

I Would Love To!

By Tom Sanders

First, we crawl. Then, we walk; and, then, we all run! Not only is this true in life, it stands true in dance. In my experience and from what I have witnessed, we all go through the same journey on our trip through dance.

First, you take action on a long thought about interest and then decide to take part in a dance lesson. And so, the journey begins. One lesson leads to another and soon excitement sets in. Then, you realize that there is more than one dance that tickles your fancy.

Now, you want to learn them all! Yesterday!

During this journey, the next logical progressive step is to attend a local dance. You're ready, willing, and wonder about the able part. You sit on the sideline watching others dance. You wait for the dance music to that dance you just learned. Then, all of a sudden, a familiar beat stirs you and challenges you to get up and show what you have learned. Some reach out for their spouse or significant other. Others wait and hope that someone will invite them onto the dance floor. Instead of thinking "pick me, pick me," take action!

This is where the title of this article comes into play. Don't sit and wait! Follow the lead of Marta, our Chapter President. Ladies, get up, walk right up to that gentleman you want to dance with and offer your hand saying with a smile "I would love to!" Believe it or not, so would we!

As for you Gentlemen, go for it! Practice your leading abilities and, yes, make your mistakes. Each dance will make you better! The journey continues with each dance event. You have now passed the crawling stage. The first few times you danced one or two familiar

dances, but now you're familiar with the steps of several dances. The walking has begun! The one dance turned into four, then eight and then you determine that all music is danceable.

Run, Dancer, Run! Full speed ahead!

Somewhere and sometime in your future, someone will ask, "how would you like to perform at....." It could be the Mall Ball or Macy's or The Home Show. There is going to be so many opportunities. And the answer from you, that former new dancer, will be "I Would Love To."

This trip, called ballroom dancing, is unending and, as you reflect back, you will also acknowledge that on this journey you crawled, walked, ran and sprinted ahead.

So lose any feelings of insecurity and find that dance partner waiting for your invitation and be ready to say "I Would Love To!" If you're that lucky dancer hearing those words, reflect back to your beginnings and welcome that new dancer to your on-going journey of dance. And, by the way, if you see me at the dance "I Would Love To".