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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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

January 2
Dance Photo

Membership 3
Drive

LAD Fund- 4
raiser

Dancing 5
Around
Town

Metairie & 6
Houma
Dance Sched-
ules

Church of the 6
King Exhi-
bition

Wounded 7
Warrior
Fundraiser

Presentation 9
to Wounded
Warriors

New Mem- 10
bers

Osman 11
Torres &
Taylor
Schoen

Footnotes...

WINTER 2015

President's Message

Dear Chapter Members and Friends,

As of March 1st, the chapter board has implemented a membership drive that runs through National Ballroom Dance Week in September. New members with our USA Dance chapter will receive a voucher for one group dance lesson at any of several dance studios in the area. We hope all of you will encourage your friends to join one of the most fun organizations in the country and help the Louisiana Gumbo chapter grow its membership. With new members come fresh ideas, helping to keep the chapter thriving for a long time to come.

At the end of March, USA Dance will hold its 35th Annual USA Dance Nationals DanceSport Championships in Baltimore, Maryland. This year the Gumbo chapter will have a prominent presence. Not only are there a number of chapter competitors, other members will be there representing Louisiana and our chapter. Among the competitors are:

Richard and Melanie Stewart
Ed and Carrie DeLorge
Osman Torres and
Taylor Schoen

Chapter members are playing key roles on the

planning team as well as volunteers on site. Among them are:

Ann Durocher, Overall
Operations
Sterling Sightler, Volunteer
Chair and On Site
Registration
Charlie & Peggy Clement,
Ticket Sales and VIP Chairs
Jack & Suzanne Jaubert, Deck
Captains
Jesse Gellrich, Floor Monitor
Jim Crowell, Floor Monitor
and Deck
David Grashot, On Site
Registration
Darla Grashot, Volunteer
Monitor

Cont'd on Page 10

Gumbo Selected to Launch New Competitive Events

by Ann Durocher

Recently the Governing Council of USA Dance voted to replace Mixed Proficiency competition events with Teacher Student events, for the first time allowing Professional DanceSport Athletes to participate in USA Dance competitions. The Gumbo

DanceSport Championships was selected as the inaugural site for such events and the planning committee is already at work incorporating these events into the three day schedule.

What are Teacher Stu-

dent events? They are events danced in competition where only the DanceSport Athlete is judged. A teacher can be a professional instructor (teacher) or he/she can be another DanceSport Athlete who is not judged in the events.

Cont'd on Page 2

Competition Update cont'd

In Teacher Student events the teacher is allowed to dance with his/her student regardless of the sex and age of the student. A couple dancing in Teacher Student events is not allowed to dance in the other Gumbo national qualifying events (NQE) or National Championship events. This means that non-judged DanceSport Athlete John cannot dance Teacher Student with DanceSport Athlete Sue and also dance with her in other events held at the Gumbo. They are restricted to the Teacher Student events. However, if John has another partner, he can dance with her in the other events, as can Sue. Professional DanceSport Athletes are not allowed to dance in the other events. The exciting part of Teacher Student events is that it opens the door for professional instructors to take their students to a high quality dance competition that is reasonably priced.

The national organization has not worked out all of the rules regarding Teacher Student competition, so this year the Gumbo will offer many of the same events to Teacher Student as the NQE. In the future the Gumbo will adopt guidelines established by USA Dance. This is an important step forward for the future of USA Dance and we are pleased to be asked to kick it off.

Again this year the Gumbo will host the Senior IV USA Dance National Championships. Last year we drew a crowd of World Class Senior IV competitors and we anticipate much the same again this June.

Another change to the offerings this year is the introduction of Master of Syllabus events in all four dance styles. These are open age group events and the couples are allowed to costume regardless of their age. Dancers in

these events are allowed to dance syllabus steps only and they will be inviolated.

For the first time the Gumbo will offer World DanceSport Federation events; Senior III & IV Standard. These events are championship open events and require all WDSF certified judges, one being from another country. We are looking forward to opening our weekend to the WDSF dancers.

The price structure for competitors has also changed in that competitors will pay a registration fee plus a fee for each entry. This is an advantage for couples who compete in only one or two events, so we are hoping the change will be received favorably.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the best USA Dance NQE June 26-28, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For



*Carrie DeLorge teaching
Cha Cha at the Metairie
January dance.*

LA Gumbo Announces Membership Drive

At its regular board meeting January 24th, the chapter board members voted to kick off the year 2015 with a membership drive aimed at incenting new members to join USA Dance.

Beginning March 1st and going through National Ballroom Dance Week in September, 2015, each new member who signs up with the chapter will be given a certificate for a free group lesson at one of the local studios in the area. Chapter president Jim Steven said, "This is a great opportunity for the local studios, chapter 5031 and for the new members to benefit. We look forward to the next few months as we bring in new interest and enthusiasm into our chapter, we help new dancers and we strengthen our ties with the local ballroom dance studios."

For more information about this campaign and the member benefits, contact one of the following board members.

Jim Steven, President	(504)214-3145 jtsteven@aol.com
Diana Lovell, Vice President	dlovell308@gmail.com
Jesse Gellrich, Secretary	jessegellrich@cox.net
Jennifer Vaughn, Treasurer	niferv@hotmail.com
Ruby Shrieves, Membership	rshrieves13@msn.com
Betty Younger, Hospitality	buttflydancer@bellsouth.net
Ann Durocher, Competition	fliprann@aol.com
Joycelyn Perry, Director	joycelynperry100@gmail.com

Membership Benefits

USA Dance has entered into an agreement with Affinity Marketing Group to provide discounts for USA Dance members on many services and products including hotels, car rental, cruises, car, home, long term care and health insurance, prescription drug program, shopping discounts and more. See more details at: <http://usadance.org/extra/membership-value/> or check out the chapter's website at <http://usadancegumbo.org>

Louisiana DanceSport 2015 Fundraiser Highlights



Florin Vlad & Natalia O'Connor, 2014 USA Dance Under 21 Standard National Champions and 2014 USA Dance WDSF Under 21 Open Standard Champions.



Tim Allen and Taylor Schoen, winners of the Jack & Jill contest. The contest was judged by professional coaches Steve Hadley and Kim Smith from Birmingham, Alabama, and Stephan Howard from Starlight Ballroom.



Melanie Stewart and Steve Hadley.



Jack Jaubert and Ann Durocher Steven making a presentation to Florin and Natalia to thank them for attending our fundraiser and giving us such a wonderful exhibition .

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.



USA Dance, Sunday, April 19

Jefferson Orleans North

2600 Edenborn Ave., Metairie, LA

1:30: Teacher: 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



Dancers from Mandeville Ballroom performed at Church of the King's 4th Annual Dream Team Appreciation Party, in Mandeville, Sunday, January 25, 2015. The theme of the party was *Beauty and the Beast* and the performers were asked to dance a Waltz, Foxtrot and Tango while the guests were entering the church.

From left to right: Andrew Poole, Samrat De, Duane McKenzie, Molly Sansovich, Margaret Cranwell, Sarah Smith, Diana Lovell, Cecile Waterman, Laura Hudson, Junebug Willis, Kerry Lovell and Aaron Smith. Aaron attends Church of the King and was asked by the organizer of the event to provide some dancers to welcome the attendees. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, albeit very windy and a little chilly, which made it very challenging, as well as having to dance on the concrete paving while attempting to dodge the expansion gaps with our high heels (ladies, of course!)! We all had a great time entertaining the guests and were rewarded with an invitation to the buffet and gift cards to a local restaurant, which was a nice ending to a Sunday afternoon.

Metairie Dance Schedule Jefferson Orleans North 2600 Edenborn Ave. Metairie, LA

April 19
May 17
June 21
July 19
August 16
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

June 26-28, 2015—Gumbo of Ballroom DanceSport Championships, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

August 22, 2015—USA Dance Fundraiser, Belle Chasse, Louisiana

Wounded Warrior Fundraiser



USA Dance LA Gumbo Chapter in conjunction with American Legion Post 377 held a fundraiser for wounded warriors on September 26, 2014. The American Legion Post 175 Band provided a wonderful introduction to the event. There were exciting exhibitions, followed up by the Jerry Embree Swing Band who donated their time to help make this a huge success. Jay Ceravola emceed the fundraiser and Glenn Barberot of the Jefferson Orleans provided some free kitchen help and a big pot of Jambalaya as the numbers of guests kept increasing, as well as a break on the charge for the ballroom. Some of our dance members also helped with food. The response was so overwhelming that the Chapter was able to give Post 377 a check for \$7,000, after expenses, to help five wounded warriors in the New Orleans area who suffered from injuries whilst serving our country. See Page 9 for pictures of the five wounded warriors who were presented with goods and cash from the proceeds. A big thank you to those who supported the fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Kerry & Diana Lovell



Wounded Warrior Fundraiser—cont'd from Page 7



Stela Howard & Ben Becnel



Hustle Formation team with Keith Gussoni, Celeste Pfefferle, Steve & Yvette Ecuyer, and Scott & Rita Taylor



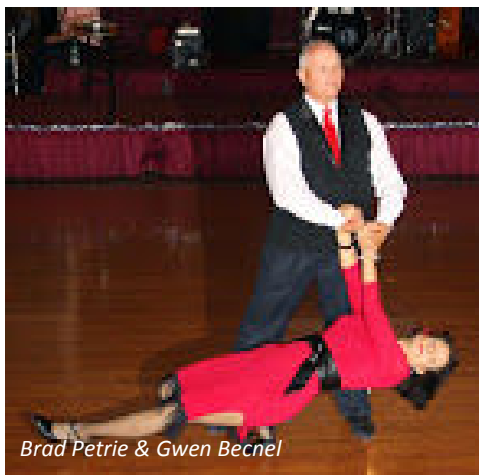
Richard Stewart & Melanie Tichenor



Randy Hallner & Darian Scurlock



Aaron Smith & Meagan Hefte



Brad Petrie & Gwen Becnel



Jesse Gellrich & Heidi Batdorf



Dave Engles & Maureen Missavage

Presentation to Wounded Warriors by American Legion Post 377



American Legion Kenner Post 377 honored five wounded warriors during a recent Veterans Day celebration. Post Commander Mike Martin (pictured above) made the presentation to the veterans. Shown from left to right are Carl Sampson, Patrick Garrett, Jeremy Weir, Chris Crawford and William Hernandez.

Despite their injuries, the veterans were positive about their service to our country. "I am honored to be able to pave the way for my children's lives. To give them the freedom we have," Garrett said. Crawford agreed, "I'm proud, proud is definitely a word that I would use over and over again. I am a patriotic person and if my son wanted to serve I would be 100 percent supportive."

Martin felt that on Veterans Day it was only proper to honor wounded warriors. "The government doesn't do enough for our vets, especially the wounded warriors, and we can do something for them," Martin said. The \$7,000 used for the cash gifts was raised by Post 377 and USA Dance Gumbo Chapter 5031 during a recent National Ballroom Dancing Week fundraiser for the wounded warriors. At the event, Mike Martin thanked USA Dance for holding the fundraiser to honor wounded veterans.

Excerpt and photo taken from The Times-Picayune, Kenner Edition

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 Spring issue which will be published at the end of May. 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

President's Message—Cont'd from Page

Other members from Louisiana will volunteer their time to ensure the success of this premier event. Our board is very proud that our Gumbo planners were asked and agreed to contribute their talents to the Nationals.

Recently the Gumbo DanceSport Championships held its annual fundraiser at the Jefferson Orleans North in Metairie. Funds raised go primarily to the competition's scholarship fund. While the crowd was smaller than in the past, fun was had by all attending. Sterling Sightler and Charlie and Peggy Clement provided a delicious spread of food, Richard Stewart delighted everyone with his outstanding music and Jack Jaubert kept the afternoon

at a high excitement level as the MC. The highlight of the day was the excellent performances by national champions and world semi-finalists, Florin Vlad and Natalia O'Connor from Vermont. We had a great time!

The chapter board is committed to a couple of projects this year that align with our mission. Soon to be released is a World Team Sponsorship program and the Gumbo chapter has decided to participate in assisting the national organization to send our US representatives to the World Championships. Another project the board has decided to help with is the launch of Dancing Classrooms in the Terrebonne/Lafourche area. Both

are ambitious projects and we welcome any of you who wish to volunteer to help us reach our 2015 goals.

Although it may seem a bit early, please put August 22nd on your calendar as it is the date of our next formal dance in Belle Chasse. Gwen Becnel has already begun working on the event and details will be available soon. These dances are always great fun and it is our only formal during the year.

Hope to see you on the dance floor!

*Sincerely,
Jim Steven, President
USA Dance Chapter 5031*

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, Joycelyn Perry (Houma)

Director, Ruby Shrieves (Harvey)

Director, Betty Younger (Metairie)

Director, Ann Durocher (Houma)

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to have the following two members join our local chapter. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming dances. Please welcome these two new members.

Gwendolyn Skaggs

Nancy LeBlanc



Osman Torres and Taylor Schoen competing at the Mid-Atlantic DanceSport Championships in Bethesda, Maryland on February 14, 2015. They entered six events and placed 1st in 4 events, 2nd in one event and 3rd in one event.

Photo courtesy of David Cunningham of Enmotion Studio

Two Talented Local Teens Looking for Sponsors

Osman Torres is 18 and a senior at Jesuit High School, New Orleans. He is an honor student and starting defensive lineman for Jesuit's 2014 State Championship Football team. He will be attending LSU in the fall to study engineering and will continue competing in ballroom and Latin DanceSport.

Osman was introduced to ballroom dance in the 5th grade Jefferson Parish School dance program. He has been dancing 7 years. He was originally taught by Stephan Howard at Starlight Ballroom Studio in Metairie.

Taylor Schoen is 16 and a sophomore at Runnels High School in Baton Rouge. She is also an honor student with multiple academic awards. As a preschooler, Taylor began other forms of dance but switched her primary focus to ballroom at age 13 with Ric Seelig at his studio in Baton Rouge.. She has been training in ballroom and rhythm for 3 years.

Osman and Taylor's short term goal is to compete at USA National Championships, March 27-29, 2015 and win in all qualified areas: Silver Smooth, Silver Rhythm, Bronze Latin. The couple will be competing in the Adult Age group.

The couple is now coaching with Kathryn Schaffer and Chris Skates in competition technique and choreography in both Smooth & Rhythm dances. Their Latin coach is Ashley Savina Goldman from Boston who trained with Shirley Ballas in Los Angeles before enrolling in LSU this academic year.

Their long term dance goals and training are to advance in Open levels and eventually win Championship level Latin and Standard. They also desire to compete internationally.

Following their participation in the 2015 USA DanceSport National Championships, Osman will undergo surgery on his shoulder and then rehabilitation. During this period they plan to focus on Latin choreography and technique, focusing primarily on footwork until his shoulders are ready for dancing. They hope to be able to compete again starting in November of 2015.

The couple is looking for sponsors to help them achieve their dance goals. To help this young couple become world class dancers please contribute to Gofund.me/DanceOsman--Taylor or donate to USA Dance, Gumbo Chapter in their name. Thank you.

La Tefy Schoen