

## Comments from our President – Robert White



Well...we expected to re-start our monthly dance again this month; however, the COVID-19 virus seems to be the "gift" that just keeps on giving. Cases of the virus grew exponentially in this area causing a delay in further phase openings. The local government decided to roll back some of the allowed activities in an effort to reign in the viral advancement and hopefully shield those not currently infected. The roll back caused another.

delay in the opening of the venue where we hold our monthly dance. Sporadically we rail at the void we are experiencing in not being able to dance, and occasionally we poke fun at the restrictions. However, this is a serious situation and we do not want to take any action that would place our dance community in jeopardy. Your Board continues to plan our next dance and each month we find ourselves postponing until the next month. That said, we are not really sure when we will meet next for a dance, but rest assured that we are working diligently behind the scenes to make it a reality as soon as restrictions are lifted, and we can safely dance again.

On the subject of your Board of Directors, under normal circumstances we hear from you on a personal basis at our monthly dances when you have a problem or issue of some type. Since we are not currently holding dances, if you should need to contact one of us you will find our contact information in this newsletter.

Our Group Classes did re-open early this month under some very strict guidelines. It has been successful and apparently due to the restrictions, the only outcome has been some excellent dance instruction enjoyed by those who participated. We look forward to completing the July series of Group Classes safely for all participants



### Have You Moved?

If you have moved since you joined the Chapter or your last membership renewal, we need your change of address information in order to keep our records up to date. You may conveniently do this by e-mailing your new address, telephone number, e-mail address, etc. to your Membership Chairman – [howardglat@comcast.net](mailto:howardglat@comcast.net). If you experience any problems with renewing your membership on line, please call 800-447-9047 in order to resolve the issue.



## Neringa Jakstiene

Just over a year ago, we highlighted long time USA Dance Member, Neringa Jakstiene's many athletic achievements in the Senior Olympics, which includes multiple regional and world records. She's won eight National Senior Olympics gold medals and currently holds six different indoor and outdoor event world records. Last year, Neringa was chosen as the best overall Master Track and Field Athlete in the world and she became a U.S. Citizen as well. Featured in the current edition of *Memphis FIT* magazine, Neringa's story is inspiring and the pictures (including the one above) and article are terrific! The accolades come with a price, she trains two to three hours a day with a grueling combination of running, weightlifting and swimming. Lucky for our dance community, Neringa also loves Ballroom Dancing for creative self-expression and making lots of friends. USA Dance salutes YOU, Neringa for your many well-earned accomplishments. We love your daily training mantra, "Never stop trying; never stop believing".

### Contact Information for your Board of Directors

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Jane Hester	(901) 359-1413	<a href="mailto:janehester@bellsouth.net">janehester@bellsouth.net</a>
Leo Koulogianes	(901) 761-9048	<a href="mailto:kouaid@aol.com">kouaid@aol.com</a>
Gail Mays	(901) 619-3720	<a href="mailto:maysgg@bellsouth.net">maysgg@bellsouth.net</a>
Larry Moore	(901) 336-9252	<a href="mailto:lmoore2@memphis.edu">lmoore2@memphis.edu</a>
Dena Richardson	(901) 619-0261	<a href="mailto:denad@centurytel.net">denad@centurytel.net</a>
Sylvia Rose	(901) 386-2003	<a href="mailto:sharrisrose@bellsouth.net">sharrisrose@bellsouth.net</a>
Pam Vaughn	(901) 491-5074	<a href="mailto:pvaughn@uthsc.edu">pvaughn@uthsc.edu</a>
Robert White	(901) 757-9267	<a href="mailto:robert_b_white@bellsouth.net">robert_b_white@bellsouth.net</a>

### Around the White house



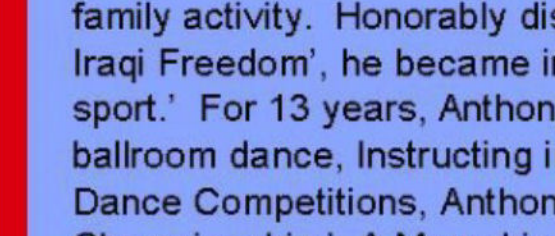
## IT'S...CLASS TID BITS

### Footloose Dancin' Freedom



As a devotee of Dance and the opportunities it creates for Friendships; inner expression; health, emotional and physical well being, I believe this first group class, since March 8, 2020 was a most needed break from the burdens of stress which this novel cv-virus has created for all throughout the world.

**ANTHONY PARKS ~**  
USA Dance' newest Instructor, brought new approaches and techniques to the Hustle and Foxtrot classes. He gave us so much individual attention, it was as though each had private lessons. Anthony has energy, patience, caring and talent which he shares with all his students. We give a big Welcome to Anthony!



We would like to introduce our newest professional Ballroom instructor, added to the roster of professional instructors for USA Dance, Greater Memphis Chapter 2012 ~

**Anthony Parks**, Independent Instructor of Ballroom Dance and owner of Prestige Ballroom of Memphis. As a youth in Texas, Anthony was encouraged in sports but dancing was not a family activity. Honorably discharged as a decorated combat Veteran of 'Operation Iraqi Freedom', he became interested in ballroom dancing at age 23 for it's value as a ' life sport.' For 13 years, Anthony has devoted his passion, energy and athletic ability to ballroom dance, instructing in American Smooth and Rhythm, Specialty Performances, and Dance Competitions. Anthony is the only instructor in the Memphis area with a 'Triple Crown Championship.' A Memphian for the past eleven years, Anthony says: "Ballroom dancing is unlike anything out there, it can change you and how you see yourself forever".

### NO DANCE OR CLASSES WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST!

Due to uncertainty of closure and re-opening regulations of events, your Board of Directors has CANCELED the DANCE and PLANS FOR AUGUST! We apologize for the disappointment as we were all looking forward to a 50's theme dance on August 8. We consider your safety and that of the Area dance community a paramount consideration in holding a large group event. Hopefully, Classes will resume in September and we will keep you notified of all future dates and changes of Dances.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEPTEMBER CLASSES WITH ARMAN SAHAKYAN; OCTOBER CLASSES WITH JORJA JOLLY AND NOVEMBER CLASSES WITH VIKTOR LES ~ Take care, stay safe ~ C U on the LOD somewhere, sometime ~  
Sylvia Rose, V.P./ Group Class Dir. / Publicity Ch.

Another month without dance floor content,  
the tempo we missed, with our feet not sent.  
As the time approached our hearts rose,  
but soon we learned the virus it goes.  
We had planned for an eventful array,  
but the virus spread on this day.  
Looking forward to some not distant time,  
when we may again gather in this summer clime.