

# IN THE MILE HIGH CITY SPRING & FALLTIME COMPETITIONS A ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSPIRATION

All Photos by Margaret Nokes

EVERY YEAR, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER 5006 HOSTS TWO SINGLE-DAY DANCESPORT COMPETITIONS – one in the Spring and one in the Fall – both in one of America's most historically significant dance and cultural centers, the now 151-year-old Denver Turnverein.

The upcoming May 14th Rocky Mountain Spring Competition will celebrate its ninth year; the Oct. 1st Rocky Mountain Fall Competition, following National Ballroom Dance Week, will be a 13th annual event.

Social and competitive dancers say being inspired is an important part of their dance experience, their performance. It derives from the partnership, the music, the moment...and from the surrounding space. That's why social dance and competition event organizers search for the best of venues – especially the vintage ones, when available, that have that architecturally elegant ballroom look and feel. The Denver Turnverein may have begun in the 19th century as a social club in the back of a bakery and later a gymnastics training center, but today social dance has become its strongest attraction, seven days a week for its 1,200 members.



Marilyn Stecher  
Peter Quintaro

## CHAPTER PRIORITIES FOR 2016 OPENING PEOPLE'S EYES TO THE BENEFITS

**SUSAN A. JOHNSON, Director**  
District 10 NC/SC

*"I believe in our mission statement and the 'tried and true' programs that fall under it. USA Dance has been around for 50 years, so we must be doing something right. There are so many benefits to be found in joining with others to dance, giving back to our local and regional communities...it would be easy to go on and on. The Carolinas are full of southern hospitality, and our District is a great example of just that. We have a great mix of social as well as competitor dancers within our chapters."*

*"We need to look at all the tools we have in place that have worked, train our volunteers with the respect due them and have fun together as we fulfill our mission. We need to reach out to new dancers in our communities, especially the youth, and develop ways to open people's eyes to all the benefits within the world of ballroom dancing."*







Michael Moore & Defne Dinler,  
Devin Raymond & ChoCho DeSantis,  
Stephen Takata & Joanna Mielnick  
(l to r)

In the Mile High City of Denver, spring and fall seasons in the Rockies are the best of times to put on a DanceSport competition. And at the Denver Turnverein, couples can dance a full day on Saturday on a 5,280 s.f. maple floor, surrounded by elegant chandeliers and grand arched window walls, and then head next day to the panoramic mountains.

Both Rocky Mountain Chapter competitions offer International Standard and Latin and American Smooth and Rhythm, including Syllabus levels Bronze and Silver, as well as Novice, Pre-Champ and Championship divisions for Pre-Teen through Senior III. Competitors only pay one entry fee for unlimited dance entries within two consecutive age groups and proficiency levels. And also in the mix are the popular club-style dances, and an open

invitation for dancers and formation teams wanting to perform showcase routines.

For the Spring Competition to date, up to \$2,400 scholarships will be available for Bronze, Silver, Novice, Pre-Championship and Championship-level dancers competing in the advanced American Rhythm and International Standard categories, and for Junior and Youth divisions (ages 12-18) and Adult divisions (18+).

At the Rocky Mountain Spring Competition, Chair of Judges will be Jennifer Corey, Music Director Carolyn Cattani and Emcee David Tippet.

For Competition Information: [www.usadancedenver.org](http://www.usadancedenver.org)  
Denver Turnverein Information: [www.denverturnverein.org](http://www.denverturnverein.org)

**Spring Competition** May 14, 2016

**Fall Competition** Oct. 1, 2016

## OF DANCE

**DON DAVENPORT, Director**  
District 9 FL/PR

*"USA Dance in District 9 Florida offers a lifestyle for members and non-members that are in a mature time of their lives. Those chapters in Florida that offer Beginner-Intermediate lessons bring these folks out of the rocking chair syndrome and into the World of Ballroom Dance. Seldom does this group of people exhibit the same loyalty to other venues. In areas where private organizations pattern their programs and fees compatible with USA Dance chapters, there is a challenge; however, the camaraderie of our chapters is seldom matched."*



*"I would like to see Chapters review 'Priorities For Chapters' in the documents library and implement First Priority/ Section Two 'Ballroom Dance Lessons for Beginners.' I realize this is a challenge for many chapters and other industry members, but the program has the wherewithal to unify our dancers and make USA Dance a true representative of ballroom dance in the various local communities – a true 'Best Practice'."*