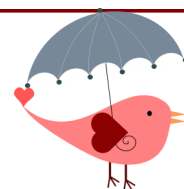




USA Dance, Inc.

Carolina Heartbeat



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website: www.carolinaheartland.org

Facebook group: Carolina Heartland USA Dance

Chief Editor: Charles Hafer, charleshafer@gmail.com, 336-554-5279

Photographer: Steve Raeford

Assistant editor/circulation manager: Lib Johnson ****To receive future newsletters by email, contact Lib at**

LibSJohnson@triad.rr.com **

Volume 15, Issue 4

Page 1

April 2019

The President's Column

Ballroom Dance is a great way to bring people together from all walks of life. I was reminded of this while attending a dear friend, Trudy Atkins, memorial service this past week. The dance community was blessed to have Trudy Walton Atkins in our midst. She lived and danced well into her 90s and touched my life as well as many others.

Trudy was an exceptional woman who traveled and worked internationally and settled in Greensboro. She worked for the Associated Press and the US Information Service in London, Munich, Stuttgart and Casablanca. This was just a fraction of her many interests and accomplishments. She also had a passion for ballroom dance, as was beautifully expressed at her service. She was truly an exceptional woman.

As I sat in the midst of other dancers at Trudy's service I realized, again, the love and support we share. We have so many wonderful people who come into our dance community with varied interests and backgrounds. We are surrounded by such a diverse and eclectic group of wonderful people, with so many experiences, personal stories, professions and passions. Ballroom Dance binds us all together with a common interest.

As the spring blossoms into summer, I look forward to sharing our lives and our passion for dance. To all of you, thank you for being a part of such an amazing group of people. As I am glad Trudy touched my life, I am also very thankful to have all of you sharing the dance floor and the dance of life.

Sherri Raeford, President
Carolina Heartland, USA Dance, Inc.
Sherrilovesdance@gmail.com,
336-601-1768.



Upcoming Carolina Heartland Events

Saturday, April 6—"Black Tie" Annual Spring Formal Dinner-Dance, "Some Enchanted Evening". Deadline for reservation form to be received is **April 2**. After that date call Marty (336-209-2993) to check reservation availability.

Sunday, April 14— **Monthly Dance**, Guilford Grange. **3:30-4:15 pm**: Cha Cha lesson taught by Allen Berryhill. **4:15-6:00 pm**: social dancing to music prepared by Charlie Hafer. Admission: \$5 for USA Dance members, \$10 for non-members, \$5 for students.

Saturday, May 11 — **Bolero Workshop**, taught by Tim Saunders. Guilford Grange, 4909 Guilford School Rd, Greensboro. 2:00-4:00 pm. Cost \$20, payable at door, but you must register with Lib Johnson at LibSJohnson@triad.rr.com by Thursday May 9, 7 pm.

Our Next BIG Event!

Our 14th annual National Ballroom Dance Week Showcase & Dance will be held on **Sunday September 15** at the elegant Bur-Mil event center/clubhouse in north Greensboro, about 2.5 miles from I-840 and next to Lake Brandt. As usual, we will offer over two hours of great dancing music plus many great showcase performances by amateur and professional dancers, as well as delicious snacks.

If you are considering performing, you have over 5 months to put together your routines and to practice! But, be sure to mark your calendar even if you only plan to attend, dance, and enjoy the performances. Much more information will be coming in the next few months; see photo page 2.

March Carolina Heartland News

Around 40 dancers turned out for our March 10 dance, which started with a fairly complex Bolero dance pattern taught by **Tim Saunders**. Then they enjoyed dancing to the mix of music put together by Lib Johnson, which included some great Irish songs.

(continued page 2, column 1)



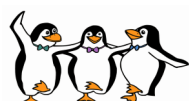
Spotlight on Robert Smothers

Robert has been on the dance scene for two years now, and we became even better acquainted with him when he and several other local men assisted with the beginner classes last October. He wanted to make sure each lady had an opportunity to practice each newly taught step with a "seasoned" partner. His help was invaluable.

Robert, who is a life-long resident of Rockingham County, has three brothers and a sister, and a very large extended family in the area. His work career began at age twelve unloading tobacco at his family's business, Smothers Tobacco Warehouse, in Reidsville in 1966. While attending ECU Business School, he started growing tobacco, without prior experience, "on a dare," and continued farming for thirty years. After graduating from ECU in 1978, he joined the family business, operating the tobacco auction house, eventually buying interest in the business that the family operated until 2006. As the industry changed, his family left the tobacco business, and Robert worked the last ten years as Assistant Manager of the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market. He has enjoyed being retired since December, 2017.

(continued page 2, column 3)

Photo at left: Robert Smothers and Donna Guinard view the slowly disappearing mid-day sun, August 2017



March Funds Balance
\$5938

March Ballroom Dance Opportunities (all times PM)

- April 5 , 1st Friday, Guilford Grange Dance,** Guilford Grange, 4909 Guilford School Road, Greensboro, 8-10. Contact: libsjohnson@triad.rr.com.
- April 6, 1st Saturday,** Southfork Recreation Center, Winston-Salem, Southfork Recreation Center, Winston-Salem, 8:00-10:00. Contact: 336-659-4305.
- April 7, 1st Sunday, Tim Saunders Dance,** Guilford Grange, **NOTE NEW TIME 3:00-5:00.** Contact: Tim, 336-324-1924.
- April 12, 2nd Friday, Dinner & Dance,** High Point Elks Lodge, 700 Old Mill Rd., Dinner 7:00; Dancing 8:00. Contact: Carolyn Williams, 336-945-3635.
- April 13, 2nd Saturday, Greensboro Social Dance,** Lewis Recreation Center, 8-10. Contact: Eileen Leggio, 336-643-6088.
- April 14, 2nd Sunday, Carolina Heartland Dance,** Guilford Grange. See details near top of page 1.
- April 19, 3rd Friday, Step Set Dance,** Guilford Grange, 8-10. Contact: Charlotte Jackson, 336-889-5534 or jercharjack@yahoo.com.
- April 27, 4th Saturday, Horizon Dance,** Guilford Grange, 8-10. Contact: libsjohnson@triad.rr.com, 336-299-7412.
- April 28, 4th Sunday, Piedmont USA Dance,** Jerry Long YMCA, Clemmons. Lesson at 4:00; dancing from 4:30-6:30. Contact: Marcia, 336-712-8183 or hmbar@aol.com.

Carolina Heartland News, from page 1

Our thanks to **Ken and Jo-Ann Lommel** who were the dance hosts and did some great decorating, with help from **Caroline Owen**. Also thanks to **Rodger Haberfield** for acting as treasurer and all those who brought great refreshments. **Mel Paterline** won \$27 in the 50/50 raffle, which will be a fixture of future dances.

And **Mel & Victoria Paterline** were also winners in the world of DanceSport competition. They competed in late February in the Mid-Atlantic Championships in Bethesda, MD, among about 400 others competing. They were the sole representatives of our chapter!

They competed in American Smooth in 2 age categories and 2 skill levels and were thrilled to win 4 first places and 2 second places in these events. They also competed in International Standard and won a Silver Medal (second place) in the Novice Skill level. And they also placed third and fourth in the balance of the Standard heats. We congratulate Mel and Victoria for representing our chapter so well in this National Championship Qualifying Event.

Below: Bur-Mil, venue for our NBDW Showcase-Dance on September 15; tables will be placed to allow plenty of room for dancing and performing.



Photos below by professional photographer Steve Raeford

Spotlight, from page 1

When asked about leisure pastimes, Robert replied, “My interests include traveling, pocket watch collecting, playing cribbage, photography, **DANCING**, and hanging out with my girlfriend, Donna Guinard. Donna and I met on a blind date in June of 2015. Her being a dancer, and my not dancing, soon created an obstacle that we had to deal with. We decided that Donna would learn how to play cribbage, and I would learn how to dance. With Donna’s help, the help and encouragement of the entire Greensboro dance community, and dance lessons, I have overcome my initial embarrassment, and have now been dancing for over two years. I definitely have the ‘dancing bug’, and I’ve gained Donna as an excellent cribbage opponent”.



Tim Saunders & Liz Gilky



Bob Fogelsong & Robin Borsos



Liz & Lou Popowsky