DANCE BULLETIN

USA DANCER

Where The Beat and Friendly People Meet

www.usadancememphis.com

June 2015 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White:

The joy of impending summer was all around as one hundred and seven USA Dance members and their guests gathered at Covenant United Methodist Church this month to celebrate *Summers a'Comm'n*. Carole Eady translated this theme quite nicely with home grown hydrangeas in brilliant colors atop elegant glass spires at each table around the dance floor. This theme carried to the buffet table piled high with goodies brought by the dancers. The centerpiece of delight was the strawberry shortcake topped with whipped cream.

We were honored with dancers from one of our sister chapter in northern California who joined us as they traveled in the area. It is always fun to share the dance floor with USA Dance members from other chapters around the country. Everyone in attendance was treated to a fabulous Foxtrot showcase performed by two of our group class instructors, Jorja Jolly and Ben Stovall.

Our special thanks go out to all who contributed their delightful recipes to our buffet table as well as to Tim Hnat for his expertise in operating the sound equipment for our announcements and dancing pleasure. My personal thanks to all of the other Board members and volunteers who covered my duties for this dance.

Next month's dance will be our Celebration of America. This is always a fun time together so plan now to wear Red, White, and Blue as we gather again at Covenant United Methodist Church on July 11 for a great evening of dancing.

Dance Photos June Dance

SUMMER
DANCE

The Ladies of the Board

Jorja in June

Jorja Jolly & Ben Stovall

"Everybods Needs a Best Friend" Fox Trot Showcase USA Dance June, 2015 Photo by S. Rose

Hey! Who let the old gimpy guy with the cane in?
Yea? Who told you that!

What happened?!?!
She was here just a moment ago!

I really enjoy being surrounded by good looking women!

Some guys have women in their hair all the time.

There he is surrounded by good looking women again.

Guests from a USA Dance chapter in California

Hey, have I got a deal for you!

USA Dance - Greater Memphis Chapter, extends a warm welcome to **Robert Stetzel, Nan E. Buck, Maggie DeBon, and Charles Garrett** who joined the Chapter since our last newsletter. We look forward to your being a part of our dance family. See you on the dance floor.

Renewing USA Dance Members

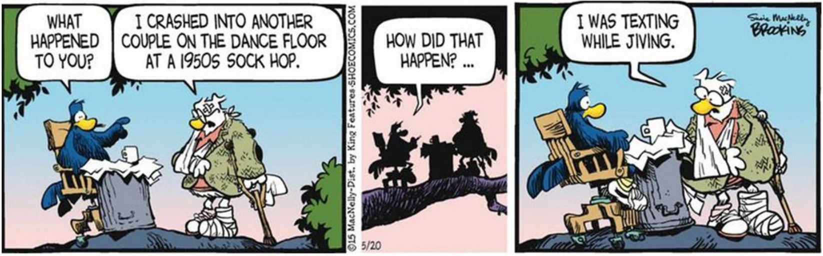
The following USA Dance members renewed their membership since the last newsletter:

Karen Craig, Marilyn White, Robert White, Matthew Lybanon, Carol Lybanon, Charles Cox, Pat Cavender, Robert Haynie, and Bill Beck

Renewing your membership is a smart money move. The discount on admission to our monthly dances will more than cover your renewal cost over the next year at the current rate.

On another note, National has voted for a membership dues increase of $10 for social dance members effective July 1. This is the first increase in social membership dues in 12 years. Social dance memberships will now be $35 or $45 per year, depending on which membership you choose. If your membership is about to expire, you can renew before July 1, 2015 and pay the previous lower rate. If you are a non-member and wish to join, you can do so before July 1 and pay the previous rate. **Now is the time to renew your membership and save some money.**

Our members are the strength of our Chapter. Please renew your membership as soon as you receive your renewal notice. If you experience any problems with the online system please let us 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.


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I CRASHED INTO ANOTHER COUPLE ON THE DANCE FLOOR AT A 1950S SOCK HOP.
©15 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN? ...
5/20
I WAS TEXTING WHILE JIVING.
Susie MacNelly BROOKINS

Get on the Dance Floor

Robert B. White

A social dance is nothing like what one sees on the TV program *Dancing with the Stars*. Everything we see the couples doing on the dance floor on DWS is choreographed and practiced over and over again. This performance is polished to as fine a degree the instructor can accomplish with his student (star) and performed on live TV only once. It is designed for entertainment of the TV audience. I doubt many of the "Stars," once they have completed the particular dance they have trained for, could repeat their performance three weeks later without practice.

The TV program is fun to watch and many social dancers enjoy it greatly; however, what occurs at a social dance is totally different. Social dancers, under normal circumstances, have not developed a routine at all. Most have taken lessons from an instructor, learned basic steps for a particular dance, and walked onto a social dance floor with only this basic knowledge and technique. This basic knowledge is honed as they participate and most people become adept in a relatively short time if they participate and do not just sit on the sidelines and watch. Proficiency in dancing is much like doing math problems. The more you do, the better you become at it.

The purpose of a social dance is much different than the TV program. The general reason to attend a social dance is, of course, to take part in the dancing. With that as the base, there are a wide variety of supplementary reasons people attend dances:

- Dancing is great exercise and many people find it a lot more fun than running on a treadmill or some other type of machine.
- Attending a social dance is a great way to meet new people. Dancers are, in general, the friendliest and most outgoing people one meets. As a result, they are very welcoming of newcomers and very tolerant of new dancers.
- Dancing is good for one's mental health.
- Most importantly, dancing is fun.

With this in mind, the idea is to get on the floor and dance. This is second nature to experienced dancers. This is the reason they attend the dance and they usually take to the floor as soon as the music starts as naturally as they breathe. It is not this easy for most new dancers. Many new dancers are intimidated when they begin to attend dances by the ease that many dancers have on the floor. What they fail to realize is that even those dancers who seem to ***own the floor*** started exactly where the new dancer is watching them. Becoming a proficient dancer is directly proportional to the amount of time you spend dancing. The more one does it, the better one becomes at it. So, when you attend a dance get on to the floor and dance. You will forever be pleased that you did and more satisfied as your dance proficiency grows as time passes.

It is definitely easier to take the floor as a new dancer if you have a partner. If you attend the dance with a spouse, date, or friend that is also a dancer - either new or experienced – it is always easier. A dancing couple's situation has built into it some obvious advantages. Once one becomes a proficient dancer, it is much easier to get on the floor because of the confidence obtained with experience and familiarity with what takes place at a social dance.

Most problems with getting on the floor occur when one is a single new dancer and/or a single woman at a dance. The norms of our society make it much easier for a single man to get on the floor than a single woman simply because men have been trained from childhood to take the lead in such situations. At this point, I feel it is appropriate to offer some etiquette on the proper way to ask someone to dance:

- Approach the person you wish to ask, stop at a distance where you can carry on a normal conversation, establish eye contact, and say something along the lines of "May I have this dance?" while extending your hand.
- Take your partner's hand and move onto the dance floor. At the end of the dance, thank your dance partner and return them to the location where you initially started.

One of the advantages of a social dance, especially for single women, is that it is entirely acceptable for a woman to ask a man to dance as it is for a man to ask a woman. Many women find this difficult to do. They were reared in a society where doing something along these lines was a social taboo. If you are a single woman and are not being ask to dance, you need to overcome your fear. Please know that most men are delighted when a woman asks them to dance. I have always felt it an honor when I discover a lady wishes to dance with me.

That being said, there are several things a single woman can do to enhance her chances of being ask to dance. All of them center on appearing interested, accessible, and wanting to dance:

- When you enter a dance, select a seat as near to the dance floor as possible. The ideal position is right on the edge of the dance floor with your feet touching it. Never sit at the back of the room away from the dance floor. A position such as this makes it difficult for you to be seen, and if you are not seen, you will never be asked to dance.
- Sit facing the dance floor. Sit erect with your chin up, a smile on your face, and sparkle in your eye. Continually survey your surroundings. Such action as this indicates your interest in what is going on, and it also allows you to check out and evaluate the dancers. You probably want to identify and mentally take note of men you would want to dance with later in the evening.

- Attempt to make eye contact with male dancers as they walk by between dances. Eye contact significantly increases your chances of being invited to dance. Men often *cruise* the seating area prior to a dance in search of a partner. If you should make eye contact with a guy doing this, you will likely be invited to dance right away. Even if he is searching for someone specifically, if you make eye contact, your chances of being invited to dance later are greatly increased.

Once you succeed in getting on the floor dancing, the likelihood of being invited again increases. A while back while attending a dance, I noticed a woman I had never seen at our dances before. She sat a couple of tables down from me and pretty much followed the guidelines I have previously mentioned. Several dances went by and no one had invited her to dance, so I approached her. She turned out to be an accomplished dancer and told me she was in town for some job training. Like so many of us who are addicted to dancing, she always searches out a place to spend her evenings dancing when she travels.

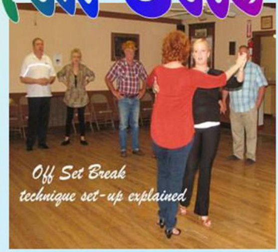
She mentioned while we were dancing that she was beginning to feel as though she had fallen into a "closed dance" where the dancers were not welcoming of outsiders (unfortunately, this does exist but it is rare). Following the end of our dance together, I returned her to her seat, thanked her for the dance, and returned to my table. I don't think she missed more than a couple of subsequent dances all evening. Sometimes it is much like priming an 'ole fashioned water pump. Once it starts, it just continues to flow.

Ladies, don't just sit by and watch the action on the dance floor. Get out there and enjoy the fun. You will not regret it!

Group Class Tid Bits

Rumba and Fox Trot Class with Jorja in June

USA Dance. chapter 2012. June, 2015



Off Set Break technique set-up explained

Last Class B 4 Summer Vacation !

NO CLASSES IN JULY or AUGUST !

Summer Time Mirage - Double your Fun - Jorja is Tricky !

Fun for everyone in partner practice !

Summer is upon us once again and we have had a wonderful six months of group classes learning and polishing up on: Hustle, Fox Trot; Cha Cha, Waltz; West Coast Swing; EC Swing, Tango; Rumba, and Fox Trot. A Fabulous Fall is waiting for Waltz, Viennese Waltz, Rumba, Tango, Samba, Mambo, Bolero, or maybe even Salsa or Meringue? Only “me and my shadow” know!

Jorja Jolly, June instructor, gave all the dancers special tips on technique, while emphasizing patterns which can be used in many dances (mix and match any way you choose). A special Big welcome to our NUBEE Family: Robert Stetzel, Nan Buck and Maggie DeBon and thanks to our host, Lee Bodeen!

NO GROUP CLASSES IN JULY OR AUGUST

Watch for class schedule and announcements coming in August. Be sure to check the web site: usadancememphis.com for up to date information. Also join our open group Face Book page: USA Dance chapter 2012. You may also join the National group Face Book page: USA Dance,inc. – Lots of good information there!

Wishing Everyone: Happy Dancin’ and a Wonderful Summer.

C U on the LOD – Sylvia Rose, Group Class Dir. – Call 901-386-2003 for more information.

Early June was baptized in genial rain,
as we gathered at Covenant with dancers pain.
To move with the music all night long,
and salve our passion with delightful song.
Our love of QuickStep, Tango, and Waltz is complete,
as we move along the floor with tempo feet.
At times like this to share with a special friend,
we never want the evening of fun to end.