

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – NOVEMBER 2023

Welcome to another month of dancing!

As mentioned in my fall letter, we have an election coming up. There are three seats to fill, and we have three members running for election. Our incumbents are Ms. Shirley Cooper and Ms. Caren Harvey. Our new candidate is Mr. Todd Biegger. Mr. Biegger has served on the board in past years, at one point serving as president of the board. I would like to thank the candidates who have considered to run and serve on the board. With only three seats to fill and three members running to fill these seats, we do not need to prepare ballots. The annual meeting is set for Saturday, December 16, and a hand count of the members present will be taken. The results will be confirmed at the end of the annual meeting, and the “old” board will adjourn, and the newly elected board will commence its first board meeting to elect officers.

I’m proud to announce that our USA Dance chapter has 81 members. Each member contributes to the whole through membership dues and class/workshops/party attendance, which contributes to our financial stability. Other ways that members contribute to our overall success are serving as a DJs, reception desk at parties, our cleaning crews who not only keep our ballroom clean but save us thousands of dollars in expense, and our board of directors who works very hard to keep us running smoothly and financially sound. These are not the only members who contribute as there are many things that go into our operations such as those who volunteer to decorate for the special parties, Debra who takes our photos, and those who serve on committees such as the election committee.

For our newest members, I’d like to let you know how our chapter used to operate. Every Saturday night for 20+ years, we had volunteers to man the reception desk, serve as DJ bringing us the music to keep our feet moving, and hosts to put out snacks. The hosts and DJs stayed for the entire night and helped with the cleanup at the end of the evening. After the onset of COVID and all the restrictions that presented themselves with this, the hosting duties and snacks had to be discontinued. Once the COVID restrictions had finally lifted, we returned to the ballroom at a limited capacity, beginning with just one Saturday a month, then two Saturdays a month, and then finally pretty much back to normal operations.

The board of directors played a major role during this trying time and dedicated many, many hours to get us through the ordeal. However, we are a group of members, and all services provided to our members are done by members on a volunteer basis. It is not up to just the board of directors or a small group of members to perform these tasks but a responsibility of all members.

Right now, out of our 81 members, we only have a very small core group, less than ten members, who stays every Saturday night for the entire party, does light clean up in putting up the snacks and making sure the tables are clean, and taking out the trash. A light dusting of the floor is also done taking less than five minutes. Imagine if you had that task every Saturday. Their dedication is commendable. It has come to the board’s attention that these members are becoming a bit overwhelmed and are asking for help. I’m reaching out to every member to consider hosting at a Saturday party. Consider that if we can get at least 24 volunteers in a rotation, that’s only about one Saturday every six months. Hosts for the evening have free admittance to the party as do the receptionist and DJ. Please contact Elisa Klingel to sign up. She is at almost every Saturday party and will be happy to sign you up.

Our needs are not limited to hosting but also reception and DJ. I also encourage anyone interested in these areas to reach out to Caren Harvey if you would consider the reception duties and to Shirley Cooper to volunteer to be a DJ for the evening.

Respectfully,
Sharon Keene, President