

USA Dance #1011  
Minutes - Monthly Board Meeting  
October 19, 2008

Meeting called to order at 5:45PM at Marie Callender's Restaurant

Quorum: 3 Officers & at least 2 other Board members

Present:

1. Rush Behnke, President
2. Donn Knokey, Vice President
3. Esther Freeman, Treasurer
4. Nancy Yie, Secretary
5. Marilee Grim
6. George Helfrich
7. Susan Dallas
8. Bill Jordan

Absent:

1. Jeri Capuzo (past President)
2. Sonia Revitt
3. Charlene Stewart
4. Lois Adams
5. Darlene Chapman
6. Tanya DeHart

Total Board Members: 13

Minutes: Changes to the September minutes include:

1. Linda Lund is not yet a member of the Youth & Scholarship Committee.
2. The Board has not looked at the Scholarship awards as yet. The forms will first be reviewed and the administrative process decided.
3. USA Dance 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday dances will not be held. We may substitute this with attending current instructor dances in some manner.
4. The minutes were approved with the above changes.

Treasurer's Report: Operating Account

Balance as of 10/19/08: Total Income = \$5,440.46

Total Expenses = \$6,525.55 Net Total = ~~-\$784.07~~

Committee Chair Reports:

1. Membership – Sonya was not present
  - a. Current members = 105
  - b. New members = 2.
  - c. Total Membership = 107.
  - d. Up 27 members since the beginning of the year.
2. Dance – Donn
  - a. Will help June with the Halloween Dance.
3. Newsletter – Charlene was not present. She has not been feeling well this summer. However, a newsletter should be forthcoming.
4. Website – George has been making some changes and updating information.

- a. A category for Workshops could be added instead of including those under “Dance Events”.
  - b. Pictures are on the web from the Hawaiian party and the golf event.
  - c. The Board agreed that George & Arlen have done a great job of updating the web site.
5. Public Relations - Rush has been attending weekly lunches at community organizations & has introduced many people to USA Dance. Donn continues to attend the ‘Greeter meetings’ of the Chamber of Commerce, and promotes dance through that venue. USA Dance poster with the web site listed could be hung in the Ballroom. Magazines, catalogues, and any information about USA Dance could remain in the practice room.
  6. Youth & Scholarship – Marilee presented the work that the committee has done. Marilee, Frances & June have been working on the guidelines & procedures for awarding dance scholarships.
  7. Dancing with the Rogue Valley Stars- Rush is working with Brad Hicks to identify more celebrities. Esther is not yet in the loop but would like to be of assistance.
  8. Fundraiser – Tanya has an idea to have a dance at Lava Lanes Boiling Alley as a fundraiser, since the combined golf and dance event was such a success.
  9. National – no report
  10. Regionals – going on in Seattle and would like to see someone from our USA Dance Chapter. Currently, there are no known competitors. Esther is working on a report for our USA Dance chapter.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Third Sunday Dance – should we participate with local instructors at their dances monthly?
  - a. There are 5 instructors that are hugely in favor of having USA Dance membership attend their dance. They will donate \$1 for each member attending to the Scholarship fund; each member will receive a \$1 discount toward admission as well. Marilee made a motion with the above suggestion and Donn seconded it after the discussion. Discussion – Susan said she & Richard (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday) would offer that at each of their dances. Other instructors said they would participate once/5 months. USA Dance could introduce our organization at these dances so people would understand our function. This might encourage new members as well. Would be considered a USA Dance type of participation, not a sponsored event. When we publicize, we should say that this dance is USA Dance member participation for scholarship. We will decide how to name it at a later time. Action: Rush will talk with instructors and get specific dates of when they would welcome participation.
  - b. Bow Tie & Pearls Dance (Make a Wish Foundation) - usually held in November on the Thanksgiving weekend. (It is in our bylaws.) Donn talked with Cori & June. June has reserved the ballroom the Friday after Thanksgiving. June would be willing to partner with us, but Cori is concerned that there will be little participation because of the cost. There are restrictions on how to use the funds for charity events. Every year we have signed a contract with Make A Wish Foundation. The Board decided to just have a Friday night dance with June, who expressed willingness to share the

proceeds with us. We suggested 50/50, but this will depend on June. Allocation of the proceeds will be determined at the next Board meeting, and may not go to Make A Wish Foundation but to our new scholarship program. If we reduce the cost – no band – a lot of college kids may come. Donn will work with June. Sign-in sheets have to be used and the event advertised as a USA Dance Event. Money has to go through our bank account.

- c. Magdalene House Charity Benefit – The auction is happening after the New Year's party. We could use the proceeds from the Roses & Candlelight Dance or the Waltz Ball instead.
- d. Scholarship – Esther stated there are National guidelines on how manage scholarships, since problems have occurred in the past with studios supporting themselves. Esther passed out the National form; National reimburses for out of pocket expenses. If certain categories are decided by our Board, then we can decide how many funds are available. Esther noted Treasurer she should be on the Youth & Scholarship Committee since she will be dealing with signing the checks. This had been discussed at the last meeting. If Marilee's form is in keeping with similar ones from National, we can use it according to Esther. Some of the forms were reviewed by the Board. Marilee passed out basic guidelines, which included the purpose and procedures of applying for a scholarship, how nominations are reviewed, & how notes are kept. Money will not go directly to the dancer, but to the teacher who filed the original application. Criteria for eligible instructors were reviewed. Currently they are not required to be USA Dance members. The Board agreed to allow this for the present. Nancy made a motion to keep it the same for one year but to revisit this is one year to evaluate whether or not they should be USA Dance members – Board voted to agree. The original intent was to have an instructor nominate a student who was unable to attend classes because of financial need. They know which students would really benefit from this type of help. To get it started, we could have the instructors send the request to the Committee. The Committee would make a recommendation to the Board. The student would also need to write a small essay describing why this would be helpful for them and their goals with dance. Donn moved to accept Marilee's forms with the change of having 2 officers (Pres or VP and one other Board member) to approve the applications. Rather than use only 50% of the funds generated by our fundraisers, Esther made the motion to circulate the money as fast as we can and to only keep \$200 in the account. This would allow larger awards. We have \$800 in the account and \$600 would be available for the scholarship. Once down to \$200 we will have to do more fundraising. People could give specific gifts in the future, which might have to be administered differently. We cannot cover all the student costs but may defray some of them. This plan was seconded by Marilee and the Board approved. Charlene may do an article in the Newsletter about this Scholarship fund. Because instructors will be nominating students for an award, June may need to step down from the Committee so there is no perceived conflict of interest if she recommends one of her students. Rush suggested he be on the signature card so he can sign checks if Esther is out of town. Rush proposed that USA Dance might sponsor a couple 8 years or younger that could eventually compete. We look at this as a possibility in the future.

#### **New Business:**

1. We had ten USA Dance people show up at Jerry's Dance. One couple may become members. \$10 was given to the scholarship dance.
2. Tanya wants to do a Bowling & Dance Fundraiser. We agreed to have Tanya get information and bring it to the Board.

3. Donn added something to this. When attending the “Boogie By the Bay Event”, one of the judges invited Donn to golf in the AM. He did so and attended workshops in the afternoon; this helped to show we are not so one dimensional, which he feels is important.
4. We could do a wine tasting and dance as well.
5. Nancy announced that she will be stepping down as Secretary after the first of the year; she has held this position for 4 ½ yrs. She would be happy to continue as a Board member. Susan will not continue as a Board member after the first of the year as well. The membership may vote for the Board by email. We will mail ballots to those without email. We do not have a ballot as yet. We need to ascertain if other people will be continuing on the Board.
6. Downturn in economy – discussed by Rush. Even though we have a downturn in our economy, there is even more of a reason to continue our fundraising events. Fundraisers are still going on in this community.
7. The Jazz Festival was packed and the dance portion was the best venue of the festival overall. There were 4 contests and 3 had prizes. We should have a membership table at next year’s event.
8. We may need to come up with other things to attract members. We could also have name tags at the monthly dances; this needs to be discussed at future meetings.
9. Esther wanted to bring up the insurance of the group. Someone fell at the Ballroom last Friday night at Susan’s dance. She asked Susan to write down what she observed, what she heard from others and who was present etc. and send it to National. If USA Dance is named in any type of lawsuit, USA Dance insurance would be available for legal assistance/covering medical costs etc. Donn asked Marilee if we can have some type of book at the studio if we need to document untoward events. Insurance states that the ambulance needs to be called and the person evaluated.

The next meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5PM at Marie Callender’s. (note the change in time).

Submitted By: Nancy Yie , Secretary, USA Dance #1011