



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:

- January Metairie Dance **2**
- Calendar of Events **2**
- Metairie & Houma
- LAD Fundraiser **2**
- Youth Dance News **3**
- Dance Around Town **3**
- Chapter Board of Directors **4**
- Gumbo Goes to the Ritz **4**

FOOTNOTES...

Volume 1, Issue 1

January, 2013

President's Message

Hello fellow dancers and Happy New year to you all.

This is my first letter to the chapter membership and will likely be the longest one, as I have so much to say to you.

First of all, the board was not able to stay together last year as we had hoped and, due to various circumstances, we lost the following board members: Nathalie Bordelon, Jenifer Aufenberger, Margaret Lancaster and Jules Borne. We thank them for their service and appreciate all they contributed to the success of the chapter. We

welcome new board members Diana Lovell, Jackie Elliott and Joceyln Perry and look forward to working with them.

Over the past year our chapter has been involved with several successful events and have begun activities that are certain to contribute to a successful 2013. In June the Gumbo DanceSport Championships (a national qualifying event) in Baton Rouge was acclaimed to be the best competition the chapter has hosted. We want to thank our organizer Louisiana DanceSport and the volunteer team from Saturday Night

Ballroom, as well as chapter volunteers, who both participated in and worked this outstanding three day event. June 28-30, 2013 is the weekend of our next national qualifying dance competition and we encourage all of you to participate in some way. The financial success of this event is critical to our chapter as it provides funds for our youth programs.

In August the chapter once again hosted a very successful formal fundraising dance in Belle Chasse. We call it "Gumbo Goes to the Ritz." We want to thank those who

Cont'd on Page 3

Competition Update

By Ann Durocher

Each New Year brings with it a certain level of excitement and anticipation to most of us, especially me. It also means that the work of the Gumbo team gets into high gear. We began working on the registration package revisions in the fall and the package is in its final stages. By the end of January we will be ready to circulate it to potential dancers. On line registration is expected to be open by February 1.

A Formation Team event is being added to the offerings this year. Also, for the younger dancers, we've added a line-up of open social dances. We've rearranged the schedule in a way to allow more time during the weekend for general dancing. The weekend promises to be filled with lots of great

competition and fun, so mark it on your calendar and join the Gumbo team for the best of amateur ballroom.

USA Dance Gumbo
DanceSport Championships
A National Qualifying Event
June 28 – 30, 2013
Crowne Plaza Hotel
4728 Constitution Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Workshops conducted during the weekend are for social and competitive dancers and are always a bargain at \$10 each. The following workshops will be held, but the dates and times of each are yet to be decided.

1. Ladies' Hair, Makeup and Costuming Techniques
2. Fun Swing Moves

3. Taking Cuban Motion to a Higher Level
4. (American Smooth) Softness & Expression; the Difference between Good and Outstanding
5. Fabulous Tango

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers, so if you want to be part of a very successful team and donate some time to our fantastic weekend of dance, let me know. You can contact me by phone at (985) 853-0030 or by email at fliprann@aol.com.

**Happy New
Year!**

Metairie Dance Schedule

Jefferson Orleans North
2600 Edenborn Avenue
Metairie, LA

- January 20
- February 17
- March 17
- April 14
- May 19
- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17

Houma Schedule

Studio 371
371 School Street
Houma, LA

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- May 25
- June 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September (Belle Chasse)
- October 26
- November 23
- December 28

Special Events

Louisiana DanceSport Fundraiser
Jefferson Orleans North
March 24

2013 LA Gumbo 5031
Gumbo of Ballroom
Baton Rouge
June 28-30

National Ballroom Dance Week
Esplanade Mall
September 21

Gumbo Goes to the Ritz Fundraiser
September 28
Belle Chasse Auditorium

JANUARY METAIRIE DANCE

Mardi Gras Theme

January 20, 1:30—2:00 p.m. lesson

2:00—5 p.m. General Dancing

Jambalaya by Ruby Shrieves, and other snacks

Mixers, no dance partner required

Teacher: Celeste Pfefferle

Teaching: Hustle



LOUISIANA DANCESPORT FUNDRAISING DANCE

(to benefit the Gumbo Competition & Scholarship Fund)

Sunday, March 24, 2013
1:00—5:00 pm

*Jefferson-Orleans North
2600 Edenborn Ave., Metairie*

**Tickets:
\$25.00 per person
(Only 125 tickets available)**



Music by DJ
Richard Stewart of Sunday Rhythms

Heavy hors d'oeuvres

Silent Auction, Exhibitions,
Jack & Jill and Pay-to-Dance

Bring your Dollars for the Dances!



Bring your Checkbook for the Auction!



For information or tickets call:

Peggy Clement at (225)627-6154 or clementpg@hotmail.com

President's Message (cont'd)

played key roles in this elegant evening: Ben and Gwen Becnel, Diana and Kerry Lovell, Jules Borne, Jennifer Vaughn, MC Jesse Gellrich, DJ Richard Stewart, Ann Durocher, those who helped with set up and clean up and all who participated in the entertainment and "Pay to Dance" events. What a beautiful ballroom setting! Don't miss our next one scheduled for September 28, 2013.

In September we again celebrated National Ballroom Week with exhibitions at Esplanade Mall in Kenner. This was a fun Saturday afternoon, with various types of dances exhibited. Special thanks go to Jennifer Vaughn, Ruby Shrieves, DJ Henry de los Reyes, MC Jay Ceravolo and all who participated in the dancing.

Who better to organize our youth program than the energetic duo of Jennifer Vaughn and Ruby Shrieves? These two ladies have mapped out a strategy to get youngsters involved in ballroom and kicked off the program before year end. We look forward to hearing about the progress of this program. We want to encourage anyone interested in being part of their volunteer team to contact them. They will certainly benefit from assistance in group classes and at the youth dances.

Among our 2012 achievements was our recent Christmas dance. It was great to see such a large crowd of dancers and to share fun with so many old and new friends. We want to thank Jules Borne for his wonderful pork loin and to all who contributed to the delicious treats. I want to personally thank Darlene Allen who came out at short notice and conducted the fun Samba class.

Wondering about our website? Well, Kerry Lovell is fast at work getting it revitalized and we expect to see the results of his

hard work very soon. Then we will have a website that we can be proud of that will be both informative and will show off our chapter to all who go there.

Remember when we had these great newsletters that kept the chapter members informed of dance opportunities and news about members? Well, this is the restart of that newsletter. Diana Lovell was our most successful newsletter editor and she has agreed to bring it back in an effort to keep you informed about us. Thank you, Diana!

Maybe with a bit of "arm-twisting" Mary Tusa is planning to head up chapter group classes once again. We are currently looking for a location and will appreciate your letting Mary know if you have one in mind. Chapter group classes help to bring new dancers into dance, plus they are a fun way for you to get your exercise. Join Mary and learn a few new steps.

And, about our dances; ask a friend or anyone you think may enjoy being part of our fun ballroom group to our dances. One of our 2013 goals is to increase dance attendance and with all of us focused on this goal we are certain to achieve it.

Ann and I regret that we can't be with you at the January dance, as we will be attending the Manhattan Amateur Classic in New York City. Ann is a national USA Dance Official Observer and she is working the event. I plan to go as a recruiter of sorts, inviting competitors to attend our Gumbo DanceSport Championships this coming June.

See you in February... Until then, keep on dancing. Remember that dancing is good

for your heart and your soul.

*Sincerely,
Jim Steven, President*

YOUTH DANCE NEWS

USA Dance chapter 5031 is working with the JPPSS dance program instructors to provide more technique instruction for the young dancers by hosting a pair of workshops prior to the students' big show at the Ponchartrain Center in April. The workshops are being held at the Fassbender Recreation Studio in Kenner. Joe Vaughn and Keith Gussoni will be working on the 2 smooth dances the children are learning this semester...waltz and Tango. Later in February or early March, a second workshop teaching techniques in salsa and swing will be held. In addition to the workshops, USA Dance hosts a practice dance for the students at the donated space at the beautiful Belleville Assisted Living Facility in Algiers. The residents enjoy seeing the students dance, and the students certainly enjoy performing for the appreciative audience. We are currently looking for a suitable space to expand to the Eastbank; if you know of such space, please contact Jennifer Vaughn or Ruby Shrieves. If you are interested in working with the children, let us know that, also...we always need volunteers!

Dance Around Town Aaron Smith at Mandeville Ballroom

Beginner Class
Tuesday at 7 p.m. covering Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Salsa, Merengue, Tango, Cha Cha and Swing (1 dance per week). Waltz class started January 15. \$100 for 8 classes or drop in for \$15. Intermediate classes upon completion of beginner or by special permission
www.mandevilleballroom.com

Darlene Allen at Club Silhouette

Tuesdays: 6 weeks starting 1/8
Beginner West Coast Swing
6:30—7:30. Late
enrollment 1/15. \$10 per class
Intermediate Cha Cha class (6 weeks starting 1/8 7:30. Late enrollment 1/15. \$10 per class.
Wednesdays: Beginner Salsa classes 1/9 (6 weeks starting 1/9 at 6:30. Intermediate: 7:30. \$10 per class.

Stela and Stephan Howard at Starlight Ballroom

Mondays-Intermediate Waltz 6 p.m.; & Advanced East Coast Swing 7 p.m.: Tuesdays-Beginner Rumba 6pm; and Wednesdays-Intermediate Fox Trot

Janis Hornsby at Club Silhouette

Beginner East Coast Swing, Rumba, 6:00 p.m. Thursday. \$60/6 week session.

Joe Vaughn

Dancing with Style
Our group class is offered every Tuesday Night at 7:30 - 8:30 Lakeview Presbyterian Church 5914 Canal Blvd New Orleans 1 block north of 610 towards the lake on the left side of street All classes are \$10 per person For more info call Joe 504-235-1485 or visit: <http://neworleansballroom.com> Take advantage of our free beginner lessons on video at our website. We also offer private instruction by appointment.

Chapter Board of Directors

James Steven—President

Jesse Gellrich—Secretary

Diana Lovell—Treasurer

Jennifer Vaughn

Ruby Shrieves

Jackie Elliott

Joycelyn Perry

Visit the Chapter's new website
at <http://usadancegumbo.org>.

Gumbo goes to the Ritz

By Ann Durocher

One of the many things chapters are charged with doing for the public and ballroom specifically is hosting a formal dance each year. This is in an effort to hold on to the elegance and culture associated with ballroom and to provide a lovely setting for dancers to socialize and practice their dance skills. Our chapter has held several such events and we hope to continue to do so. With this in mind, we have scheduled our next formal

evening of dance and entertainment for Saturday, September 28th. Please put this date on your calendar because you don't want to miss one of the Gumbo chapter's top events.

The planning committee will be providing excellent food for the occasion; Richard Stewart, who has the best selection of music, will be our DJ; we'll have some fun "Pay to Dance" events and outstanding

entertainment. Because of the large wood dance floor and the beauty of the ballroom, we hold our formals at the Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 LA Hwy 23, Belle Chasse, LA. More information will be available as we get closer to the date.

If you haven't attended one of the formals, please check this one out. Hope to see all of you there on Saturday, September 28th.

Dance Around Town *Cont'd*

Shawn & Kristen Moody at Club Silhouette

Sundays: Beginner West Coast
Swing (Level 1) 7:00 pm \$10
Notice (Level 2) 6pm \$10
Intermediate (Level 3) 6:00 pm
\$10
Advance (Level 4) 7:00 pm \$10

Celeste Pfefferle at Club Silhouette

Mondays: Hustle Beginner/
Intermediate 7:00-8:00 p.m.
\$10.

Club Silhouette Events

N. Hullen St., Metairie

January 25—Closed

January 26—Latin Dance
Night hosted by Javier &
Darlene \$6.

February 1st—Jake & The
Nifty Fifties 8:00 p.m. \$5

February 2nd—West Coast
Swing Saturday. Due to
Super Bowl

February 8th 8 p.m. Ballroom
Dance night \$5

February 9th Latin Dance
Night hosted by Javier &
Darlene \$6.

February 15h Jake & The
Nifty Fifties 8:00 p.m. \$5

February 22nd 8 p.m. Chuck
Cavet & the Allstars \$10

February 23rd Latin Dance
Night hosted by Javier &
Darlene \$6.

Every Sunday—West Coast
Swing Dancing 8:15, one
drink minimum

Saturday Night Ballroom

American Legion Hall
Baton Rouge

First Saturday of every
month 8:00—11:00 p.m.
\$10

www.snb dancer@cox.net