

Dear Members of USA Dance:

For the past 50 years, USA Dance has promoted, supported, encouraged, embraced and set a high standard as a national nonprofit dance organization. The key to our legacy of success has always been our volunteers at all levels - those who volunteer their time, who welcome new members with open arms, who have fostered an environment of diversity and acceptance, and who work toward unity in our local communities, and -- most importantly -- shared the joy that dance brings to all of our lives.

Being a member of USA Dance is special and has its unique privileges. For example, our members get discounts on insurance and travel as well as on goods and services, generating savings that might cover the cost of an annual membership. Moreover, not only does a member contribute his or her time to building and being part of the real foundation of our organization, but each member's annual dues have enabled USA Dance to maintain an important role in the world of dance. Membership dues have allowed us to bring opportunities to everyone who wants to dance socially and competitively, from pre-school children to seniors of all ages.

Since 2003 social member dues have remained unchanged - a period of 12 years. Over the course of that time, our organization's needs and expenses have grown, year after year. The economy in our country has hit a tough spot, impacted us all for the past several years, so USA Dance, even during times of need, decided to not raise its social members' dues until better times had returned. Dues for DanceSport athletes did increase from \$60 to \$70 in 2012, to meet the growing operational costs and expenses of providing the highest level of DanceSport opportunities for our athletes.

No member expects its organization to lose money or not provide key programs and benefits. Members do and should expect their organization to be well-managed financially, to avoid waste and unnecessary expenses, and when needed, to tighten the spending belts.

After evaluating the 2015 budget and the important operational needs of both our chapters and national programs, the USA Dance Governing Council has approved a dues increase of \$10 for social members, effective with renewals and new member applications, beginning July 1, 2015. The \$10 a year addition amounts to about 83 cents a month or 19 cents a week.

The \$10 per member a year goes a long way to helping USA Dance support its chapters and members - which includes providing liability insurance, national and chapter websites, music rights protection, educational information, financial services, leadership training, resources at the national level (such as Central Office, the Social Dance Council, District Directors, Public Relations and Membership), plus American Dancer magazine, promotional materials, social media connections, and on-call support when needed.

You, our members, represent the lifeblood of our organization, and we are thankful that you are a valuable part of this great organization.

With deepest gratitude,

Yang Chen
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