



P.O. Box 7021

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<http://usadancegumbo.org>

Editor: Diana Lovell

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

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SUMMER 2015

President's Message

Dear Gumbo Members,

Busy seems to be the way we all live our lives this year. With a blink of the eye, the summer is gone and we are getting back into our normal routines. Thanks to our wonderful board the work of the chapter has continued, even with my frequent absences. Great job team!

The summer started off with a bang in Baton Rouge, as the chapter, along with Louisiana DanceSport and Saturday Night Ballroom held the most successful USA Dance Gumbo Dance Sport Championships. The

team that organized this event has proven over and over that they are the best at putting on a great dance weekend.

August 22nd was to have been our annual formal fundraising dance in Belle Chasse. Gwen and Ben Becnel work hard each year to make sure it is a beautiful gala weekend and we appreciate all the work they put into this year's event, but unfortunately we had to cancel it due to competing events going on that same weekend. As a ballroom organization we don't want to

lose the atmosphere of a beautiful elegant evening of dance and we have only one such event planned each year. We do hope all of you will get behind the board and help to make the rescheduled event a tremendous success. The formal has been rescheduled to May 21, 2016. This dance has always been a lot of fun with excellent music and delicious food, plus a great hardwood dance floor with plenty of room for Smooth and Standard dancing. Please post this on your social calendar now. If you want to be part

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USA Dance Gumbo DanceSport Championships

by Ann Durocher

The 2015 Gumbo DanceSport Championships' recipe was full of hot sauce this June 26-28 as several national championship couples were present to defend their positions as the top couples in their division. It

was exciting as time after time the full heats reminded those watching that the makeup on the dance floor could easily be national championship events. The competition was fierce and in some cases upsets hap-

pened, making for an electric ballroom full of cheering spectators.

The weekend excitement did not stop with the National Qualifying events, as this was the third year our team has

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Competition Update cont'd

hosted the Senior IV USA Dance National DanceSport Championships. The Senior IV division is made up of couples sixty five or over. Now that may not seem exciting on the surface, but all four dance styles were well represented with outstanding dancers. Winning the Senior IV National Championships at the Championship level were:

Rhythm – Leland and Leslie Whitney of Saint Paul, MN
 Latin – Edward and Corrina Huang of Houston, TX
 Smooth – Leland and Leslie Whitney of Saint Paul, MN
 Standard – Winston and Lillie Chow of Atherton, CA

For the next three years Mid-Atlantic in Bethesda, MD will host the Senior IV National Championships and we trust that they will continue to nurture this growing part of USA Dance's competitive events.

For the first time the Gumbo hosted two WDSF (World DanceSport Federation) world ranking competitions. Senior III and IV Open Standard WDSF events were held on the Saturday evening of the Gumbo. Both events were heavily populated with outstanding dancers from across the US, Canada and Costa Rica. Hans and Ans Stork of Paradise Valley, AZ came in first in the Senior III

event, while Winston and Lillie Chow of Atherton, CA won the Senior IV event. Both couples have represented the United States in World Championships outside the US and are ranked internationally.

USA Dance selected the Gumbo to be the site to launch its new Teacher-Student division of competition. Although the planners got started a little late in promoting the new Teacher-Student category, there was a good showing from other parts of the country as well as our own professional teachers. Nine teachers entered with one or more students with many of the events very competitive. Mixing these events with the amateur couple events added to the fun of the weekend, as many dancers stayed in the ballroom to cheer on their friends. This division of competition will no doubt grow rapidly, as the Gumbo proved that USA Dance has much to offer studios, teachers and their students in the way of a quality event, with highly qualified judging and lots of fun in the mix.

One part of the competition weekend that so many of us look forward to viewing takes place on Sunday afternoon, which is reserved for the young syllabus dancers. This year approximately 40 young dancers participated, most from the Lake Charles area. Thanks to the Whistle Stop DC Company and the efforts of its director, Nancy Vallee, young

dancers are getting the opportunity to learn competitive ballroom dancing. There are a number of excellent dancers currently in this program, but the highest ranking couple is Reginald Larkins and Caitlyn Wilson. They were the local stars of the 2015 Gumbo, winning a total of 11 first places, 3 of which were against seasoned adult competitors. We love all of our young dancers and send them our congratulations for another great job at the Gumbo.

So many things came together to make 2015 our best year ever. We had competitors from 32 states, three provinces of Canada and Costa Rica with a record number of 348 dancers. In addition, many donors generously provided funds that allowed us to award a record \$18,000 in scholarships. And, with the huge crowd, our volunteer team did an outstanding job of making sure all attendees "passed a good time."

To all who work tirelessly throughout the year to make this event happen, thank you. To all who gave up their weekend to volunteer and be part of this great weekend of dance, thank you. To all of you who danced or were spectators, thank you. It was fun!



Gumbo 2015



Reginald Larkins & Caitlyn Wi;son



Betty Younger & Tyler Vadall

Most of these photos taken by
Charlie Clement



First awards ceremony for youth age levels



Tommy Lee & Courtney Black



"Junebug" Willis & Laura Hudson



Brad Petrie & Roxanne Galliano

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Boomers and Beyond Expo 2015



LA Gumbo Chapter 5031 hosted a booth at the *Boomers and Beyond Expo 2015* held June 27 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Ruby Shrieves and Jen Vaughn Beasley manned the booth with help from Joe Vaughn, Ed Fleischmann, and Duane McKenzie. What a wonderful opportunity to share our love of dance with those who are interested in enriching their lives!! Presented by Humana and sponsored by Peoples Health, Royal Honda, Treasure Chest Casino, several radio stations and many more. USA Dance 5031 was one of over 80 booths including insurance, education, financial-funeral-travel-home improvement planning, health care and specialty services and items....plus Entertainment like Bobby Cure, Victory Belles, Yat Pack, Classic Car Show and a Cooking Stage with area chefs and food show hosts. A must see and do for a healthier and happier you. We gave out information regarding the health benefits of ballroom dancing and next year we hope to have an area for dance lessons and general dancing. It was fabulous and we loved meeting so many people. Plan to join us next year as we promote USA Dance!

Jen Vaughn Beasley

Articles for Footnotes!

We are always looking for articles, pictures, etc. for our newsletter to make it more interesting. If you have attended a dance related event or want to advertise an upcoming event, please contact me below.

If possible, all pictures should be in jpeg format and be high resolution.

Our newsletter is published quarterly by season. Next is the Fall issue which will be published at the end of November. Articles and pictures need to be submitted by the 15th of that month. Please contact:

Diana Lovell at dlovell308@gmail.com

or call 225-324-9830

DancingAroundTown

Club Silhouette

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

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

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

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 dances. Check website for more details.

Saturday Night Ballroom

American Legion Hall, Baton Rouge, LA
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 Stewart and Melanie Tichenor. Dance from 7-9 p.m. No dance on weekend of Saturday Night Ballroom.



USA Dance, Sunday, September 20
Jefferson Orleans North
2600 Edenborn Ave., Metairie, LA

1:30: TBA

2:00-5:00 p.m. General Dancing

Mixers

Snacks

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

Gumbo 2015 cont'd



Jerry & Isabella Donahue



Bill Anderson & Yvonne Pecoul



Kerry & Diana Lovell



Alexander Zhmaylo & Aleksandra Montanus



Ed & Carrie DeLorge



Jerry & Irinya Donahue

Save the Date!

Our Caribbean Gala Dance & Fundraiser at the beautiful Belle Chasse Auditorium has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 21. Please mark your calendars and make sure to attend this wonderful evening. Profits from the fundraiser are used to keep our chapter running so that we can continue to host our monthly dances and other events.

USA Dance Gumbo Chapter

Board of Directors

President, Jim Steven (Houma)

Vice President, Diana Lovell (Mandeville)

Secretary, Jesse Gellrich (Baton Rouge)

Treasurer, Jennifer Vaughn (River Ridge)

Director, Ruby Shrieves (Harvey)

Director, Betty Younger (Metairie)

Director, Ann Durocher (Houma)

Director, Wayne LeBoeuf (Houma)

Financial Aid Opportunities from the Gumbo Chapter

In keeping with the mission of USA Dance to promote and develop ballroom dancing in the United States, the Gumbo Chapter (5031) maintains a program of financial assistance for children and young adults who are involved in dancing competition. The details of the program, including qualifications and application procedures, can be found on the chapter's website at <http://usadancegumbo.org/>.

Metairie Dance Schedule

Jefferson Orleans North
2600 Edenborn Ave. Metairie, LA

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20

Houma Dance Schedule

Studio 371
371 School Street, Houma, LA

4th Saturday of the month but
check out <http://www.studio-371.com> for dates.

USA Dance Special Events

Belle Chasse Fundraiser

May 21, 2016

Gumbo of Ballroom

June 24-26, 2016

Big Bands of WWII Dinner Dance Show September 12th!

Sentimental Journey: The Big Bands of WWII

The Victory Swing Orchestra celebrates with a romantic evening with dinner and dancing the night away. Dinner between 6:00PM and 6:30PM and the Big Band and dancing starting at 8:00PM at the Stage Door Canteen in the beautiful WWII museum in New Orleans.

The Gumbo chapter has 30 discount tickets available at \$50 per person. The tickets normally sell for \$65, so this is a great opportunity to come together as a chapter and enjoy a lovely evening. Get your favorite partner, dust off those dance shoes and have some fun!

If you are interested in attending, please contact:

Jim Steven (504) 214-3145

Ann Durocher (504) 722-4800

Tickets must be paid by August 27th to get the discount and be part of this chapter event. Checks are to be sent to:

USA Dance Chapter 5031

C/O Jim Steven

203 Choctaw Drive

Houma, LA 70360

Remember there are only 30 tickets available, so get your request in right away.

NEW MEMBERS

(GREATER NEW ORLEANS, NORTH SHORE, & BATON ROUGE AREA)

LES SARPY, SOCIAL ADULT DANCER, METAIRIE

TOMMY LEE, DANCESPORT ADULT, MANDEVILLE

RANDY HALLNER, DANCESPORT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE, MANDEVILLE

NANI CUSSON, DANCESPORT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE, METAIRIE

JEANINE AND RICHARD KNIGHT, SOCIAL BALLROOM DANCER, BATON ROUGE

SHEILA LEE, DANCESPORT ADULT, BATON ROUGE

CHLOE CASTELLO, DANCESPORT ADULT, BATON ROUGE

COURTNEY BLACK, DANCESPORT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE, BATON ROUGE

BRAD PETRIE, DANCESPORT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE, DARROW

DARIAN SCURLOCK, DANCESPORT STUDENT, SCHRIEVER

DAVONTA SAUCEMANN, DANCESPORT MINOR, GONZALES

ROXANNE GALLIANO, DANCESPORT ADULT, JEFFERSON

CHERYL PETRIE, DANCESPORT ADULT, DARROW

ANDREW KNOX, DANCESPORT ADULT, BATON ROUGE

JOSEPH HILLMAN, NEW ORLEANS

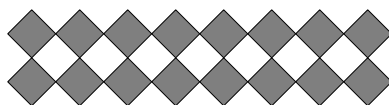
DESIREE BELL, NEW ORLEANS

National Ballroom Dance Week

September 18 thru September 24



Come celebrate NBDW with us! Party the night away with a fantastic mix of music, dancing, dance mixers, games, door prizes, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Showcase performances, mixers and door prizes throughout. Tickets are \$25 per person at the door or register now and only pay \$20! Drop a check or cash at the studio in an envelope with your name and number or register online. There will be a free dance lesson at 7 p.m. with open dancing starting at 8 p.m.



USA Dance is supporting this event so if you live on the North Shore or don't mind driving across the lake, this should be a fun evening. If you receive Aaron's Facebook posts then you know he has several exhibitions lined up. Kerry and I plan on going and we hope to see some of you there.

Diana

President's Message—Cont'd

of the team and help to make this dance a special one, please contact me and we will gladly add you to our planning committee.

On September 12th the Gumbo chapter has been offered an opportunity to attend the WWII Museum's Big Band dinner dance at a discounted price for tickets. If you want to participate in this with other chapter members, call me at (504) 214-3145 before August 27th.

The chapter has elected to support-Mandeville Ballroom's gala on September 18th in recognition of National Ballroom Dance Week. See more information about this event on the chapter's website at www.usadancegumbo.org.

Upon the resignation of board member Joycelyn Perry, Wayne LeBoeuf accepted an invitation to replace her and join the board. We want to thank Joycelyn for her service to the chapter and we want to welcome Wayne. We look forward to working with you, Wayne.

Chapter board elections will be held again in November and positions are open on the new board. If you would like to help build our chapter by running for a board position, please contact me or one of the current board members so your name can be added to the ballot.

Board member Ruby Shrieves and member Mary Tusa are in the process of re-establishing low cost

chapter sponsored dance lessons. Look for more information to be coming out on this very soon.

I want to encourage all of our members to extend an invitation to your friends to join the USA Dance organization and become a supporting member of a great social and competitive dance organization. By increasing memberships we can continue to thrive and hold good social events for the public. By doing so, we continue to bring younger dancers into ballroom as a lifelong social activity and a sport they can do for the remainder of their lives. Active membership is critical to this journey.

Don't forget, our next dance is Sunday, September 20th, 1:30PM at Jefferson Orleans North in Metairie. Hope to see you there.

*Sincerely,
Jim Steven, President*

Gumbo 2015 cont'd



Bill Anderson & Addi Phillipi



Deck Captain, Jack Jaubert



Brad Petrie & Carrie DeLorge

AUGUST DANCE, JEFFERSON ORLEANS, METAIRIE

BY DIANA LOVELL



The Jefferson Orleans was the place to be on a very hot Sunday afternoon on August 16. Randy Hallner and Ariana Virgillio, Randy's partner, taught a West Coast Swing class to the guests and it seemed we had an almost equal number of guys and gals this time. The great thing about our lessons is that you don't need a partner as the instructors make dancers rotate partners. This is also a great way of meeting new people and getting used to dancing with different partners. We had some great music, too, including some West Coast Swing numbers to practice our steps, delivered by our D.J., Joe Vaughn who, through rain or shine, ensures we always have music.



Many thanks to the DeLorges who always provide door prizes. This time three pineapples were waiting to be claimed! Also appreciated are those who bring snacks to be enjoyed by all.

Our next dance is September 20th so come out and join us on the dance floor!



Duo Dance Team Match Dance Enhancement Competition

Friday & Sat Sept. 18 & 19, 2015



*Come Join The Fun In Biloxi MS
Great Competition, Social Dancing
Casino Gaming & Fantastic Shows*

**American & International Ballroom,
Country, Latin, Swing, Hustle & Solos**

Awesome 16,000 sq ft Hardwood Dance Floor.

Duo Dance Event Center 3100 Ladnier Rd Gautier MS 39553
2 Blocks South of MS Gulf Coast JR College (I-10 exit 61 to Hwy 90)

Friday 6:30-7:30pm Welcome Party Dance Social & Pick Up Packets,

Friday 8pm Country, Swing, Hustle, Solos & Ballroom Divisions as Needed

Saturday 9am Ballroom Competition Continued

Saturday 9pm Live Band Dance "**Barbara & Company**"

Awards Presentations, Top Amateur Dancers,
Amateur Scholarships, & Top Instructor Awards

Information: Duo Dance 228-762-0304 www.duodancems.com

Mail Entry to: Lynae Jacob 2430 Ingalls Ave Pascagoula MS 39567

Early Bird By Aug. 31....Final Deadline Sept. 7

Closest to Event Center Sun Suites Hotel 3491 Dolphin Rd, Gautier MS • (228) 497-1722 \$69.50-\$84.99

These 2 are I-10 Exit 50 Hotel: Super 8 13838 Wilford Seymour Rd Biloxi MS 228-875-2288 Duo Rate

Country Inn Suites 13900 Wilfred Seymour Rd, Ocean Springs, MS 39565 (228) 818-0901

Area Activities: Casino Shows Beau Rivage, IP & Hardrock

\$2.00 of Every Entry Goes Toward Top Instructor Awards Last Year Total \$2500

Win Free Entries: All Early bird Entries in By **Aug15th** will go into drawing for
ONE Lucky Person to WIN Free Weekend Pass & up to 10 FREE Dance Entries.

Good Luck Everybody. Happy Dancing Lynae 228-762-0304