



# Footnotes...

WINTER 2014

P.O. Box 7021

Metairie, LA 70010-7021

<http://usadancegumbo.org>

**Our mission is to promote the quality and quantity of ballroom dance in the U.S.A**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Friday Night Dance 3

Dance Schedules 4

Dancing Around Town & Upcoming Metairie & Houma Dances

Houma Winter Showcase 6

Gumbo of Ballroom Fundraising Dance 7

April 4 Dance Flyer 8

## President's Message

Dear Chapter Members,

Let me first apologize for it taking me so long to communicate with you. This past year has been a very busy one for me both professionally and personally and I have fallen behind on correspondence.

2013 was a busy year for many of you as well and our chapter was very active. To recap the 2013 Gumbo chapter year let me begin with perhaps the highlight of our success this past year. The board asked you to come together and host a fundraising event for our dear friends, George and Karan Barton. This was held November 8<sup>th</sup> and you really came through. To date, \$15,000 has been do-

nated to the Barton's as a result of our fundraising efforts. Your response was very heartwarming and George and Karan are touched by your care and concern for their life-altering situation. On January 24<sup>th</sup> Ann and I visited with them and you will be happy to know that Karan shows signs of some improvement. Her recovery is a very slow process and she still has quite a long way to go, so they continue to ask for your thoughts and prayers.



The last few months dance attendance allowed us to either make a small profit or at least break even. Prior to that, we routinely lost money on our dances. As you well know, we cannot continue to do so and continue to be an active chapter. With this in mind, increasing dance attendance will be a priority this coming year. I want to encourage all of you to bring friends with you to our Sunday afternoon dances. And, don't forget that we also hold a dance in Houma each month on the fourth Saturday as well.

The benefit for Karan and George wasn't our only successful fundraiser in 2013. We had a very successful formal

*Cont'd on Page 3*

## Competition Update

On January 21<sup>st</sup> the competition planning committee met to kick off its fundraising drive and to begin plans for the 2014 Gumbo DanceSport Championships. The group was very enthusiastic as we

began to lay the ground work for our most exciting competition to date. Not only are we hosting a national qualifying event, we are also hosting the Senior IV National Championships and the champion-

ship level of the Junior II Standard, Latin and Ten Dance National Championships. June 27-29, 2014, will be the Gumbo Chapter's crowning glory as many of the nation's finest dancers

*Cont'd on Page 2*

# Competition Update cont'd

will be gracing the Gumbo of Ballroom's dance floor. The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge is the site of this fabulous weekend of dance.

A priority of our planning year is to hold a very successful fundraising event. This year the Gumbo competition fundraiser is scheduled March 9<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 5pm at the Jefferson Orleans North, Metairie. The headlining couple is Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler from Circle Pines, Minnesota. Nels and Theresa are multi-year national champions and have been loyal Gumbo competitors for years. They have graciously agreed to come at their own expense to help us reach our goal of \$25,000. You do not want to miss this afternoon of dance, as you are in for a treat when they get on the dance floor. You will also have the opportunity to buy them for one or more of our popular Pay-to-Dance dances. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased by contacting Peggy Clement at (225) 627-6154 or by email at [clem-entpg@hotmail.com](mailto:clem-entpg@hotmail.com). Fundraising does not stop with this event, as reaching our goal will require individual and company donations and advertisements, so we invite you to be part of this outreach. If you can assist us in any way through contacting others, securing ads for the competition program and/or ideas for us to follow up on, please contact me at (504) 722-4800.

Both competitor and spectator registration packages are complete and we opened on-line registration February 1<sup>st</sup>. We are now open for business! The competition website has been updated and I want to encourage everyone to visit it at [www.gumboofballroom.org](http://www.gumboofballroom.org). In addition to lots of useful information about this year's event, you will see some great pictures from last year's



Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler

event.

Most of the officials are confirmed and listed below:

## Judges:

Dan Calloway, Chairman (Maryland)  
Wayne Crowder (North Carolina)  
Marie Crowder (North Carolina)  
Steve Hadley (Alabama)  
Kim Smith (Alabama)  
Kathryn Schaffer (Florida)  
Patti Panebianco (New York)  
Dasha Sushko (New Jersey)  
Glenn Weiss (California)  
Zack Stevens (Texas)  
Renata Shvarts (New York)

## Emcee:

Yang Chen, National USA Dance President (New York)

Chris Skates (Florida)

Scrutineer: Mark Tabor (Texas)

USA Dance Official: Stan Andrews (Illinois)

Director of Music: Richard Stewart (Louisiana)

Registrar: Charlie Clement (Louisiana)

Deck Captain: Jack Jaubert (Louisiana)

Organizer: Ann Durocher (Louisiana)

NOTE: Glenn Weiss is planning to stay over Sunday evening following the competition and is available for coaching Sunday evening and Monday morning. If you are interested, please call me at (504) 722-4800 or email me at [flprann@aol.com](mailto:flprann@aol.com).

Five workshops will be held during the competition weekend and are available to social and competitive dancers for \$10 per workshop. This year's workshops are:

*Samba, Not Just Another Latin Dance*

*Smooth/Standard, the Value of Collecting*

*Sharper Rhythm Through Latin Technique*

*Give Your Bolero a More Passionate Look*

## President's Message (cont'd)

dance in September at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. Ben and Gwen Becnel do so many things to see that this dance is successful and we appreciate all they do for this chapter. This is the only event in our area that gives us an opportunity to dress up for an elegant evening of dining and dancing. This event netted well over \$2,000, which is being used to run the chapter. Our 2014 formal benefit dance is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> and will again be held at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. This is a lovely ballroom and I hope you will note the date on your calendar and join us.

Each year our chapter hosts the USA Dance Gumbo DanceSport Championships in Baton Rouge. This is a national qualifying event and has become a favorite of many competitive dancers. We are happy to report that this weekend event has made a profit year after year and, as a result, our chapter has been able to

add money to the scholarship fund annually. These funds are used to promote dancing among the youth in our area. In 2014 we plan to launch a new initiative to provide dance opportunities for young people.

During National Ballroom Dance Week we again held exhibitions at the Esplanade Mall. It was a fun afternoon for those of us who participated, but the crowd was smaller than usual which was a bit disappointing.

2013 was the election year for our Board of Directors. The 2014 and 2015 board members are as follows:

President, Jim Steven (Houma)

Vice President, Diana Lovell (Mandeville)

Secretary, Jesse Gellrich (Baton Rouge)

Treasurer, Jennifer Vaughn (River Ridge)

Director, Joycelyn Perry (Houma)

Director, Ruby Shrieves (Harvey)

Director, Jackie Elliott (Metairie)

Director, Betty Younger (Metairie)

Director, Ann Durocher (Houma)

We truly are a regional chapter!!!

The board's focus in 2014 will be to increase membership, provide more opportunities to dance and to celebrate USA Dance's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Another priority is to do a better job of communications through our website, through emails and our newsletter. I do hope you will give us your input and volunteer some of your time to help make our chapter a better one that serves all of the area dancers.

See you on the dance floor!

*Jim Steven, President*

## A Friday Night Dance!

In response to requests from some of our members for a Friday or Saturday night dance, the chapter has procured a Friday night at the Jefferson Orleans North. We will be holding a USA dance on **Friday night, April 4th** starting at 8 p.m., so please save the date. We will, of course, still have our Sunday dance on April 13 because you can't dance too much! Depending on the J.O.'s Friday night availability and attendance at this dance, we hope to be able to offer more Friday night dances. However, we do need to make enough to pay the rent, so please spread the word to family and friends and come out and have a good time. Please see flyer on page 8 of this newsletter. Flyers will also be available at the February 16th dance.

# Competition Update cont'd

## *Foxtrot Better Than Fred and Ginger*

We are in the process of engaging vendors and have commitments from the following:

- Moon Dance Photography
- Dancing Videos
- Fancy Fashions
- Grand Prix
- Margaret Burns Hair and Makeup
- International Dance Design
- The hotel is expected to sell out this

year due to the number of families that travel with the Junior II championship dancers, so please make your reservations early if you want to stay on premise.

Because of the high profile of the 2014 Gumbo we expect to host a number of national officials, so you will have opportunities to interface with most of your national officers. But, you gotta come, so come out and cheer for your favorite dancers or compete and become a favorite of someone else.

Although we have a loyal group of volunteers to help with the weekend, we always need additional help. If you feel you can contribute to the success of the competition weekend, please contact Sterling Sightler at (225) 769-6615 or email her at [ssightler@gmail.com](mailto:ssightler@gmail.com).

Check the website [www.gumboofballroom.org](http://www.gumboofballroom.org) frequently for announcements and updates.

## Metairie Dance Schedule

Jefferson Orleans North  
2600 Edenborn Ave. Metairie, LA

February 16  
March 16  
April 4 (Friday)  
April 13  
May 18  
June 15  
July 20  
August 17  
September 21  
October 19  
November 16  
December 21

## Houma Dance Schedule

Studio 371  
371 School Street, Houma, LA

March 7 (Friday)  
March 22  
April 26  
May 24  
June 21  
July 26  
August (no dance)  
September 27  
October 25  
November 22  
December (no dance)

## USA Dance Special Events

Sunday, March 9—Louisiana  
DanceSport Fund Raiser, Jefferson  
Orleans North  
2600 Edenborn Ave., Metairie, LA  
1:00-5:00 p.m.

June 27-29—Gumbo DanceSport  
Championships, Baton Rouge

Saturday, August 23, USA Dance  
Fund Raiser  
Belle Chasse Auditorium, Belle Chasse,

# DancingAroundTown

## Club Silhouette

3505 N. Hullen Street, Metairie, Louisiana  
504-885-1771

[www.clubsilhouette.net](http://www.clubsilhouette.net)

As classes and events change from week to week, please check their website or call the above number.

## Starlight Ballroom

5050 W. Esplanade Ave., #L, Metairie, Louisiana  
504-889-0906

Private and group lessons from owner/instructors Stela and Stephan Howard. Please contact Stela or Stephan Howard regarding their classes. They also hold a dance on the second Saturday of the month.

## Jefferson Orleans North

2600 Edenborn Ave. Metairie, Louisiana  
504-454-6110

[www.jeffersonorleansnorth.com](http://www.jeffersonorleansnorth.com)

Sunday and Wednesday night dances with orchestra, and venue for our Sunday afternoon chapter dances. Check website or call Jefferson Orleans North for more details.

## Mandeville Ballroom

5150 Hwy 22 Suite A-5 Mandeville, LA 70471  
985-966-0178

[www.mandevilleballroom.com](http://www.mandevilleballroom.com)

Private and group lessons from owner/instructor Aaron Smith. Check website or call Aaron for details.

## Studio 371

371 School Street, Houma, Louisiana  
<http://www.studio-371.com>

Private and group lessons and venue for Houma chapter dances. Check website for more details.

## Saturday Night Ballroom

American Legion Hall, Baton Rouge, LA  
[www.saturdaynightballroom.com](http://www.saturdaynightballroom.com)

Home to Saturday Night Ballroom on the first Saturday of each month. Check their website for details.

## Sunday Rhythms at Jeffie Jean Studio

11600 S Harrells Ferry Rd  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Sunday evening dance run by Richard and Melanie Stewart.



## USA Dance Sunday February 16th

Jefferson Orleans North  
2600 Edenborn Ave., Metairie, LA

1:30-2:00 p.m. Lesson with Margaret Lancaster teaching Rumba  
2:00-5:00 p.m. General Dancing

Mixers  
Food  
Exhibitions  
Great music, no partner required

Admission:  
Members: \$10  
Non-Members: \$12  
Students (under 25): \$5

For more information, contact President, Jim Steven, at 504-214-3145



## USA Dance Saturday, February 25

Studio 371  
371 School Street, Houma, LA

General Dancing 8:00-11:00 p.m.

Lots of food, fun and great music

Admission: \$10

For more information contact (985) 853-0030



# Houma Winter Showcase with Brad Petrie



On Saturday, January 11, Brad Petrie held a winter showcase at Studio 371 in Houma. It was a lovely evening. Brad showcased several of his Houma students as well as his wife, Cheryl. In group picture from left to right are Neila and Cecil Phillips, Gail Viator, Carrie DeLorge, Michelle Louvier, Cheryl Petrie, and Brad Petrie, Jocelyn Perry and Marina and Leonard Pizzolatto.





# Gumbo of Ballroom Fundraising Dance

Hosted By Louisiana DanceSport

Benefit goes to the competition weekend and to the scholarship fund.

**Sunday, March 9, 2014 1:00 to 5:00PM**

Jefferson Orleans North • 2600 Edenborn, Metairie, LA

For Information or Tickets Call or Email Peggy Clement

(225) 627-6154 or [clementpg@hotmail.com](mailto:clementpg@hotmail.com)

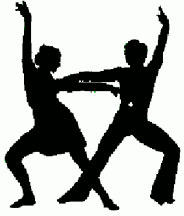
Music by DJ Richard Stewart of Sunday Rhythms, Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres,  
Silent Auction, Exhibitions, Jack & Jill Competition and Pay-to-Dance Dances

**Tickets \$25 per person (limited to 125)**



Featured Performers Are  
Multi-Year National Champions  
**Nels Petersen &  
Theresa Kimler**

Photo By: Bogdan Oporowski



# **USA Dance**

## **LA Gumbo Chapter**

### **Presents**

# **“Swing with a Mix of Ballroom”**

**Date:** Friday, April 4, 2014

**Time:** 8:00PM – 11:00PM

**Location:** Jefferson Orleans North  
2600 Edenborn, Metairie, LA

**Cost:** \$10.00 per member  
\$12.00 per nonmember

For more information call  
Jim Steven, President @ (504) 214-3145

