

20 Years of Service



In March of 2013, the Heartland Chapter celebrated 20 years of service of Marvin Bechtel, our long-time Treasurer, Board member and dance enthusiast.

Coincidentally, 2013 also marks a 20-year anniversary of the Heartland Chapter.

Marvin and his wife Greta have been dancing for over 30 years. Shortly after discovering ballroom dancing, Marvin got involved in a leadership role serving as president of a different local dance club, Continentals, years before our Indianapolis USA Dance chapter was formed. After Marvin "retired" from leading the other club, The USA Dance tapped into his skills as a volunteer.

Marvin and the Chapter grew together. During his 20 years of volunteer work for USA Dance, Marvin has worn multiple hats and performed numerous work duties, from greeting people at the door and DJing to setting up and cleaning before and after the parties, and book-keeping.

The social dancers come to our parties to have a good time. The amount of time and effort that goes into organizing a party is not transparent to an average party-goer. The volunteers have to set up the tables, chairs and decorations at the dances, as well as snacks and the sound system. When the dance is over, all the tables and chairs have to be folded up and put away, and the sound system and decorations have to go back to the storage unit. Marvin performed all of these tasks and many more with passion, charisma and endless amount of energy.

Among the many facets of his volunteerism, the one that Marvin is remembered for the most is handling Heartland's finances. At some point, Marvin let us know that he was good at bookkeeping and he inherited the job of a treasurer.

Marvin also helped with all the Chapter fundraisers, from working with his wife Greta on numbering auction items, to sorting, taking money, and keeping records of the event. While doing fundraisers, he worked with Riley Children's Hospital, La rue Carter Hospital, Angel Flight, and anomalies for Pediatric Neurology.

Marvin also became involved with the Penrod Arts Fair. Known as the "Indiana's Nicest Day," the Indianapolis Penrod Arts Fair kicks off the second Saturday of each September on the breathtakingly-beautiful grounds of the Indianapolis Art Museum. Considered one of the largest single-day art fairs in the nation, the Penrod Arts Fair has been attracting visitors for nearly half a century. Marvin eventually took on the responsibility of contacting and setting up the Heartland's booth and organizing our Chapter exhibitions there year after year.

Marvin has performed all if these duties while remaining our faithful treasurer.

Besides being hearty volunteers, Marvin and his wife Greta were and remain avid dancers, and performed at many USA Dance events, including our annual Christmas Parties, Penrod Arts Fair, Indianapolis Nursing Homes and retirement Centers and WMYS Radio Life Style and fitness Expos. Marvin and Greta were also involved with an entertainment group at the renovation of the Garfield Park Center, as well as taking an active part in many events at the Indiana Roof, and the 500 Festival ball at the Indiana Convention Center.

We estimated that with all the dance functions that Marvin was involved with, he and his wife Greta danced at least 4 nights a week. This is over 4,000 (!) nights in 20 years! He was still our treasurer.



While Marvin was a valuable volunteer for our local Heartland chapter, he was also a great resource for the National USA Dance organization. When he joined the "Nationals" as an Assistant Treasurer, the event became more profitable. Marvin was also asked and readily agreed to be a treasurer of the youth college network (YCN). When he joined the "Collegiate National Championships" team, the event became more profitable.

While Marvin is one of those people that everyone enjoys working with, he required that event organizers have budgets, and stick to them. A simple premise, but one that turned money losers into profitable events, and allowed profitable events become even more profitable.

He alternated working the Intercontinental DanceSport Festival dance events between London and Daytona Beach for several years. Marvin was usually up at 6-6:30 every morning for this one week event and didn't go to bed until after everything was over with well after midnight. During the last year of the event Marvin was the Organizer for the whole event.

Marvin was also invited to be the Treasurer for the Nationals DanceSport Championships in Minnesota for 2 years, and executed this task with Marvin-like passion and reliability.

In 2013, after 20 years of continuous service and dedication to the Heartland Ballroom dancers, to USA Dance, and the promotion of ballroom dancing nationwide, Marvin retired from the Heartland Board and from his duties as a Treasurer. It has been a pleasure working with this wonderful person and a dedicated professional.

From all of us at Heartland Chapter, we would like to say our collective thanks to Marvin for all his years of service! We couldn't have been this successful without you!