from these places to teach a large variety of dance classes, and we do allow the instructors to recruit students for private lessons.

We highly recommend that everyone learn to dance. Many of us feel it is really an essential life skill and one that offers great fun while enhancing the quality of life.

So...SHALL WE DANCE?

Bringing a little Sunshine and Happiness for a little while to the Children at Le Bonheur

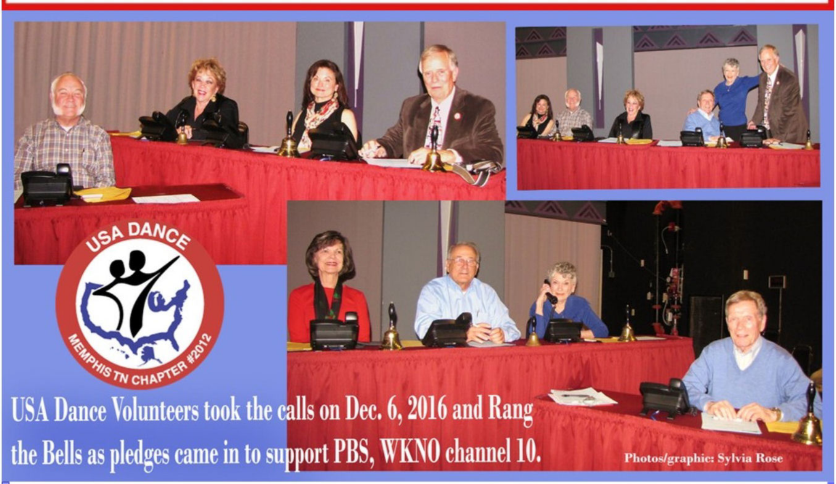
USA DANCE
MEMPHIS TN CHAPTER #2012
BEST
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITALS
US.News
RANKED IN 5 SPECIALTIES
2015-16
e Bonheur Children's Hospital



Presenting the check, L to R: Marci Mulhern, CMNH Programs Manager, Le Bonheur Foundation; USA Dance: Gail Mays, V.P.; Robert White, Pres.; Sylvia Rose, PR/Publicity; Children: Nicholas with his twin sisters Payton & Taylor. Photo/ Matt Woo

USA Dance held its 9th Charity Ball this past November with the proceeds benefiting Le Bonheur Children's Hospital Foundation, Child Life Program for the 6th year. With close to $20,000 in donations we are now a brick on the foundation wall in the Hospital.

Our Volunteers present a program of Ballroom Dance for the children in September which is closed-circuit broadcast throughout the hospital for children, parents and staff. Those children who can attend the program dance with our volunteers and delight in the special showcase performances. The Child Life program helps these children to forget their illness for just a little while. Our contribution from the Annual Charity Ball and Love of Dance helps support the Children who are treated at Le Bonheur bringing Sunshine into their lives.



USA Dance Volunteers took the calls on Dec. 6, 2016 and Rang the Bells as pledges came in to support PBS, WKNO channel 10.

Photos/graphic: Sylvia Rose

USA Dance Volunteers, pictured L to R: Doyle Caldwell; Jane Hester; Pam Vaughn; Robert White; Gail Mays; Barry Stanley; Sylvia Rose and Jim Frommel. Live on camera, taking pledge calls in the studio during the 'Memphis Memoirs' broadcast on the Local PBS station, WKNO channel 10. Such a wonderful 4 hour experience, great dinner buffet, carrot cake and cocoanut cake, helpful production crew and friendly hosts. Through private support, WKNO moved to their new location at 7151 Cherry Farms Rd. totally free of debt as well as owning the property. WKNO broadcast a special 6 hour series WDSF World Championship Grand Slam Competition after Thanksgiving for which we say, "Thank You"! Pledges keep the programs we love, commercial Free.

2016 GROUP CLASS TID BITS

Wishing you

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a Happy 2017 New Year !

We Danced it All in 2016 ~

Waltz, Rumba, Swing, Cha Cha, Fox Trot, Tango Hustle, Bolero, Mambo & Quick Step.

AND are bringing you MORE in 2017!

JAN. 8, 2017~
“HUSTLE” IN the New Year
with BEN Stovall

FEB. 5, 2017 ~
“ARGENTINE TANGO”
with ARMAN Sahakyan

MARCH 5, 2017 ~
“SALSA” with JORJA Jolly!

All Classes held at 943 Novarese at Tutwiler; $7; Kids & Students $3; Beginner Class at 6pm and Advance Beg. & Intermediate at 7:15pm - No Partner Needed ~

More information: 901-386-2003, Sylvia Rose Group class Dir.

Twelve dancers are dancing, and taking no rest,
and closely their hands together are press'd.
And soon as a dance has come to a close,
another begins, and each merrily goes;
and another year of dancing soon comes to a close.
Here's hoping we'll see you on the dance floor scene...
In twenty seventeen.