DANCE BULLETIN

USA DANCER

Where The Beat and Friendly People Meet

www.usadancememphis.com

September 2016 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

What a way to start the month of National Ballroom Dance Week! The moon had just appeared in the evening sky as eighty-six USA Dance members and their guests gathered at Covenant United Methodist Church early this month for our Harvest Moon Dance. The photos shown later in the newsletter attest to the joy they experienced on the dance floor as well as the fellowship as they gathered around the buffet and seating areas. This is truly a group of dancers who relish being together and it shows.

Carole Eady performed her early Fall magic with freshly cut hunks of aromatic red cedar amid the colors of the season on both the buffet table and the tables around the dance floor. Her creativity is always greatly enjoyed and appreciated. The entire attendance was wowed by the two Showcases performed by our national award winning members, John and Kathy Linn. We thank them for sharing their talent on the floor for all of us to enjoy. Our thanks go out to all of the dancers who supplemented the buffet table with their special recipes and to our many volunteers that set up and take down the dance each month. Also a special thanks to Tim Hnat who floats the music across the floor for our dancing pleasure, makes our announcements possible, and doubles on the camera to create most of the photos you see in this newsletter.

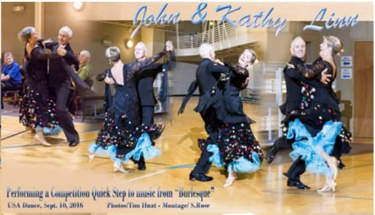
Make your plans now to be at Covenant United Methodist Church the second Saturday of October for our Oktoberfest event. Fall will be in full color by that time and there is a high probability you might be treated to a Polka during the evening. So…hope you join us for a fun evening on the 8th of next month.

Dance Photos - September Dance

"September Morn"
John and Kathy Linn

Senior Champions John & Kathy performing a Latin Competition Rumba.

USA Dance - Sept. 10, 2016 Photos/Tim Hnat - Montage/S.Rose



Performing a Competition Quick Step to music from "Burlesque"

USA Dance, Sept. 10, 2016 Photos/Tim Hnat - Montage/ S.Rose

You never have trouble attracting a dance partner when you wear pants like these!

Who is this guy sitting at my table!?
Did you hear what she just said!?

POINTS
GUEST
PERIOD
FOULS
PLAYER-FOUL

Where are you people! The dance started half an hour ago!
GUEST
PERIOD

Of course they are real diamonds!

USA Dance - Greater Memphis Chapter, extends a warm welcome to **Carol Comer** 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:

Peggy Jones, James Payne, Esim Payne, Timothy Hnat, Vickie Caldwell, Doyle Caldwell, Frederique Zindy, Pam Vaughn, Shirley McCleskey, and Stanley Smilowitz.

USA Dance Membership Has Impressive Benefits

Renewing your membership is a smart money move. The discount on admission to our monthly dances 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.

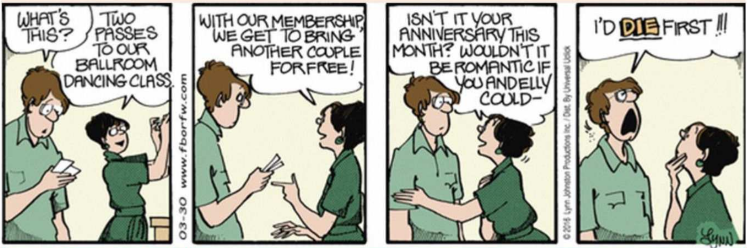
If you purchase office supplies and are a USA Dance member, be sure to use your **USA Dance Office Depot card** (*Not membership card*) at **Office Depot** and get good discounts. Go online to download the card and take it to Office Depot to get it laminated for free!

For information on these 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) 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'S THIS?
TWO PASSES TO OUR BALLROOM DANCING CLASS.
03-30 www.fborfw.com
WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP, WE GET TO BRING ANOTHER COUPLE FOR FREE!
ISN'T IT YOUR ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH? WOULDN'T IT BE ROMANTIC IF YOU AND ELLY COULD-
© 2016 Lynn Johnston Productions Inc. / Dist. By Universal Uclick
I'D DIE FIRST !!!
Lynn

Trivia Note from the Editor:
This is the 80th e-newsletter published by USA Dance Greater Memphis Chapter #2012. If you would like to check out all the fun you had on the dance floor over the past 6 ½ years just go to our website and click on the link to view past newsletters.

Board Nominations

Time is running out to get your name on the ballot for next year's Board of Directors for the Chapter. September 30, 2016 is the deadline.

Ann Taylor – Surprise 90th Birthday Celebration

Ann Taylor has been a staple figure in the Memphis Ballroom dance community for many decades. It is only fitting that her 90th birthday would fall within the National Ballroom Dance Week. Ann was honored with a surprise birthday party by a large group of her dancing friends to celebrate the occasion. The celebration was heralded by the song ***Dancing Queen*** at Fernando's dance on the 17th followed by the presentation of a large birthday cake along with the appropriate crown, sash, and scepter of flowers. And, of course, an evening of dancing.

USA Dance at Le Bonheur

USA Dance has Danced for the Children at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital for the last four consecutive years. This event consists of several Showcases demonstrating different specific dance styles and general dancing by USA Dance volunteers and often professional dance instructors from the local dance studios. The event is staged in the open space on the ground floor of Le Bonheur before an audience of Le Bonheur staff, patients, and visitors. The event is televised to all of the rooms in the hospital for the pleasure of their patients.

USA Dance Volunteers “Dancing For the Chlidren” Sept.14, 2016
Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital Foundation, Child Life Program

MAGNET RECOGNIZED
AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER
BEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS
US News
LEVEL 1 PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER
American College of Surgeons

Front L to R: Jessica Howard; Marilyn White; Vickie Caldwell; Jane Hester, Board & M.C.; Sylvia Rose, Board & Ch. Event; Pam Vaughn, Board; Judy Cole; Mike Wiggins. Back L to R: Randy Collins; Robert White, Pres.; Joseph Rukendorfer, Instructor; Gail Cockrell; Doyle Caldwell, Board: Peggy Jones; Lee Bodeen: Mary Ann Waddell & Stanley Smilowitz.

LEVEL 1 PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER
American College of Surgeons

Support Your Local Dance

by

Robert B. White

I sure wish my favorite addiction/hobby was not so expensive. Dance really is an addiction of sorts but unlike a dependency upon drugs that negatively affect one's ability to function and almost always ends gravely, dance adds to the long term joy and health of life. For many of us it is the supreme hobby that we share with those who have a similar interest.

Dancing is far from the most expensive hobby one can have. I don't have personal knowledge of raising horses or owning a yacht but I understand the cost of those top Dancing as a hobby (unless one dances competitively and then the gap probably narrows a great deal). That being said, even social dancing does have a cost. Good quality dance shoes are expensive as are dance lessons. On top of the tools one must pay for in order to participate in this hobby there is also the cost associated with attending a dance.

Of course some dances are more expensive to attend than others. When one travels to an out-of-town dance event the cost of lodging, additional meals, and travel adds up quickly. Usually your local weekly dances are the least expensive but even the ticket prices of these seem to be going up.

The average social dancer has no idea of what it takes in both labor and cost to produce the dances they attend. They simply walk in, pay the price of admission (which almost always includes some refreshments and sometimes a meal), dance the night away, and then walk out at the end of the evening. It never occurs to them that prior to their arrival, the dance venue had to be booked and paid for by the producer of the dance. A space adequate for a dance is never inexpensive. Usually this cost runs into the hundreds of dollars at least and often much higher. There are some exceptions to this. Dances produced and sponsored by Senior Centers, Community Centers, Churches, etc. as outreach programs already have the venue and have no out-of-pocket expense attached. This situation often means a lower ticket price to the dancers attending. The next major expense for the producer of the dance is the music. Both live bands as well as DJs have a cost associated with them. This cost is usually about the same as the venue cost. Even nonprofit organizations, such as USA Dance, who often use a volunteer DJ must pay for the sound equipment. This equipment alone runs into the thousands of dollars to purchase and maintain.

So far we have the dance floor and the music, what other cost could there be? Some dances, such as USA Dance events, are manned by volunteers but even these events often have some paid help such as someone to handle the food serving and keep the buffet table and drinks stocked during the dance. Often the person handling the ticket sales is a paid employee. The reason USA Dance members produce a dance is because they want to dance; therefore, people are hired to handle things during the dance so the "volunteers" can dance. Some dances are produced by a DJ. These dances still have the venue cost but the DJ must bring in enough in ticket sales to cover what he would be paid if he were hired by an outside entity. Otherwise there would be no point in producing the dance. There is also a cost for labor at DJ events.

Food/refreshments are the next item on the cost list. This is not nearly as much as the costs listed so far but normally it does run well over a couple of hundred dollars even for a small event. Dances are not dangerous events; however, all dances open to the public are subject to liability for incidences that might occur during the dance (injury to the dancers or other unforeseen things that could happen during the dance). There is a cost involved in purchasing the liability insurance necessary to cover such possibilities. Even those dances that don't hire a band or a DJ have music expenses. Dances that produce their own music via a volunteer DJ must also have a license to play the songs they use. These licenses are issued by the copyright holders of the songs and this license fees cover the cost of playing the songs at the dance. Some dance venues have an additional cost for cleaning and clearing the venue that is attached to renting it and that adds to the cost of producing the event. The point I am making here is that there is a significant cost to produce a dance and that, plus a reasonable profit margin, must be covered by ticket price or the dance will not survive.

Recently many of our local dances, after having the same ticket price for many years, have had to increase their price of admission. This is much like the cost of haircuts, movies, and eating out have increased. Everything has gone up in price over time due to inflation. There have been some rumblings among the dance community members concerning this increase. I don't particularly like to pay more for my haircuts or my dances; however, the higher price is much preferred to not having them available.

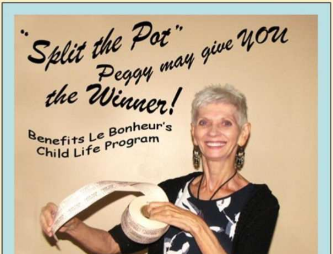
When a dance event loses money on just a few events it is closed down and the dancers have one less location to enjoy their passion for the activity. So, support your local dance by attending it at every opportunity. The alternative is to not have a place to dance and for those of us with an addiction to dancing this would be a fate worse than...

Group Class - Tid Bits

Jeannette Jeffries & the USA Dance West Coast Swingers

Does the HAT ever come off?

" SHINE ON HARVEST MOON" or "By the Light of the Silvery



$1 ea. or 6 for $5
Drawing Oct. 2, 2016

Moon”.. ***Jeannette Jeffries*** had this happy crowd of Dancers swinging to the beat...1-2 – 3&4 - 5-6- 7&8 – follow the hand & connection, connection, connection is the rule. Some of the Beginners stayed to watch the ‘fancy dancers’ doing some “Cool Moves” at 7:15 pm. ‘Thank You’s to **Stephanie Edwards** for assisting **Jeannette** in Lead and Follow with the students and demos. **FUN FUN FUN!**

WC Swing continues through Oct. 2 – the night we draw for the WINNER of *‘Split the Pot’* for Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Child Life Program – Don’t wait, Get your TICKETS at Group Class each Sunday night in Sept., Oct. & thru Nov. 27 adding to the Charity Ball donation on Nov. 12! YOU WIN and the CHILDREN WIN!

STEPHANIE KORPITZ of Fred Astaire Studio Instructs Rumba & Fox Trot - OCTOBER 9-16-23 &30

Our newest member to join USA Dance at Group Class is Carol Comer. She gets 2 FREE Classes and a FREE monthly dance (recorded music) as well as “*American Dancer*” the national magazine of Sport Dance and Social Dancers and other discounts offered by the national organization. *COME JOIN the USA Dance family of Happy Feet & Smiling Faces* at the Berclair Civic Club, 743 Novarese at Tutwiler. **$7 per class, 6 pm Beginners & 7:15 pm Adv. Beg & Intermediate levels.**

More info: Sylvia Rose, Group Class Dir. 901-386-2003

The Waltz, Swing, and Rumba we welcomed none too soon,
as the USA Dance crowd gathered to celebrate the Harvest Moon.
The sweet tempos of Ballroom music - a majestic presence on this night,
and this group of friends moved on the dance floor with such delight.
Our dancers all - Bronze, Silver, and Gold,
did glide around the dance floor for all to behold.
Our joy beneath the Harvest Moon had just begun its croon,
but for this special group of friends the evening ended much too soon.