

DANCE WHISPERS

National Smooth Dancers, Inc.



Los Angeles
Parent Chapter

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Publication of
N. S. D., Inc.

November-December

2010

Liz Bradford, Editor



CONVENTION

San Francisco opened it's Golden Gate to welcome all of us to the 2010 Convention for four days of dancing, food, fun and laughter starting on September 3.

Friday afternoon's hospitality was catered by the hotel with sandwich makings and fresh fruit and choice of beverage.

The highlight Friday night was the "Bay to Breakers" show starting off with a stalker and continuing with songs and dances put on by the Golden Gate members with great costumes and music. The YMCA and glow stick numbers were especially entertaining.

The Team Match is always fun and lively as they march in with their banners and chapters compete in six dances, loudly cheered on by their members. Visalia won first place.

Fresno hosted the Friday night hospitality with meat balls, chicken legs, salads and desserts. It was a great first day.

Saturday's activities featured committee meetings, the Gavel Club Luncheon, a dance seminar, competitions, mixers, and a huge salsa line dance at
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2010 Convention Contest Winners

Four Star Smooth

1st	Bill and Lona Dolan.....	Visalia
2nd	Peter and Marsha Hanson.....	Palomar
3rd	Brian Yip and Joan Robinson.....	San Fernando Valley

Three Star International Standard

(Non-Sanctioned)

1st	Brian Yip and Joan Robinson.....	San Fernando Valley
2nd	Verrr and Judy Miranda.....	San Diego

Three Star American Rhythm

1st	Igor and Nadia Tilinin.....	Golden Gate
2nd	Bill and Lona Dolan.....	Visalia
3rd	Brian Yip and Joan Robinson.....	San Fernando Valley

Two Star International Standard

(Non-Sanctioned)

1st	Gordon and Sue Robinson.....	Golden Gate
2nd	Ken and Marion Scholtz.....	Los Angeles
3rd	Vern and Judy Miranda.....	San Diego

Two Star American Smooth

1st	Greg Uichanco and Barbara Porter.....	Visalia
2nd	T G Thomas and Dawn Durkee.....	Bakersfield
3rd	Ken and Marion Scholtz.....	Los Angeles

Two Star International Latin

(Non-Sanctioned)

1st	Mark and Sally Emanuelli.....	San Fernando Valley
2nd	George and Ana Dayeh.....	Golden Gate

One Star American Smooth

1st	Ken and Marion Scholtz.....	Los Angeles
2nd	George and Miriam Mozes.....	Palomar
3rd	Carmine Bua and Shirley McCloskey.....	San Diego

One Star American Rhythm

1st	T G Thomas and Dawn Durkee.....	Bakersfield
2nd	Shane Nielsen and Myra Pimentel.....	Visalia
3rd	Chuck and Liz Talmadge.....	Golden Gate

Senior Waltz

1st	Duane and Donna Thornton.....	Palomar
2nd	Kyle and Jodene Catterlin.....	Los Angeles
3rd	James Messner and Peggy Amato.....	Bakersfield

Senior Cha Cha

1st	Vince and Nellie Uichanco.....	Visalia
2nd	Duane and Donna Thornton.....	Palomar
3rd	Chuck and Susan Johnson.....	Los Angeles

Los Angeles Chapter Social Calendar

Sunday, November 14, 1:00P.M.
Western Dance - El Monte
Sunday, December 5, 1:00P.M.
Christmas Party - El Monte
Saturday, January 29, 2011
Coronation Ball - Monrovia
Sunday, February 13, 1:00P.M.
Valentine Party - El Monte

Western Dance

On Sunday, November 14, our dance will have a Western theme at the El Monte Senior Center, 3120 Tyler Ave. in El Monte.

The business meeting will start at 1:00 P.M. and will be followed by a dance lesson and general dancing to Susan Lewis music. Light refreshments will be served about 4:00 P.M.

The price is \$12.00 for members and guests. Please make checks payable to NSD and send to Liz Bradford, 9904 Norlain Ave. Downey, CA 90240. Phone (562) 928-5505.

Jeans, Western shirts and even hats would be appropriate attire.

Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Charity Dance will be held on Sunday, December 5th at the El Monte Senior Center. Proceeds will go to Hathaway/Sycamores Children and Family Services.

The business meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. New officers will be elected and installed. General dancing will begin after a dance lesson.

There will be a pot luck supper at 4:00 P.M. Jodene Catterlin will be in charge. The price is \$12.00 per person with dish, \$20.00 without. Checks payable to NSD should be sent to Susan Johnson, 2328 Loma Vista St. Pasadena, CA 91104. For what to bring, call Jodene at (818) 349-6774.

Dressy holiday attire will be in order.

Coronation

Plans are being finalized for our Coronation Ball on January 29th at the Courtyard by Marriott in Monrovia. We will be honoring Joy Michaels for her "Triple Crown" event.



Party Line

...By Liz

It must be cruise season with lots of people traveling. Joy Michaels and George Zimmerman missed the Black and White ball to take a river cruise through the south of France.

Shun and Dottie Ling will be cruising in Hawaii on the Golden Princess for two weeks.

Chuck and Susan Johnson will miss our November dance as they join Susan's sister and her fiancé on a Mexican Riviera cruise on Carnival.

Ken and Marion Scholtz will be on a five week Mediterranean cruise on a 700 passenger ship of the Azmara line. They will return from Paris where they will celebrate their anniversary.

Roger and Susan Lewis will celebrate their daughter's 40th birthday with a family trip to Hawaii over the Thanksgiving holidays.

Jodene Catterlin has recovered from her back surgery and is slowly returning to dancing. She is undergoing physical therapy.

We have missed the Rohloffs. Lorraine has recovered from cataract surgery and is resuming activities.

Bea Gaspar is heading to Cancun with her niece to her time share there.

Former member, Vince Johnson has passed away. Our sympathy to Alice and their family.

Black and White Ball

Tables were covered with black cloths and centered by top hats and canes courtesy of Chuck and Susan Jonson. Susan handled reservations for our 10-10-10 date at the El Monte Senior Center.

After the business meeting dancers took the floor to enjoy the music provided by Dolores Moore with her amplified keyboard and song stylings. She played two mixers, a fox trot and a waltz. She also took requests.

At intermission, Debby Ku and Victor Lee gave a salsa line dance class which

was enjoyed by most people in attendance.

For refreshments, the Johnsons provided delicious chicken or seafood sandwiches along with a variety of chips and miniature cookies.

The mild weather cooperated to make this a most enjoyable afternoon. We were happy to see long time members along with several guests.

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the "Soma Salsa" afternoon dance. Saturday evening at the "Nob Hill High Society" Dinner Dance, the main attraction was the beautiful Coronation of our new State Queen, Amy Ansaldi.

She and her husband Dan did a fabulous and very entertaining Queen's Dance to "Steppin' out With My Baby." The professional exhibition by Randy and Viktorija Dias was beautiful. Sunday, there were more meetings and the Crown Circle Champagne Reception and Luncheon. To our delight the menu was Vol au Vente (a pastry shell with creamed chicken), topped with everyone's favorite dessert-Crème Brule.

The Sunday afternoon had more contests and mixers at the "Union Square Escapades."

Sunday Evening was another formal event with an "All That Jazz and Alcatraz" theme. Many of the men dressed in Mafia style outfits with most of the ladies in flapper style dress. There was lots of fringe. The evening featured the three and four star competitions and a special "All That Jazz" show by the talented Golden Gate players and another exciting professional exhibition.

Hospitality was hosted by the San Diego Chapter with more great food and beverages. Culminating the weekend activities was the Farewell Breakfast and awards presentations to the competition winners.

It was a most enjoyable weekend. Our gratitude goes out to all of the Golden Gate members who put so much effort into the planning and execution of this wonderful program.

ROARING TWENTIES

There were lots of flounces, fringe, headbands and straw hats at our "Roaring Twenties" dance on September 12. Susan Johnson, assisted by Eleanor Terry decorated the tables with blue cloths, long beads, and straw hats, along with bowls of popcorn.

After the business meeting we were given a dance lesson in Nightclub Two Step by Ken and Marion Scholz, who had brought home four trophies from the Convention.

Liz Bradford started Ray's music off with Avalon where the beautiful Casino Ballroom first opened in 1929. This was followed by sounds of the great bands of that era. She had three mixers, a Paul Jones Charleston, an N.S.D. style Waltz and a Dixieland tag dance. The tunes were lively and toe-tapping.

Thanks to all those who expressed their appreciation for the music. It reminded me of the many long hours Ray had put in to the selection, programming, and recording of the dance tapes for NSD and Gliders.

The Johnsons provided delicious cakes and ice cream for refreshments.

It was nice to see Len Vanderhoof and Martha Rhodes from the Valley Chapter as guests. Martha is a past Queen.

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES

- November 6, 2010
San Fernando Coronation
- January 29, 2011
Los Angeles Coronation
- March 5, 2011
San Diego Coronation
- March 25,25,27, 2011
Bakersfield Board Meeting and Coronation
- April 9, 2011
San Francisco Coronation
- May 21, 2011
Visalia Coronation
- June 4, 2011
Fresno Coronation
- July 16, 2011
Palomar Coronation
- September 2-5, 2011
State Convention and Coronation-Fresno



Jodene and Kyle Catterlin

Queen's Goodbye Message

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to the LA Chapter for allowing me to make the joyous journey I have experienced as LA Chapter Queen for 2 years and the special honor as State Queen for the 2009-2010 year. I also want to express my appreciation to the LA Chapter for all their support during my extended reign. Thank you, thank you members of the LA Chapter. And special thanks to all of you who made the Fantasy Cruise come true, and to my husband Kyle, a happy member of ROWB (Royal Order of White Bags), for making visiting each port such a special occasion. The hospitality and friendship offered by each chapter as we visited was remarkable. We were treated royally everywhere, with hugs and kisses that will go on forever.

My Royal Court, the company of reigning Queens, is truly a very special group of women. Each new face that joins brings her own special qualities, and the Queens that leave never really leave, but continue on in spirit.

Kyle and I know that my reign is drawing to a close, but the experience will never really end for us. The friendships we have been privileged to develop will continue on for life.

To Joy Michaels, our Queen elect, I extend my love and friendship as she begins her reign in January.

Deadline for the next issue of Dance Whispers is December 15. Send copy to Liz Bradford 9904 Norlain Ave. Downey, CA 90240. (562) 928-5505 or FAX (562) 927-2858.

SAN FERNANDO

Mark Emanuelli, Guest Editor



Queen Elect Roberta LaZar

Roberta is a California native, born and raised in Los Angeles. She attended UCLA and achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She taught for a while, and then went back to school at CSUN to earn her Masters in Accounting, eventually earning a CPA license, and has been a practicing CPA ever since. She met her future husband Les in 1974, and has been dancing on air ever since. They have traveled to Europe, Antarctica, Egypt, Jordan, Greenland, Nepal, and China, as well as across the United States. Les & Roberta have even been known to do an impromptu Viennese Waltz in a hotel corridor if the mood should strike them.

Roberta started dancing approximately 11 years ago, beginning with Arthur Murray (and entering competitions there). Dancing with a formal dinner-dance group "Nightlighters", and joining up with Smooth Dancers in 2005. She and her husband hosted last year's Wine & Cheese reception (which we are repeating again this year), and have been staples at our monthly socials for years. We think that you will all have a great time meeting and dancing with them.

Her coronation is slated for November 6, 2010, in the San Fernando Valley, priced at a mere \$43 per person for all this:

- *Wine & Cheese Reception: 4:30pm
- *Doors Open: 6:00pm (Hollywood Academy)
- *Coronation Ceremony: 6:30pm
- *Dinner Service: 7:15pm

Optional Lodging (\$105 for a stunning room with a super comfy bed)

Sleep! 12:00mid-9:00am (Warner Center Marriott – Woodland Hills)

Optional Breakfast (Only \$15 for a GREAT way to kick off your Sunday)

Farewell Breakfast: (Warner Center Marriott – Woodland Hills)

Contact Sally Emanuelli for details/RSVP: sallylin@yahoo.com (562) 633-7022 or see our website: www.nsdsvf.org/coronation

The Hollywood Academy has been transformed almost in preparation for our event. The dance floor has been improved – 3000 square feet of premium laminate flooring, and we have repurposed the practice rooms to be a Queen's Changing Room and a Buffet service room, just for this event. The second floor space will probably be filled with tables for this special event which we hope to fill the room.

In other news, we are SO grateful to all of the chapters who have volunteered to help out, even in what you think may be little ways, for the 2012 convention. Site selection is still underway, but the THEME selection is done, and we'll be contacting support teams in the near future.

Lastly, don't forget to make plans to attend one of our monthly dances, if you are in the neighborhood. Our December Holiday Dance will be held on Dec. 4, James Woo DJ. We plan to continue our dances on the first Saturday of each month EXCEPT Jan 2011 (where the first Sat will be Jan 1st- we are planning to move to Jan 8th for Jan 2011 ONLY). Music plans will be a rotation schedule between James Woo, Piero, and that Mark Emanuelli guy, so all the mixes will be fresh and lively. Keep up to date at www.nsdsvf.org. Any NSD member from ANY chapter always pays our member prices. Never Stop Dancing!

BAKERSFIELD

Rosie Munoz, Editor



Mr. & Mrs. Mark Boyer

Our newlyweds spent their honeymoon on a cruise to the Mexican Caribbean this past May. Eighteen friends joined them.

Kay Edeler and Mark love dancing and helping out. They often volunteer their time serving on dance committees. Congratulations to a dedicated and wonderful couple.

CONVENTION

Thank you San Francisco for a memorable time. Your group was very hospitable, and I think that helps determine how much fun we're all going to have. As Barbara Crawford said, "Leave your heart in San Francisco and take your memories home."

Congratulations to our BSD competitors. Peggy Amato and James Messner won third place in the Senior Waltz. Dawn Durkee and TG Thomas won second place in the American Two Star Smooth in waltz and foxtrot. They took first place in the American One Star Rhythm in cha-cha. Charlene Miller and Ken Silber took part in the Jack and Jill contest in which all participants were declared winners.

I commend the hard work of our dedicated scrutinizers Janice and Lyle Mills. As I passed their table during a dance mixer, I asked why they weren't dancing. Janice smiled and said, "I can't" and resumed staring at the monitor screen in front of her making sure that everything was running smoothly.

MONTHLY DANCES

"Puttin' On The Ritz" was the theme of our September dance. The Shafter Community Jazz Band played while we danced. One of our members, Ben Wilson, plays the trumpet in the band. Ken Silber of the Targets also played dance music that evening.

The spotlight was performed by the Special Ladies. These ladies are BSD members who are single and without dance partners. The nine ladies danced the waltz with a gentleman of their choice who were predetermined weeks earlier. To make it even more special, Dwight Rollins sang as they waltzed. Our talented Dawn Durkee was responsible for the nice choreography.

"Jungle Fever" was in the air for the August dance. Most everyone dressed in animal print or safari gear. JoAnne Georgio did a terrific job with jungle decorations and choice of snacks. We had a roarin' good time.

In the spotlight were Wendy and Ben Wilson. They performed an American Three Star competition routine which consisted of a waltz, foxtrot and tango. Good job guys. I think you're on the way to fame!

The July dance was hosted by Kay Boyer and Karl Goesele. It was a "Mid Summer Night's Dream" emceed by Steve Peterson and a committee of 14.

Kay Boyer and Josh Harless presented a night club two-step followed by Rose and Steve Peterson with another version of the dance. It's great that we have excellent dancers.

Scrumptious cake and ice cream were served.

GET WELL

We wish Ruth Reid a speedy recovery. She loved dancing so much and some of us miss seeing her smooth dancing in her tennis shoes.

VISALIA

Margaret Moholt, Editor

A big thanks to Carol Bixler who served as Whispers editor for almost 3 years. She needs more time to spend with her grandchildren and to practice new steps with David. I take responsibility back with pleasure.

Long time members Letha and Vern Hayward surprised us at the September Tea Dance. They moved to Colorado many years ago and returned to Visalia to visit relatives and us. Lotti Carr hosted a dinner and invited the Helms, Jasmines, Joan Dewey, Stella Yocum and the Moholts, all also long time (not old) members. Together they went down memory lane and had a great time remembering great times.

September 11th Social: "Hot Cuban Nights" was hosted by Jaime and June Aguet. Many dancers had their hottest dance dresses for this fabulous Salsa night. The local well known dance instructor Robert Taylor taught a Salsa dance and later, with his partner, performed a couple of hot Salsa dances.

2010 Convention: VSD members gathered at 9am on Friday at the Holiday Inn to begin our trek to San Francisco. I was so surprised when I got on the bus to see Bette Smith (former member). She came all the way from Arizona to visit with Visalia members and to attend the State convention.

She is doing well and has found a nice group of dancers in her new hometown. Some Bakersfield members joined us and we were off to pick up a group from Fresno.

With the help of Yvette, Bette, Dorothy, and Tom as bartender, Lotti managed to keep us happy with breakfast and jokes, and before we knew it, we were unloading in Foster City.

Our weekend got off to a great start Friday evening when Visalia took first place in the team match competition thanks to Margaret, Vince, Nellie, Greg, Johnny, Linda, Nancy, Dorothy, Dean, Myra, and Shane. Many people from other clubs have told me what a strong and vibrant club we have in Visalia, and I think it is true as well.

The entire event was almost perfect. The professional entertainment by Monika Oljenik and Bill Milner was incredible (and it turns out that Lotti, Vince, and Nellie are former students of Bill Milner). Sunday morning included a sumptuous breakfast, Presidents' and farewell speeches and Gavel Club award to Golden Gate's Joe Malta. Fresno's presentation for next year's convention was delightful! You won't want to miss their Under the Sea adventure. And finally...the awards..... You guessed it, VSD was the leader of the pack. Vince and Nellie took first in Senior Cha Cha. Shane and Myra second in 1 star rhythm, Greg and Barbara first in 2 star smooth and Bill and Lona first in 4 star and 2nd in 3 star rhythm. With hugs and goodbyes and tired feet, we all loaded up to head for the warmer climate of the valley. (Report by Carol Bixler)

Save these dates:

November 13, Exeter Social
November 28, Tea Dance
December 4: "Dreaming of a White Christmas" a formal dance hosted by Lona and Bill Dolan's committee. The entertainment will be the world Rhythm Finalists and World Showcase Champions Felipe and Carolina Telona. Cost is \$40 per person until Nov.20; thereafter \$50. For reservations call the Dolans at (599) 635-8238.

There will be no Tea Dance in December.

FRESNO

Kevin McCready, Editor

2010 Convention

Thirty of our members attended the convention hosted by the Golden Gate Chapter in Foster City. We congratulate them for putting on a wonderful event. Friday afternoon started the convention off with an excellent hospitality with fine food and drink.

It was a good happening for the Fresno chapter as well! Friday evening included The "Team Match" which resulted in a win for Fresno of the Spirit Award and a second place finish in dancing. The members involved were Sarah Vigen and George Schmidt performing Waltz, Carla Hartunian and Steve Moore in the Rumba, Lorraine Tilton and Steve Moore with a Foxtrot, Pat Taniguchi and Mike Moyle in the swing, Norma Schmidt and Michael Mikhael doing the Cha Cha and Cissie Vigen with Bob Dowell coming in first place in the Tango. We thank them for their fine effort. We thank Cissie for organizing the team. Sue Dowell was our judge and Kathy Sachse was our "Head Cheer Leader".

Friday evening we hosted the hospitality and have to thank Kathy Sachse for the wonderful job she did in preparing the food and organizing the presentation. We thank Steve Moore for bringing the grapes and pistachios. Also, thank you to our members who helped set up and clean up.

Monday morning we announced the theme for the 2011 convention. "Neptune's Kingdom, Under the Sea" by putting on a skit outlining the events that would take place. All of our members deserve a "Well Done" for their parts in the performance which was written and directed by Kathy Sachse.

Congratulations to the Visalia Chapter for coming in first in the team match!

Social & Dance Events

Our August 3rd Sunday Social was a "Summer Sunday" celebration hosted by Cissie and Sarah Vigen. Lessons were Foxtrot and Hustle taught by Mark & Andrea Nelson-Novak.

Entertainment was by Patricia Ramirez with Franco Peraza. The committee members were Norma and George Schmidt, Carla Hartunian and Patricia Ramirez. September we celebrated "National Ballroom Month" hosted by Kathy Sachse, her committee consisted of Barbara and Bob Strickler, Ginna Bearden, Michael Mikhael and Kevin McCready. Our dance lessons were the Bolero & Night Club two-step with Dmitry Kochkin. Our "special" entertainment was performed by 2 teenage couples from a cotillion program offered by Cynthia Merrill. It was a pleasure to see such young dancers and speaks well for the future of Ballroom dancing.

Our next 3rd Sunday socials will be October 17th hosted by Steve Moore with lessons by Dmitry Kochkin and November 21st hosted by Jan Mitchell with lessons by Mark and Andrea Nelson-Novak.



Harvest Ball

On October 2nd we held our first Harvest Ball at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Social Hall. This was a formal dinner-dance catered by the church staff. The event was hosted by our Social Chair, Lorraine Tilton. Recorded music was played by Sarah Vigen and George Schmidt.

Our entertainment was along the lines of cabaret and was performed by Franco Peraza, Leah Dickerson and Mary Short. They were supported by three other lovely ladies, including Sarah Vigen.

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Semi-formal dinner-dance will be held on December 19th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Clovis Senior Center.

It will be a catered dinner following a champagne reception.

Reservations are required. For reservations or additional information call Lorraine Tilton (559) 227-9372.



Sad News

We send our condolences to Ori and Dolores Reed on the untimely accidental death of their grandson. He was a member of the Fresno State University marching band. They honored him by renaming an award after him. We also learned that Kathryn Qualls suffered a stroke in July. Kathryn, along with her late husband, Floyd, founded the new Fresno Chapter in 1985. Kathryn was our first Queen. She is now at home and we wish her well.

FRESNO CHAPTER 2010 OFFICERS

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Gabrielle Von Stephens and Barbara Crawford

Historically, this is the issue of Whispers when every chapter shares their experience at the annual NSD Convention... Since we were the hosting chapter, and bragging can be considered bad manners, Bill Hage, the GGSD Editor, has graciously allowed me to write out column this month:

There are many jobs and responsibilities to organizing, implementing, and hosting a convention, as veteran NSD members know. For newer members, here are some things you might not know:

* Budgets look better on paper – some items will go over-budget, others under-, but NOT necessarily in balance with your plans on paper.

* Start with a WOW and end with a WOW...-attendees arrive with a “part mood” so don’t disappoint them. Make your Opening Night something special, and do the same the night before they leave. If you’re lucky, there will be other “WOW” moments and it may be unexpected (Who would have expected to hear “Polka!” and then see dancers look like the deer in the headlights and dance it!).

* You will have a year or two to plan, but it really happens in a week’s time – so make every minute count, thank people often, and save a little time and energy to enjoy the events yourself.

* Expect the unexpected problem (and a ready solution) – our member Ed Beilin was hospitalized for a low-grade virus and dehydration (unexpected problem) and Gordon Robinson stepped forward

with a solution – to be Emma’s partner in the jazz routine on VERY short notice.

* GEOGRAPHY was simpler in school – in reality, our particular chapter has members as far away as Santa Rosa, Alameda, Fremont, San Jose, and Stevenson (that’s near Turlock!) and yet dedicated members traveled frequently and without complaint for planning meetings and rehearsals, frequently!

* Love will win out – you know you are loved when your significant other agrees to wear fake tattoos or a jellyfish hat, or some such ridiculous costume.

* Music and technology will fail you at least once – “Take Two” has special significance because the first equipment wouldn’t work at all, and then Fate turned against us during the Pro Show...

* Use every minute you’ve got – 7 minutes to get ready will work one night, and 60 minutes to get ready will work, too!

* Procrastinators are born that way and are on time only when they die – so Registration chairs are never disappointed.

Announcements, written deadlines, and phone calls have minimal effectiveness and sometimes people assume there’s a cancellation waiting for them, and are sometimes disappointed.

* Organizing seating is easier said than done – despite providing 240 seats for 240 attendees, this plan did not prevent confusion both Saturday and Sunday nights!

* Pamper your feet during set-ups and take-downs, ladies – your “dogs will bark” with all the walking, so forget fashion and wear soft slippers and orthotics (I didn’t!).

* Make costume adjustments BEFORE you get dressed – trimming the bangs on your wig after you put on your makeup will be a problem that the blow dryer cannot solve.

* You CAN receive a trophy for NOT dancing – the Sr. Uichancos were startled to be announced winners until they realized Jr. and partner won, and I DID hold a trophy for a competition I didn’t enter (and I have a photo to prove it!).

* Avoid Security visiting your room because your neighbors weren’t invited in for wine – party ‘til dawn in the hotel lobby instead.

* Attending NSD Conventions are memorable – and your first one will always be your favorite. And if you are like Chuck and Liz Talmadge, you enter a contest for the first time and win a trophy!

* Unpacking is easier than repacking – it’s like cleaning drawers.

From Bill Hage on behalf of Bobbette the Builder, Giselle the Cigarette girls, co-chairs – Gordon Robinson, Gabrielle Von Stephens, myself, and the 62 members of Golden Gate Smooth Dancers on the committees, we are happy to have been your hosts and are already looking forward to Bakersfield Boards and Fresno Convention.

We wish to thank Barbara, Gabrielle Von Stephens, and Gordon Robinson for their inspiration and leadership and to Dan and Amy Ansaldi for their choreography and instruction for our Friday Night Light Show. And also for performing the most exquisite Queen’s Dance ever. Also kudos to Emma Stead and her luscious ladies. It doesn’t get any better than that. Barbara also wishes to thank all those who called her at the time of the San Bruno fire.

Fortunately, she and her loving puppy were only slightly inconvenienced.



SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Mark Chapman, Editor

Correction: In our previous newsletter Wanda Thoman's name was mistakenly typeset as Wanda Thomas. We sincerely regret any confusion or concern this may have caused.

I wish to thank Linda Gutierrez for the excellent job she did as the acting Dance Rules Committee Chair at Golden Gate's 2010 Convention. I had complete faith in her ability to meet any challenge that might arise, and I am pleased that my confidence was well placed. In support of her role, I do feel it necessary to voice my opinion on some controversy that has been reported from the 2-Star Standard competition.

Linda was faced with a difficult decision when a complaint was lodged that three of the four gentlemen competing were not dressed appropriately according to NSD rules.

If Linda had disqualified all three couples, then the remaining couple would have won first place regardless of how they had placed according to the judges. Instead, Linda reasonably advised Igor Tilinin to submit an official request that the 2-star heat be considered non-sanctioned, which I have since approved. The result of this action is that the three top couples kept their trophies as well as their competition placement in our club history, and our competition history will simply show that the heat was non-sanctioned. Remember that the issue of an event's being sanctioned has a practical impact only if there are five couples competing, in which case the winning couple is forced to advance to the next competitive level. With only four couples in this 2-star heat the sanctioning issue was moot.

Some people are unhappy about this situation because at the Golden Gate Convention one of these competitors wore the same outfit he wore at Los Angeles the year before, and since no complaint was lodged at the earlier convention it is felt that no action should have been taken this year. The logic here is apparently that failure to enforce a violation one time sets a precedent that must be adhered on all subsequent occasions of competitions

as though it somehow overturns an NSD rule. This is not how NSD makes rule changes. All competitors are responsible for knowing the rules we compete by and for following them at all times. If no objection is made to a violation in one instance, that does not create a rationale for believing the rule can be broken with impunity at will.

I believe that the Dance Committee Chair is an adjudicator, not a cop: there can be no reasonable expectation that the Chair is obligated to spend an entire convention looking for violations to NSD rules in order to catch every one that occurs. However, when an objection is made that a rule has been violated she must be prepared to give an opinion. Since no objection was raised in Los Angeles, there was no decision to be made; when an objection was raised regarding the same violation at Golden Gate, the acting Chair responded with a reasonable ruling, which the current Chair supports.

Also in regard to this situation, I understand that some people feel there should be no dress code for Standard competitions in the first place. I actually do support a pending suggestion for a rule change that would remove the tuxedo or tails requirement for the 2-Star Standard heat, which always occurs in the casual afternoon. However, I firmly believe that the "tuxedo or tails" criteria lends an elegance to the 3- and 4-Star Standard events in the evening, and I hope that the chapters never vote to remove this part of the dress code.

Upset with NSD rules, some people feel that it is senseless even to use concepts like "dress code" and "sanctioned event" in our club; they claim that we are a social club that happens to dance and therefore we do not need rules. I choose to believe, based on what I know of our history, we are a dance club that loves to socialize. As such I believe we need competition rules, applied as reasonably as possible, as well as "sanctioned" events. NSD rules are in place to provide structure to an activity that many of us love; these rules should be adhered to consistently by all competitors, and changed only when chapters go through the proper voting process to amend them.

PALOMAR

Don Hubbard, Editor

CONVENTION

"The San Francisco Convention was one of the best that we have attended since 1992", stated Adrienne and Sam Curiale, concerning the 2010 National Smooth Dancers Convention held at the Crown Plaza. The dancing was wonderful with a "knock out" number from the musical "Chicago", "All That Jazz and Alcatraz" which had the audience in awe at the costumes and choreography. Randy and Victor Dias performed beautifully Saturday evening and professional dancers Monika Oljenic and Bill Milner were outstanding at Sunday's dance.

CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Palomar Chapter winners: Donna and Duane Thornton placed first in the Senior Waltz and second in the Cha-Cha-Cha. Marsha and Peter Hanson placed third in the Four Star Smooth, and were given recognition for their previous wins as National State Champions. George and Miriam Mozes placed second in the One Star Smooth.

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

Our September Social was very special through the combined efforts of hosts Gail Womack and Bob Hicks, and Palomar's Peggy Lee, and San Diego's Kao and Mark Chapman. Food was ordered for this special occasion, emails were sent out. The result was the 18 members of the San Diego chapter attended making for a great party with refreshments, dancing and mixers. The Social was preceded by an excellent Night Club 2-step lesson by instructor Mark Chapman, in which San Diego dancers joined in with the hosts and guests.

IN SYMPATHY

We are sorry to announce that long time member Bill Duley passed away August 29.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife Pat. Both Bill and Pat were Competition International Dancers for many years.

Our sympathy goes to Bill's family and to his partner Pat Roesti. Pat was the 2010 Queen Elect, however, in order to give her full time to be at Bill's side throughout his illness, she found it necessary to resign her office.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our new member attorney Carl Jefferies. Carl was born in Oregon but raised in Chula Vista, where he attended schools there including Chula Vista High School. In addition to his legal training, Carl studied engineering and was employed seventeen years as an industrial engineer, and eight years as a mechanical engineer. Carl's twenty years of dancing included four years of square dancing. After a brief hiatus, he became interested in ballroom dancing last January and in addition to social dancing he is taking 3 lessons a week.



TRAVELERS

Peter and Marsha Hanson had a wonderful summer trip attending the wedding of their nephew who lives in Maryland. They also visited their daughter in Arlington, VA, and Peter's brother in Gettysburg, PA.

SENIOR OLYMPICS

Don Hubbard competed in the San Diego Senior Olympics, September 26, but it wasn't in dancing. Don's competitive sport is swimming. He won 3 Golds in freestyle and breaststroke events. After a 5 hour swim meet he went to the SD Social and danced for 3 hours. "It wasn't bad", he said, "I use different muscles for swimming than I do for dancing." Rumor had it that it took the entire week for him to recover from his activities.