

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
October 2018



October 1, 2018

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

Attached is the October issue of the Dance Whispers, "The Convention Issue". Congratulations to State Queen Lynn Sanders and the Visalia Chapter for an absolutely wonderful dancing weekend. To get a recap of this dance extravaganza weekend be sure to read pp1-3. Also, check out pages 4-5 to see all our competition winners and photos. If you would like to have a State Roster there are some still available, go to page 6 to find out more.

So what about our 2019 convention? You can find a preview of it on page 8.

A heart felt congratulations goes out to Linda Guttierrez who was this year's Gavel Club recipient. Ever since I first joined NSD and started attending conventions, Linda's name was one I always seemed to hear; particularly when it came to dance competition.

Do you remember your first Convention experience? San Diego interviews one of their new couples about their first experience at the Convention. You read about their adventures on page 10 Ever wonder what dance competitors have to say about their experience? Well you can find out on page 11 as Bakersfield dance competitors answer some questions poised at them.

The Los Angeles Queen-elect is introduced in this issue (p9). Their Coronation had to be scheduled early due to conflicts with the hotel. So please plan on ending your new year celebrations on January 5th with a Masquerade Ball.

As we start to enter the holidays there is plenty of dancing ahead of us. I hope to see you at Palomar's Coronation on October 13th, San Fernando Valley's Coronation on November 3rd, and Los Angeles Chapter's Coronation on January 5th, 2019. Flyers for all of these can be found at the end of this Dance Whispers issue (pp14-16).

Never Stop Dancing,

Tom Wells

Convention LOST AND FOUND:

Please contact Carla or one of the Fresno members if these belong to you!



National Smooth Dancers
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The Big Apple, New York New York! 2018 NSD State Convention Recap

We did it! New York came to Fresno!! NSD members took a bite out of the apple right at the start, when each member registered and got their materials they received a real apple. Next, we kicked off the convention with an extravagant, tasty buffet dinner. The New York baseball game was about to start with the Team Match, when referees dressed in black and white shirts came on the floor with a special guest "Parker" the mascot of the Fresno Grizzlies. Each Chapter paraded around the dance floor to the music, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". The noise and the excitement were simply electric. The four dance competitions were spectacular. The crowd got louder and louder with each dance. Teams were competing for First place in dancing and the Team with the best spirit. Golden Gate won First place and San Diego won the Best Spirit award. The Team Match was a fun way to kick off the Fresno Convention. We ended the evening with hospitality graciously hosted by Golden Gate.

Saturday started with the official business in the form of meetings and some opportunities to learn new dance techniques and movements with two seminars taught by Tom Hicks. Our past and current presidents attended the patriotic Gavel Club luncheon where they did some sight-seeing at the Statue of Liberty and they ate a delicious Tri Tip lunch.

NSD members came dressed for the afternoon New York Marathon; each member received a personal NY Marathon number that was pinned on their back upon entry. When it was time for the race, Victor Lee & Debby Ku from the LA Chapter led the actual marathon, all the members running in slow motion to the song of Chariots of Fire. It was hilarious seeing everyone running in slow motion!

Saturday night the ballroom was transformed into the "Metropolitan Opera Gala and Coronation Black and White Ball." The tables were decorated in either white or black decorations. The coronation of the new State Queen Lynn Sanders was simply beautiful, with all the current queens in their lovely white gowns and Lynn in black with a red necklace sewn to her dress. State Queen Lynn danced an amazing Waltz with her dear friend and dance partner, James Kleinrath. Everyone who witnessed this queen's waltz will remember it forever. Queen Lynn and James demonstrated ballroom dancing with style and grace. Later James and partner Melody Singleton entertained everyone with their dramatic Tango. Hospitality was hosted by Visalia Chapter.

Sunday morning, the Delegates and other meetings kicked off the day. More dance seminars followed with Tom Hicks.

Later that morning the Queens were invited to have Lunch and a Fashion show at Tiffany's of New York. Champaign butlers poured Tiffany-blue champagne with white bows tied to the flutes. Once the 59 Queens entered the Sequoia room they were in Tiffany's of NY. Centerpieces were large Tiffany blue boxes with white ribbons and rhinestones, each box was topped with jeweled flowers. Queens found their names on Tiffany blue and white bow name tags. Every queen received a small Tiffany box with a large stoned Queen crown pin. The queens are still talking about this luncheon. Fashions were provided by Nonnie's House Boutique and modeled by Fresno NSD members and friends.

Sunday Afternoon members went shopping on Fifth Avenue. Many members bought the bag on the tables. Later as darkness fell, we were entertained by a quartet named D'Rhythm Divine. The four ladies sang Broadway show songs that complimented our theme for the evening, Hello Dolly. Each table had its own personal decoration for Hello Dolly. The highlight of the evening was the two candy bars inside the ballroom. Thank you to Mark Emanuelli from SFV who played the music during the evening. Hospitality was prepared by Palomar Chapter.

Monday morning was a hit especially when watching SFV present their 2019 theme for next years' convention. Following the delicious breakfast with hot apple cobbler, we heard from all the chapter presidents. The 2018 Gavel Club recipient was announced, Linda Gutierrez from Visalia! Linda has supported NSD at the state level as well as her own chapter. She is deserving of this high honor. The results of all the dance competitions were announced next. Margaret Moholt's name was pulled for the early bird drawing. We ended the convention with line dancing to the song New York, New York. NSD members took their last bite out of the apple when they took another apple home with them, and that ended our convention.

A special thank you goes out to all the Fresno members and guests, including my sister, Deborah Hartunian, who helped in the hospitality rooms cleaning and organizing the bar for the hospitality nights. Thank you to all of you who gave so willing of your time, talent and resources. We could not have had a successful convention with out all the help we had from other NSD chapters, your help, presence and participation which made this convention so special. Thank you again NSD members for dressing up to match the New York theme. It was wonderful to see the dance floor packed with people who were having a great time.

We look forward to the 2019 Convention "Night and Day" in Woodland Hills.

Carla Hartunian & Lorraine Tilton
2018 Convention Co-Chairs



I was so excited when I was chosen to be queen again for Fresno in 2018. The surprising challenge was the distractions we all encountered with all the details of convention and coronation blended together. Luckily, with Carla and Lorraine steering the ship and the help of so many with more experience than I, coronation came off without a hitch.

My own evening started with the flurry of the usual preparations but I was assisted by my friend, Patrick Jude, who did my hair, saving me no end of anxiety. My first impression of the ballroom took my breath away! Carla's decorations of black and white were a work of art, suitable for an Opera Gala. Many of my first teachers and my special dance friends, past and present, were there. I was accompanied by my Royal Attendants, Carla Hartunian, gift bearer and Kathy Sachse, Crown Bearer. These incredible women have both served Fresno Chapter as President and State Queen and are Gavel Club Award winners, NSD's highest award for Service. I could have no finer examples to follow. Everywhere I looked I saw friends smiling encouragement. Soon I was making my curtsy to Queen Svetlana and receiving

my crown. Then a sweet surprise from Queen Jennifer, Fresno's outgoing queen, presented me with a shining silver scepter. What a lucky woman I am!

With my long-time friend, James, escorting me, I knew I could depend on him to get me through any missteps. For my Queen's Waltz, we chose the song, The Dream, which is a favorite for both of us, and after all those months of practice, our dance passed in a lovely blur except for those wonderful smiling faces. After the all-Queens Waltz, James slipped out of the ballroom, only to return for the Honor Dance with my friend, Melody Singleton, his partner in life and dance partner. They performed an exciting tango to the music, Supertango.

After the traditional photos to memorialize the festivities, we enjoyed a delicious dinner and a champagne toast at our table. I could have danced all night should have been my theme song for the evening. I set aside any cares and had a delightful time.

So many people helped that day and all throughout the weekend. I could never thank you all. Just know that having you all there with me on that special night meant the world to me!

Special Note to Queens and other generous gift givers: Due to arranging care for my poor injured mother and departing for Germany, there was no time for opening gifts and sending thank you notes. I returned yesterday and will begin immediately. I beg forgiveness,

- State Queen Lynn Sanders







Dance Competition Results



Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Senior Waltz	Stan Medina & Marivel Villarreal Visalia	Paul & Wendy Storey Visalia	Bill Morey & Gee Gee Barden SFV
Senior Rumba	John Guttierrez & Margaret Moholt Visalia	Stan Medina & Robin Graves Visalia	Peter Hanson & Christina Fashini Palomar
Senior Cha Cha	Tim Inouye & Sallie Holden Visalia	David & Carol Bixler Visalia	Stan Medina & Marivel Villarreal Visalia
One Star American Smooth	Anthony & Wen-Shi Rodrigues Bakersfield	David & Jennifer Morgan Fresno	Mario Lira & Ann Mauro Palomar
One Star Int'l Standard	Robert Quan & Francy Solano Los Angeles	David Hailpern & Ruth Galvante Fresno	Kelly & Carol Kimmitt Palomar
One Star American Rhythm	James Baron & Rachel Seward SFV	Anthony & Wen-Shi Rodrigues Bakersfield	David Hailpern & Ruth Galvante Fresno



1st - Senior Waltz



2nd - Senior Waltz



3rd - Senior Waltz



1st - Senior Rumba



2nd - Senior Rumba



3rd - Senior Rumba



1st - Senior Cha Cha



2nd - Senior Cha Cha



3rd - Senior Cha Cha



1st - One Star Smooth



2nd - One Star Smooth



3rd - One Star Smooth



1st - One Star Standard



2nd - One Star Standard



3rd - One Star Standard



1st - One Star Rhythm



2nd - One Star Rhythm



3rd - One Star Rhythm



Dance Competition Results



Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Two Star American Rhythm	David Morgan & Linda Bennett Fresno	James Baron & Rachel Seward SFV	Armante Reyes & Ji Kenworthy San Diego
Two Star American Smooth	Brian Yip & Ji Kenworthy SFV	Peter & Janice Imperial Golden Gate	Armante & Lou Reyes San Diego
Three Star American Smooth	Doug & Jane Hammond SFV	Steve & Rose Petersen Bakersfield	Anthony & Wen-Shi Rodrigues Bakersfield
Three Star American Rhythm	Igor & Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Armante Reyes & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	David Morgan & Linda Bennett Fresno
Three Star Int'l Latin	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Frank Lacson & Jennifer Etheridge San Diego	Peter & Janice Imperial Golden Gate
Four Star American Smooth	Ben & Wendy Wilson Bakersfield	Frank & Jennifer Lacson San Diego	Shane & Myra Nielsen Visalia



1st - Two Star Rhythm



2nd - Two Star Rhythm



3rd - Two Star Rhythm



1st - Two Star Smooth



2nd - Two Star Smooth



3rd - Two Star Smooth



1st - Three Star Smooth



2nd - Three Star Smooth



3rd - Three Star Smooth



1st - Three Star Rhythm



2nd - Three Star Rhythm



3rd - Three Star Rhythm



1st - Three Star Std Latin



2nd - Three Star Std Latin



3rd - Three Star Std Latin



1st - Four Star Smooth



2nd - Four Star Smooth



3rd - Four Star Smooth

Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Whew! It is hard to believe that Convention has come and gone. We feel it was successful from start to finish and we truly hope everyone had a fabulous time with us in "New York." THANK YOU to our Fresno members who worked so hard, but a special shout-out goes to all of you from the other chapters who stepped in, worked hard and helped make the weekend such a success. We could not have done it without all of you!

Our Fresno members represented well in the dance competitions at Convention! Woohoo! After so many years of having no competitors, we are proud that we now have several, and winners too! See the competition results page for our winners. We began the weekend with our Team Match competitors (L-R), Henry and Cindy Wegermann (Foxtrot), David Morgan and Linda Bennett (Waltz), Dave Hailpern and Ruth Galvante (Rumba), and Blaine East with Patty Taniguchi (Cha Cha).



Life goes on, fall is upon us (thank goodness!), and Fresno members go about our usual business of dancing, enjoying friendships and working to build our membership.



We enjoyed our August social, with Henry and Cindy Wegermann hosting a tribute to Brazil. Recently returned from their annual trek to Brazil, they brought back chocolate and other sweets, coffee and cheese bread and made them into delightful door prizes for some very lucky winners. Henry and Cindy also made several Brazilian

candies, jam, and bread among other goodies to energize our dancing. Melanie Reno taught our Samba lesson with her usual flair. All said, we had a great party!

September found many of us still recuperating from Convention weekend or, in the case of President Carla and Queen Lynn, taking much needed get-away time (more on this later)! For our Social Chair and host, Jennifer Morgan, September always suggests back to school days and the hope for cooler weather. As dancers, she likes to think that we are always in the learning mode, so she took us back to "school" with the theme "Back to the Basics." With centerpieces to serve as reminders or study guides, we took to the floor for



a Rumba lesson by Mr. Alex. He led us in several steps, new for most and perhaps refresher for others. The best part of dance lessons is no written test, just try, try again! During the social dance time, some of our members performed their winning competition dances from Convention. You know there was good food and good music thanks to music man David Morgan.

In October, we will think Spooky thoughts with our ode to Halloween. Carla Hartunian is our host and we have a Cha-Cha lesson with Dan Goss. Come join us for an afternoon with the Goblins on Sunday October 21st.

Please go to our website for more information:

www.fresnosmoothdancers.org

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All third-Sunday dances are at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th Street, Clovis, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. We would love to see you there!!



We have extra State Rosters. Anyone who wants one, please send \$5.00 to Carla Hartunian. Make the check out to Fresno Smooth Dances and the State Roster will be mailed to you.

***Carla Hartunian
5808 E Alta Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727-5501***

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

Queen-Elect Cathy Lombardi is looking forward to her Coronation in October! You will be transported to Greece via her "Grecian Dreams" theme! Please join us at the beautiful Ocean Hills Country Club: Saturday, October 13, 2018 – flyer is attached!

Congratulations are in order to Fresno Chapter, Carla Hartunian & Lorraine Tilton along with their teams! What a fun flawless weekend you planned for us all. The Entertainment was EXTRAORDINARY! We loved visiting THE BIG APPLE!

PSD had 30 members in attendance. We all enjoyed watching our members participate in The Team Competitions on Friday night, along with the Spirit Competition! That night seemed to FUEL the entire weekend!

Compliments to beautiful State Queen Lynn Sanders - her Queen's Dance took all of our breaths away!

All members of Palomar take such pride in our dance contest competitors – great job to all who participated – we are so proud of you all!

To top off the weekend our chapter hosted Hospitality on Sunday evening. Miriam Mozes and I were Chairs and we appreciate all the help we received to pull it off. The hit of that evening of course was the I ♥ New York aprons envisioned by our clever Geri Deutsch and her crafty team. Thank you all for your help!



big thank you to our Hospitality Bar Tenders: Fred Deutsch, Len Lee & Frank Lombardi.



Special bonds formed and celebrated at the Crown Circle Luncheon – L-R Debbie Atherton, Kay Boyer, Lynn Sanders & Shirley McCloskey.



(Left) PSD Queen Marion Semler & Escort Don Hubbard making their grand entrance.



(Right) Stella Kanterakis & Mario Lira embraced the "New York - On Broadway" theme.



(Left) Look at what fun we had hosting Hospitality on Sunday night! L-R Marion Semler, Geri Deutsch, Carol Kimmitt & Stella Kanterakis.



(Right) Great job to our own Dance Hosts Josh & Mario Lira for their first-rate dancing with our single ladies!

It was Country Western Night at our August Social. The theme 'Home on the Range' was followed by a record one hundred twenty (120) dancers dressed in true Western attire. Festivities

started with a 'Country Western Two-Step' taught by Maria and Larry Clendenen. Director of Dancing, Marsha Hanson, arranged exhibitions for members who were preparing for competition at the coming NSD Convention at Fresno. The four exhibitions Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha-cha-cha and Rumba gave members who would be competing at Fresno an opportunity to perform before an audience. Hosts Bill Clark, Carol & Kelly Kimmitt, and Peter & Marsha Hanson provided refreshments and table décor.

Our dance classes have remained popular and full. Marsha and Peter Hanson, having just completed a successful July and August sessions have taken a well-deserved respite. Our Palomar club has welcomed back Carrie Kloss and assistant David Vasquez who did a wonderful job teaching the May-June lessons. They will teach beginning 'fox trot' and intermediate 'salsa' for September and October. Carrie loves teaching dancing which has become a lifelong activity for her. She has been the primary instructor for the San Diego NSD Chapter for 17 years. Currently, she is instructing at 'Champion' and 'Dance for Two' studios in San Diego, and 'Dance North County' in Encinitas.



Monday night dance class teachers: Carrie Kloss & Dave Vasquez

San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Rachel Seward



If there is one true statement... We love to **dance**, so we all take the **chance** to **prance** at every occasion even on vacation in **France!** Terrible rhyming verses aside, our affection for dance knows no bounds. Perhaps dance is the way we express ourselves when words are insufficient.

Here are the top news stories for SFV this issue:

SFV Membership Steady & Growing

Our monthly dance attendance is steady at 60 or more, and our membership has blossomed to 86. We welcome Sandra Brace, Grace Tang, and Lee Han!

New York, New York: Taking a Bite of The Big Apple

At the core of the Grand Central convention was our host, NSD's Fresno Chapter. Beginning with great spirit and camaraderie, the cab first dropped us off for the Team Match at a baseball game. On Saturday it was off to the New York Marathon, followed by the Metropolitan Opera Gala and Coronation Ball. After very little sleep we started Sunday with another tour of meetings, followed by the spectacular Tiffany & Co. Crown Circle Luncheon and then shopping on 5th Avenue. With Broadway awaiting, a four-star evening was enjoyed by all. After walking and dancing a couple of miles, we got some sleep and then enjoyed a Big Apple Breakfast, with all the events that everyone talks about (food, awards, showcase of the next year's convention...and lots of "see you soon, my friend" good-byes!).

Like every good tourist, we have photos to keep the moments from running away.

Looking Ahead



(Left) SFV Chapter – Our Night on Broadway



(Right) SFV Queens



Joan Robinson & Brian Yip



Leanne Wong – Crown Circle Luncheon.



Doug Hammond (missing his lovely wife Jane), Rachel Seward, Bill Morey & Gee Gee Barden, James Baron, Ji Kenworthy (San Diego Chapter), Brian Yip

It's a good time to share again what was previewed by our chapter at the convention, because for SFV the convention season has started for next year's gathering.

San Fernando Valley Proudly Presents — "Night and Day, America at Work, America at Play"

Follow us as we transition from our hopefully rewarding day jobs to...

Spend Friday night at the famous Coconut Grove, L.A., 1930s.

Venture out on Saturday night to the exotic Stork Club, NYC, 1940s.

Enjoy Sunday night at the popular Ciro's Club, Hollywood, 1950s.

All will be magically found in one location, the Marriott Hotel, Woodland Hills, CA (in the San Fernando Valley).

Start making your plans now for Labor Day Weekend, 2019. We expect a sold out event!

Coronation of Two Queens

SFV Chapter of NSD Proudly Hosts An Evening Tea Dance & Coronation, Saturday, November 3rd

The San Fernando Valley Chapter of NSD requests the pleasure of your company for tea and dinner at the Coronation of Queens-elect Leanne Wong and Deanna Stanton on Saturday, November 3, 2018, at the Hollywood Academy of Dance, 6732 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

Queen-elect Leanne, along with her husband John, has been a valued member of our chapter for several years, and their contributions were recognized in 2015 when our chapter selected Leanne as our Chapter Queen. Our reigning Queen Deanna Stanton will be awarded the honor as Queen again for her outstanding involvement and impact as reigning Queen. Both Deanna and her dance partner Joseph Hidalgo are active and committed to the success of our chapter. Leanne and Deanna are working with the coronation team to ensure a delightful, fun-filled event for all in attendance

Our Queens-elect would also like to extend a cordial invitation to their Tea Party from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to be held at the home of Les and Roberta LaZar, 4417 Bergamo Drive, Encino, CA 91436, with fine teas to be brewed and delicate finger sandwiches to be enjoyed. We encourage you and your guests to wear your favorite tea party attire or vintage hat.

Visit our SFV website, <http://nsdsfv.org>, for registration details or contact Sally Emanuelli at 323-547-6073 or sallylin@yahoo.com.

We hope to see you in November!.



Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Sandy Wells



Queen-Elect Alice Mah Miller

Introducing the Los Angeles Chapter 2019 Queen-elect, Alice Mah Miller.

I emigrated to the U.S. from Hong Kong with my family when I was in 6th grade. Grew up in the Chinatown area of Manhattan and received all my education from the New York City school system. I am a proud graduate of Public School 130 and Washington Irving High School in Manhattan.

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Science degree in Education from Brooklyn College, The City University of New York. I also own a Master of Arts degree in Chinese History and Chinese Language from St. John's University in New York.

My husband Craig Miller and I enjoy dancing. We dance twice a week since my retirement from teaching. Next to dancing is traveling; it is our second love. We have traveled to over one-third of the world and our feet have touched on all the continents except Antarctica. Throughout the years, we actively volunteer for many organizations in our community. Besides being a member of Los Angeles Smooth Dancers we also belong to eight other organizations.

Craig and I are looking forward in attending queen's coronations of our sister chapters and bonding with their members in 2019.

See You All At My Coronation Ball On Saturday, January 5, 2019

The Fresno convention was so much fun. Some highlights we exhibited:

Our group showed its true colors at the convention in Fresno by dancing in our Dodgers shirts. We are all rooting for our boys in blue to win



"You did it !!" We would like to Say " Congratulations" to Francy Solano and Robert Quan. First place in 1-Star Standard. All those lessons really showed. We are so proud of you both.

This is our collage of how we look all ready to Party.



Debby and Victor lead us in the New York, New York line dance during the Convention.



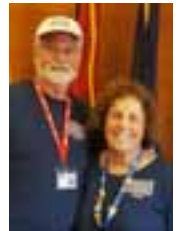
All our L.A. Queens at the queens' luncheon.



Francy Solano and Robert Quan captured 1st place in One Star Standard.



(Left) We welcome our new members Steve Chong and Amy Tao. (Middle) Francy Solano and Sandy Wells stomp grapes at the Garibaldina Vendemia dance. (Right) Tom and Sandy Wells, USO volunteers.



At our August dance we inducted Steve Chong and Amy Tao into our dancing family.

Our Queen can exhibit all facets of her dancing skills by teaming up with the shy, and introverted Sandy Wells.

Vendemia, Grape stomping, is a tradition in Italy and at the Garibaldina (Sandy's Italian Club). This year had Francy and Sandy stomping grapes just like Lucy Ball.

And lastly we would like to say, Thanks for your service. Tom and Sandy have been volunteering at the USO for 9 years.



San Diego Chapter

edited by Frank Lacson



Interview with Greg Alexander and Alicia Quintero By Frank Lacson

This month, I wanted to get the perspective of a first-time NSD convention goer, and found a willing participant with Greg Alexander and Alicia Quintero.



Alicia (Quintero) Alexander (L) with Greg Alexander (M) and Queen Shirley McCloskey (R)

Frank (F): Although you have been involved with Smooth Dancers for some time and currently hold office (Vice-President / Membership), you just returned from your first convention. What were your impressions going in, and how did that change?

Greg (G): I initially thought it would involve a couple of dance parties, a dinner, some seminars, and chance to catch up with some folks from other chapters. I've been to conventions before for work, so I figure it was a lot of sitting around in business meetings. It turned out to be far from that, with lots of dancing and social events. The hospitality sessions after the dance were a great way to refuel before the next day of dancing!

Alicia (A): I wasn't sure what to think going in. I was quickly impressed on how well-run and detailed everything was. From registration, the meals, the Team Match, and the decorations, it looked like Fresno worked hard and left no detail behind!

G: The organizers put in a lot of work.
A: It seemed like 10 weddings!

F: I could see how it would seem that way, with each of the 5 dances having a different theme. What did you think of the Team Match?



When not escorting Queens or being the our Vice-President / Membership, Greg Alexander gets ready for another day as the SDSD Chicken!

G: Looked pretty good to me from the eyes of a chicken. (laughs)

A: "SDSD serves the best chicken in town!"

A: Each of the chapters worked hard to create their own style, from the banners to the costumes.

F: I forgot to ask: how did you two learn about Smooth Dancers?

A: From you! (laughs)

G: You've told us to a few parties and classes, but like with anything of interest, you have to take the time and see it for

yourself. Irina Chalkevitch's Argentine Tango class really helped us get involved. We had started a couple weeks into the class, and was surprised about how much material had already been

covered so far.

A: Everyone was so helpful in helping us catch up. Videos are helpful, but it's important to get that practice in. After that, we started to get more involved.

F: I like to characterize the San Diego Smooth Dancers as a place where people find their second dance home. Most people have a great start at various studios (their first dance home). Once folks branch out, they find SDSD sooner than later. In a way, it's the next level.

A: A big next level! There are some many accomplished and experienced dancers here!

G: It turns out that I knew of Carrie (Kloss) before joining SDSD, as our kids were around the same age. She mentioned being involved in ballroom dancing, but I didn't know about her accomplishments!

F: Greg, you were the escort for Queen Shirley McCloskey for the State Coronation. Can you tell us more about that experience?

G: Being part of the Coronation practice gave me a great appreciation of how the Queens keep our chapters working together. I was able to get some great information from Shirley about the history of the queens, and met some great people from each chapter. I was amazed with the intricate details involved with the ordering of the queens, the various dances, and the coronation ceremony itself.

F: Speaking of Queen, it was announced at the last business meeting that the Crown Circle has selected Alicia to be the Queen for 2019. Congratulations! Alicia, what will be your color scheme?

A: Nice try. You'll have to attend for yourself to find out!

F: Looks like our time is up. What is one piece of advice that you have to some of our newer members?

A: Participate. Once I started getting involved in hosting a party and helping with decorations, it became natural for me. Every step of the way, people have been kind and I've always felt like I've belonged.

G: Take a chance. There's so many ways to help out with this organization, and you may find something new that you'll end up wanting to do for a while. In such a big group, it's a sure way to become more comfortable.

F: Thank you Greg and Alicia for your time, and Jennifer for taking down notes so that this interview ran smoothly.



Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Liora Malicdem



New York, New York! Thank you, Fresno Chapter, for bringing the fun and exuberance of the Big Apple to the Central Valley!! Bakersfield dancers know how much work goes into hosting convention, and we thank you from the bottom of our twinkling dance toes to the top of our tiaras!

While everyone enjoyed the dancing and camaraderie, three of our Bakersfield dancer couples captivated judges and audience alike in dance competitions throughout the weekend. Bakersfield's intrepid chapter newsletter editor asked a few questions about their dance experiences.



Steve and Rose Peterson, 2nd place in 2 Star American Smooth (Waltz and Foxtrot)

How long have you been dancing? We have been dancing since 2002, 16 years.

What inspired you to compete? Paul & Irene Leung encouraged us to compete with the Rumba and Cha Cha at an NSD convention.

What words of encouragement and/or advice do you have for newer dancers interested in competing? Just do it, keep it fun and don't argue or expect perfection.

When I compete, I feel: excited!! And a sense of accomplishment. It's fun as long as you keep it fun and try to do the best you can at that moment.

Antonio and Wen-Shi Rodriguez, 1st place in 1 Star American Smooth (Waltz), 3rd place in 2 Star American Smooth (Waltz and Foxtrot), 2nd place in American Rhythm (ChaCha)

How long have you been dancing? Antonio started dancing when he was in high school, and I started dancing in 2003. When Antonio retired in 2011, we enrolled in private lessons and started



taking dancing seriously.

What inspired you to compete? We want to become better dancers, and competitions motivated us to learn proper techniques and to be disciplined about practicing.

What words of encouragement and/or advice do you have for newer dancers interested in competing? If you want to be a better dancer, you need to practice and apply the techniques from your dance lessons until it becomes muscle memory. During competitions, there's no time to think about the next move or remember the next step. All you can do is rely on your body to do everything right and just enjoy the dance.

When I compete, I feel: When I compete, I feel panic when I start; but, once my muscle memory takes over, I just enjoy the dance and stop worrying.

Ben and Wendy Wilson, 1st place in 4 Star American Smooth (Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Quickstep)



How long have you been dancing? 12 years.

What inspired you to compete? We entered our very 1st competition in March 2007 at the NSD Board of Directors Convention in Bakersfield. Our friends Larry and Kim Johnson had encouraged us to try it. We enjoyed the challenge and

were pleased with our performance so we started taking private lessons immediately after the event.

What words of encouragement and/or advice do you have for newer dancers interested in competing? Competition forces us to practice what we learn in lessons. Therefore, taking private lessons and entering dance competitions, combined with practice, is the key to growth and improvement.

When I compete I feel: When we compete, we used to feel nervous, but with more experience, we enjoy competing. It is fun to have people cheer you on! There's a great energy in the room and we focus on our journey as dancers.

Finally, we brought a bit of the glitter and excitement of the "Big Apple" back to Bakersfield as dancers were invited to wear "anything that sparkles" for the September monthly dance, and host Bernie Fiolle organized a surprise dance competition. Congratulations to crowd favorites Marcy Aroy and Richard Malicdem!



Golden Gate Chapter

Fresno State Convention

Having hosted the 2017 State Convention, we had a few members who jumped in to help with the Fresno State Convention. Vera Harvey, Chuck and Liz Talmadge, Ana Dayeh, and Casey Rusher all came on Thursday to help with the setup. Vera also did the announcing for many of the competitions during the weekend.

Friday night started with the team match. We had Elizabeth Li (current Queen) and Igor Tilinin dancing the foxtrot. Liz Talmadge and Peter Imperial danced the Rumba. Gabrielle von Stephens and Carl Chesbrough danced the Waltz. Finally, Janice Imperial and Chuck Talmadge danced the Cha Cha. Gabrielle had a trip to Germany planned immediately after the convention, so she came to Fresno just for the Friday night team match – such dedication! Monday, we found out our team won a tight match. Gabrielle said it made her feel good about coming for the match.



The Golden Gate Team Match members

We had the honor of hosting the Friday night hospitality. So many people volunteered to help out. The names are mentioned in alphabetical order. Amy and Dan Ansaldi, Ana Dayeh, Svetlana and Vlad Gites, Vera Harvey, Patrick Jude, Boris and Shulamit Rabinovich, Chuck and Liz Talmadge, and Carmen and Wilson Wan left the general dancing early to help set up the hospitality event. Ana prepared her famous baklava and Patrick backed cookies and brownies for the event. There were beef and turkey hotdogs, chili, chips, cheese sauce, boxes of raisins, bags of chips, not to mention – various kinds of drinks served by Vlad. Members and guests from other chapters really enjoyed the hospitality. Alan, Chasey, Ana, Vera, Chuck, Liz and Carl stayed to help clean up.

Dance competitions were held on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon and evening. Carmen and Wilson Wan competed in the senior Cha Cha and Senior Waltz, Janice and Peter Imperial competed in three-star American Smooth (2nd place) and three-star International Latin (3rd place). Nadia and Igor competed in three-star International Latin (1st place) and three-star American Rhythm (1st place).

edited by Carl Chesbrough



The State Queen Coronation was a grand affair with a theme of Metropolitan Opera Gala. Guests wore beautiful black and white attire. It



Janice and Peter Imperial



Nadia and Igor Tilinin

was a superb performance by our State Queen, Lynn Sanders, and James Kleinrath. The audience was mesmerized by the outstanding dance techniques displayed. Later James and Melody Singleton performed a Tango routine as the queen's honor dance. They won first place with this Tango routine in 2017 dance competition. Amy and Dan Ansaldi helped as announcers for the dance competitions during the evening. Professional entertainment was provided by Chelsea Farrah and Eric Koptke, who also performed last year at the Golden Gate State Convention.

Thanks to Carla Hartunian, Amy Ansaldi planned our chapter dinner on Sunday night at the Elbow Room, a great Italian restaurant. They provided a separate room for our dining. After dinner, we were back to the dance floor. Vera Harvey helped as announcer for the dance competition during the evening. We thoroughly enjoyed the professional entertainment provided by Tom Hicks and Sophia Velasquez.

To wrap up the weekend, San Fernando Valley presented their "Night & Day – America at Work, America at Play" for next year's State Convention. Our chapter contributed Beetles, performed by Dan Ansaldi, Carl Chesbrough, Vlad Gites, and Boris Rabinovich. There will have a repeat engagement at the Bakersfield Board of Directors' weekend in March 2019 – don't miss it!



Visalia Chapter

edited by Myra and Shane Nielsen

CONGRATULATIONS Fresno Smooth Dancers for a successful 2018 Smooth Dancers Convention!

Thank you so much to a wonderful Labor Day weekend full of dancing, food, exhibitions, competitions and most of all friendship!

Goodbye summer.... Hello fall!! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and you are as ready as we are for this glorious season. I have to say...I love fall most of all. It is my favorite time of the year!! This is the time when all my work responsibilities during summer ends, our season is over! I absolutely love the weather and I love the change of season.

VSD's Social dances are still going strong. Good turnout at our August and September Social dances. We have 3 more dances before the year is over. Our 43rd Anniversary dance is on Oct. 20th, November Social dance will be on November 10th and our Christmas dance is on December 1st. Hoping to see some of you at our social dances. Bill and Lona continue to give 100% of their time during our Sunday Dance Workshop; they have been very instrumental on getting the new members and new guests to our previous social dances.

We would like to congratulate our very own, Linda Guttierrez for the 2018 recipient of the "Gavel Club Award". This is the most prestigious award given by National Smooth Dancers. This award recognizes someone who has gone above and beyond for their club, but also has gone above and beyond helping other clubs and being active in our statewide organization.



Linda Guttierrez accepting the Gavel Club Award.

Congratulations Linda!

FSD Convention by: VSD Queen Wendy Storey

Over Labor Day weekend many Visalia Smooth Dancers took a trip to the Big Apple (aka FRESNO) for a gigantic dance party, full of dancing, competitions, exhibitions, eating, friendships, shopping, and fun!

I must compliment Fresno on a wonderful weekend. So much thought and effort go into a Smooth Dancer Convention. The planning begins at least two years in advance and continues and intensifies until it is time for the implementation of all the plans to begin, then the hectic rush until the end. Thank you, Fresno, for a great Convention!



VSD group picture at Saturday night of the Convention.



VSD's Team Match. From L to R, front row-Johnny Guttierrez, Myra Nielsen, Margaret Moholt, Robin Graves, Marivel Villareal and Linda Guttierrez
From L to R – back row-Shane Nielsen(VSD Team Judge), Matt Lott, Paul Storey and Stan Medina



Senior Waltz First Place and Senior Cha Cha – Third Place – Stan Medina and Marivel Villareal



Senior Rumba First Place – John Guttierrez and Margaret Moholt



Senior Cha Cha First Place – Sally Holden and Tim Inouye



Senior ChaCha 2nd Place – Carol and David Bixler



Senior Waltz Second Place – Wendy and Paul Storey



Senior Rumba 2nd Place – Stan Medina and Robin Graves



Hospitality
From L to R – Stan Medina, Manuel Madril and Karl Richards

Palomar Smooth Dancers invite you to the Coronation Ball honoring our Queen-Elect

Catherine Lombardi's

Grecian Dreams

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Ocean Hills Country Club

4701 Leisure Village Way, Oceanside, 92056

Hospitality 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Dinner & Dancing 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Honor Dance by Len & Peggy Lee.

Entertainment by Frank & Jennifer Lacson

Accommodations may be made at TownePlace Suites by Marriott

2201 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 92081 760 216-6010

"Palomar Smooth Dancers" group rate \$99. plus tax by 9/21/18

All are invited to the Queen's Breakfast, Sunday, October 14 at 9:00am

El Camino Real Country Club

3202 Vista Way, Oceanside, 92056

Please RSVP by October 6, 2018 - Checks payable to Palomar Smooth Dancers

Mail to: Peggy Lee, 1015 Whimbrel Court, Carlsbad, CA 92011 Pstsao01@gmail.com 760 476-1822

Name(s) _____ # _____ Guests @ \$60. \$ _____

Email (requested for receipt) _____ Phone _____

Chapter _____ Queen's Breakfast # _____ Guests @ \$25 \$ _____

The San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers present



The
Coronation
of the San Fernando
Valley Queens Elect

Leanne Wong
and
Deanna Stanton

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Coronation and Dance

Hollywood Academy of Dance
6732 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91405
(Entrance and parking is behind the studio.)

Coronation and Dance: 6 - 11 p.m.
Coronation Ceremony 6:30 p.m.
Buffet Dinner 7:30 p.m.

For more information:

Joan Robinson 818-951-1516
joandanceforlife@gmail.com
Rachel Seward 818-531-5439
rjseward@hotmail.com

Hospitality

2 - 4 p.m. at the home of Les and Roberta LaZar

Queens' Breakfast

Sunday, November 4, at 9:00 a.m.
Airtel Plaza Hotel

Breakfast is included with room for hotel guests,
for others, \$16, payable at door.

Hotel Reservations

Airtel Plaza Hotel 877-939-9268 or 800-224-7835
7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91406
Book by Oct 13, and mention SFV Smooth Dancers
for room rate of \$125 plus tax, and \$12 parking.

Waiver: I/we understand and agree that the National Smooth Dancers Inc. (including all chapters) will not be held responsible for loss or theft of articles, nor be held liable for injuries sustained by persons dancing and/or competing at any chapter or National Smooth Dancers events. I/we hereby irrevocably give and grant to the National Smooth Dancers Inc. (including all chapters) the right to produce, use, refer to or reproduce any still photographs taken and video/audio recordings made at any and all chapter or National Smooth Dancers events.

Reservations: On-line at nsdsfv.org OR mail this form with check payable to SFV Smooth Dancers to:
Sally Emanuelli, 5716 Graywood Ave, Lakewood, CA 90712 Due by October 22.

Name _____ Name _____

Chapter _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

Indicate number for: Dinner @\$50 _____ Vegetarian Dinner @\$50 _____ Queens' Breakfast _____ TOTAL \$ _____

MASQUERADE BALL

January 5, 2019



Queen-elect
Alice Mah-Miller

For the Coronation of
Los Angeles Chapter Queen-Elect

Alice Mah-Miller

The Glendale Hilton Hotel
100 W. Glenoaks Blvd, Glendale, CA 91202
(818) 956-5466

Hospitality 2:30 - 4:00 pm
Reception 6:00 pm, Coronation 6:30 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm

Dinner and Dance \$65.00, Black Tie Optional
Breakfast for two included with hotel room

NSD Hotel Room Rate - \$129.00
Self-Parking \$10.00 & Valet \$19.00

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Please Detach and Mail RSVP By December 28, 2018 to:
Susan Johnson, 1420 Santo Domingo Ave, Duarte, CA 91010
E-Mail: staplers@aol.com
Make Checks Payable to LA NSD

Name(s) _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Dinner Choice: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____ Special (specify) _____ @ \$65.00 ea _____
Queen's Breakfast included for hotel guests or \$10 for non-hotel guests, paid at breakfast

Fresno Smooth Dancers presents

SPOOKY
SPOOKY

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Fresno Members- \$5.00

Guests- \$10.00

Lesson 2:00

Dancing 3:00 to 5:00



Cha Cha Lesson

by Dan Goss

*Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street
Clovis, California*

*Hosted by
Carla Hartunian*

For More Information call
559-999-1599