

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
October 2020



From the Dance Whispers editors to the members of the National Smooth Dancers: in this unprecedented time of no ballroom dancing we encourage you to stay connected to dance, each other and yourself. We hope this issue may help in some small way. Be well, be safe, until we get to meet on the dance floor again. **Never Stop Dancing!**



The Dance Whispers Editors (L-R): Sandy Wells - Los Angeles; Frank Lacson & Mark Chapman - San Diego; Carl Chesbrough - Golden Gate; Debbie Atherton & Don Hubbard - Palomar; Rachel Seward - San Fernando Valley; Liora Malicdem - Bakersfield; Myra & Shane Nielsen - Visalia; Linda Bennett - Fresno.



Publishing Editor

Tom Wells

October 11, 2020

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

I hope this issue of Dance Whispers finds you healthy, happy and safe. The health crisis has impacted all of our lives and has forced us to adapt to the reality as it is. We unfortunately had to cancel our annual convention normally held over the Labor Day weekend. This edition would have been our "Convention Edition". So we have brought you the next best thing, memories of the 2019 Convention (p3).

We normally would have had a board meeting and president's meeting at the convention. So, both of these meetings took place in September via Zoom. On pages 4 and 5 there is a summary about what was discussed.

During this pandemic it is nice to be reminded to look for the "silver lining". You will want to read about the virtual marriage of two of our members on page 2.

Many of us are trying to maintain our dancing skills and dancing relationships. Video conferencing has been a helpful avenue for us to meet and have a social interaction with our various dancing friends. One chapter has expanded on this idea and have been helping their members not only socialize, but to keep their dancing skills active through Zoom dance lessons. Be sure to check out page 5 to find out how they are

doing it and what the response has been like.

If you need a chuckle, turn to page 8 for the cartoons!

In these trying times, please stay safe. If someone comes to mind, perhaps try pausing and reaching out to that person with a phone call just to say hi and let them know they were thought of! It may do them a world of good and you may be surprised what it will do for you too!

Never Stop Dancing,

Tom Wells

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

- Palomar 2020 Coronation CANCELLED. Their next coronation will take place at the 2021 Convention. Ann Mauro will continue as Queen until the 2021 Convention.

- San Fernando Valley's 2020 Coronation - CANCELLED

- Los Angeles Chapter's January 2021 Coronation - CANCELLED so Queen Shari can actually enjoy the experience of being a chapter queen!

- San Diego Chapter's March 2021 Coronation - CANCELLED to allow Queen Liz to serve a full reign as Queen.

- Bakersfield Roaring 2020's weekend has been moved to 2021! The dates are March 26-28, 2021, pending the status of the health pandemic. Details to be announced.

- Convention 2021, "Holiday By The Bay" will be hosted by Palomar Chapter at the Wyndham Hotel in San Diego. Please start planning to attend, Labor Day Weekend, September 3-6, 2021.

Looking For The Silver Lining

The Pandemic slows down life so a couple can finally get married

Los Angeles Chapter members Robert Quan and Francy Solano got married on September 3, 2020 at 10:30 am by the Santa Barbara County Recorder's office via Zoom! After nine years together, the pandemic gave them the time and opportunity to slow down and merge their lives finally. As Francy said, "there IS a silver lining to everything!"

Robert and Francy were pleasantly surprised by the turnout especially because of the last minute nature of Zoom weddings and not getting the ID and password confirmation until the night before the wedding. There were 49 other Zoom windows in attendance, many windows with more than one person!

Taking advantage of the unique opportunities of the Zoom technology, family and friends joined from everywhere. Francy's niece attended from Belgium, her daughter while driving in her car, and a friend while getting treatment laying on an ultrasound table! Though short and socially distant, it was quite a memorable wedding.

After the wedding, the next day they left for their honeymoon to San Luis Obispo. They enjoyed dinner at Buono Tavolo,

an Italian restaurant because of the unique Caesar Salad using white anchovies. They served a great Cabernet Sauvignon and refilled at no charge. The dinner was topped off with a Tiramisu with a candle and they blew out.

The next morning the couple headed to Oakland to have dinner with Robert's brother, his wife, their children, and granddaughter. The next morning was a drive to Muir Woods where they had a wonderful time walking the trails throughout the gigantic redwood trees. Next day, we drove back home.

After a couple of weeks, the engagement ring was finally ready. It was hand-made from a jeweler in downtown L.A. Robert told Francy that he was taking her out to the Capital Grille in Costa Mesa and presenting the ring to her there. What she didn't know was that Robert had also invited his dance instructor, Anna Shabahzyan and Francy's instructor, Youriy Pavlov. Oh what a surprise. They took the video of Robert presenting Francy the ring which was housed in a special box with a laser white light, so when he opened it, the ring was sparkling like crazy and Francy was awe-struck without words.

Congratulations to Robert and Francy, and thank you for reminding us to look for the silver lining!



Robert and Francy Quan enjoy their first dinner as husband and wife while on their honeymoon. Due to the pandemic they had their wedding service officiated over Zoom on September 3, 2020. Despite the short notice, 49 "windows" attended, many windows with more than one person.

Looking Back at Convention 2019

and anticipating dancing once again

Anticipation the focal point of this Whispers article from Rachel.

noun

an-tic-i-pa-tion | \ (,)an-,ti-sə-'pā-shən \

Definition of anticipation

1a: a prior action that takes into account or forestalls a later action

b: the act of looking forward especially: pleasurable expectation

3a: visualization of a future event or state

The word anticipation brings to mind moments of enjoyment and pleasant times and is a significant component of the happiness generated by an event. Since anticipation of another convention is all we have right now to keep us vibrant about our love of dance, I thought we could reminisce about some of the memories we shared at our 2019 Labor Day Weekend Dance Extravaganza.

The San Fernando Valley host chapter made sure dance cards included the sassy foxtrot, lively cha-cha, the elegant waltz, dance from the street, the east coast swing, romantic rumba, tango line dances, and much more.

Friday was the kick-off day of welcoming and greeting dance friends, visiting the Time Machine, and ending the day with a

Star Night at the Coconut Grove. A full cast and crew were on board that featured a performance of Carmen Miranda and Friends.

Saturday's program played host to the President's meeting and dance workshops. It was an evening of Gangsters, Glamour, and Glitter that celebrated a state queen coronation, dinner, and dancing to live music at the legendary Stork Club.

It was a weekend to experience movement, competition, and costume changes, with Sunday hosting more business meetings and past queens enjoying a champagne reception and lunch at the Brown Derby. Sunday night was the place to be with the most fashionable people of the day at the most Glamorous Club in Hollywood Ciro's. Special guests included Lucille Ball & Desi Arnez, along with their friends Fred & Ethel.

We all miss our monthly chapter dances, coronations, and these fantastic convention weekends of dance. So together, let's share in our anticipation as we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 NSD Convention, if not sooner. NSD 2021 Convention Chapter Host – San Diego!

Stay vibrant, safe, and healthy and full of anticipation.
Rachel



While it is true that the Corona Virus pandemic has essentially shut down ballroom dancing, it has not shut down National Smooth Dancers! In September both the Board of Directors and the Presidents held Zoom meetings to take care of essential business and discuss the future plans of our dancing family. Here is a summary from the two meetings.

The Board of Directors meeting was held on September 21st. The membership of NSD is as follows:

2020 Membership Current Report (Includes paid & Lifetime members; excludes Honorary)

Bakersfield	92	Palomar	66
Fresno	39	San Diego	115
Golden Gate	50	San Fernando Valley	89
Los Angeles	27	Visalia	87

State Membership Total 516

David Bixler, President of the Visalia Chapter, presented a formal bid to host the 2023 NSD Convention (copy on file). By unanimous vote, the Board of Directors recommends that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Delegates meeting in September 2021. Thank you to the Visalia Chapter for their bid to host this rescheduled convention.

Frank Lombardi made a nomination that the existing officers be re-elected, seconded by Dan Ansaldi. Ben Wilson would serve again as BOD Chair and Joan Robinson would serve again as BOD Vice-Chair. No other nominations. Ben and Joan were unanimously re-elected.

This election will be valid only until the March 2021 BOD meeting.

Future Conventions

A. Palomar Convention 2021 – Frank Lombardi

Our theme is “Holiday By The Bay.” Our venue is the Bayside Wyndham Hotel in San Diego. There are many restaurants and shops to enjoy all within easy walking distance. All of our previous rehearsals and meetings and practice sessions have been on hold and remain unfinalized for now.

We are requesting 15-20 minutes time at the Bakersfield BOD Sunday Breakfast for the Visalia Team to give a preview show for the convention. We know that these plans depend on everything being able to go forward for Bakersfield Boards and Palomar’s Convention in 2021.

B. San Diego Convention 2022 – Cindy Perry

We have a signed contract with the Riviera Resort Hotel in Palm Springs and our theme is “Give My Regards to Broadway.”

We have secured a 5000 sq ft Dance floor. The contract with the DJ is signed. We are working on the contract with the Professional Performers. We have begun rehearsals for the “walk in’ and we have held two successful organizational meetings.

C. Visalia Convention 2023 – Paul Storey

The theme is “Roaring 20’s” David Bixler, President of the Visalia Chapter presented a formal bid to host the 2023 NSD Convention (copy on file.) By unanimous vote, the Board of Directors recommends that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Delegates meeting in September 2021. Thank you to the Visalia Chapter for their bid to host their re-scheduled

convention.

Announcements

Ben Wilson, BOD Chair, said that the Bakersfield Chapter is preparing for the 2021 March Board Weekend – anticipating that it will go forward. If circumstances do not allow that, then we will have another ZOOM meeting in March.

The Hotel contract is in place and the Hotel is being flexible. All current hotel registrations have been rolled forward into 2021.

The Presidents’ meeting was held on September 13th. These are the brief updates from each president:

LOS ANGELES – Tom Wells

1) As everyone, we are shut down too. It seems that the benchmark our members are working from for resuming dancing is also a vaccine.

2) We have no expenses, so no revenue is not affecting us.

3) We are not planning a 2021 Coronation since our Queen Shari will continue on as queen and actually have the experience of being queen!

4) When we do resume dancing, we will be dancing at the Garibaldina Italian Club. 5) We have been holding monthly social gatherings on Zoom since there has not been much business to address so far. No one has contracted Covid-19 in our group.

PALOMAR -- Kelly Kimmitt

All plans have been cancelled for 2020. They will hold elections for 2021 in case there are any new additions or changes. They are moving ahead in the hopes of holding 2021 convention in Palm Springs but they are able to get out of the contract, if need be.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY -- Joan Robinson

All SFV SD plans have been cancelled for 2020. New dues for 2021 will include a credit of \$16.00 for 2020 year. The officers and queen will remain the same for 2021. The studio continues to hold live dances and Zoom classes on Saturday (max of five couples on the floor) and Zoom classes again on Wednesdays, no attendees.

SAN DIEGO -- Amante Reyes

1. Regarding how SDSD is dealing with COVID-19 restrictions, all our dance lessons and social events are being cancelled on a monthly basis, closely monitoring the Governor’s guidelines. Our Chapter is holding monthly meetings via zoom. Committee and board meeting were also held in zoom. At the start of the pandemic our former Treasurer Linda Hammerton created a survey on what were the ballroom community comments and actions during the pandemic. She collected the answers and comments. I attached above the results of the survey and the members and non-members comments.

2. The Chapter has zero income for five months now. Mostly the expenses were administrative in nature. Champion Studio was very generous in suspending our lease agreement on venue except for storage fees. There is plan on membership fee reduction. However, membership has not decided yet.

3. No plans on reopening. However, when we reopen the protocols on holding dance socials and dance lessons will

strictly conform with those of Champion Studio.

4. A “what if” question, what if the COVID-19 is still around in 2021, is the plan to push all the other Conventions forward? Just like to announce that our Chapter had signed the contract with Riviera Resort and DJ James Woo, with initial down payments paid.

Our club has made Bylaw revisions and updated our Policy and Procedures. These include conducting business by zoom meetings.

1. We had our kick off meeting for our 2022 NSD Convention and contracts are in place for

2022: Hotel and accommodations, 5000 sq. ft ballroom floor, contract with Frogmouth Productions, 30' x 30' practice dance floor, and contract with DJ James Woo.

2. Our membership is renewed in January, there is no impact for this year, except we have added a few new members. Our total membership is 117 with one applicant awaiting members approval. There are plans for reducing rates next year since the club hosted social only three months this year.

3. When we reopen, we will follow closely Champion studio guidelines: temperature taking, social distancing, mask wearing, and hand sanitizing.

In addition to the pre-report sent out, Amante wanted to say that Chuck DiSessa is the chairperson for dance classes and he is meeting with Mary Murphy, the studio owner, to create a plan to start dance classes again. San Diego's membership has grown with this joint venture over the past few years.

BAKERSFIELD -- Kay Boyer

Kay reported that there are no facilities open in Bakersfield so they have no choice but to stay shut down. Their members are a “mixed group” on the subject of a good vaccine - whether it will be safe or not. Bakersfield is still hoping to hold Boards next March, however. However, they have not been, or will be, at risk to lose money on prepayments.

FRESNO -- Carla Hartunian

All facilities are shut down. They hold Zoom meetings. Out of the three Fresno studios, only one has not closed down permanently. There is a Wed group class of eight people who meet with precautions in place. They have their coronation booked for June 2021. Nancy Cargill is the Queen Elect. The membership has still grown to 40 persons in spite of the shut down and 2020 memberships will roll over to 2021. No one that they know of has contracted the virus. They have suffered two deaths, not virus related. A founding member and past queen, Helen Kimura, and past queen, Sue Dowell.

VISALIA -- David Bixler

We have not held any dances since the shut down started. Two out of our three pros are giving private and group line dance classes, with precautions being taken. We had no financial consequences from being shut down. Our biggest costs are storage fees which we are trying to slowly reduce. We did not renew our insurance this year.

GOLDEN GATE -- Amy Ansaldo

We hope to hold a Coronation in April of 2021. If so, the theme will tentatively be “A Celebration of the Crown Circle”,

the theme we had originally planned for 2020, honoring Golden Gate's Past Queens. Past Queens would share the travel responsibilities.. In the meantime our Reigning Queen Rita Steed will act as Queen for any Coronations occurring prior to April, and we will revisit, should we be unable to hold our Coronation..

Golden Gate holds monthly Zoom dance lessons to keep members connected.

As the health and safety of all in attendance at our monthly dances is our number one priority, the Golden Gate Chapter Board voted to cancel all in person events through at least the remainder of the year. At the same time, we recognize how important it is to maintain a presence in the dance community, so that our dancing friends are still thinking of us, and ready to join us once again, when the time is right. Accordingly, we have been holding a monthly Zoom gathering, featuring a dance lesson from a dance instructor in our community at large.

These gatherings are open to our entire distribution list and all friends and family of the Golden Gate Smooth Dancers. To date, they have been free of charge to our attendees, as the instruction has been sponsored by our generous members. The event is promoted through a special flyer which is sent out to our distribution list, and published on our website.

Each month we have had an increase in the number of those logging in, with over 50 individuals participating in our September meetup. While it is not a perfect way to get together, we have found that right now it fills a connection void, allowing us to see one another, to move and learn together, and to keep the spirit of Golden Gate Smooth Dancers alive .

The goal for each meetup is to have a lesson that is mostly geared toward a dance or technique that does not require a partner, so that those of are members who are sheltering alone can participate. Our instructors are also asked to craft the lesson with the assumption that we are all dancing in a limited space.

It has become something to look forward to each month, and as we move into the holiday season, each of these meetups will begin to incorporate a theme. For our October meetup, those logging in are being asked to dress up in a Halloween costume. We will have a virtual Halloween costume parade with a prize awarded for best costume, as judged by our instructor.

While we have needed to adapt to a new way of doing things, it is heartening to see that we have people logging in, joining us, and choosing to spend a Friday or Saturday evening with us. While it may be a longer road than we initially imagined, we are confident that by continuing to maintain our connection now, in whatever way possible, we will continue to thrive in the future.

Greetings from the incredibly smoky Central Valley! Fresno Smooth Dancers hope you are all well, staying safe and healthy. Know that we join with you all in experiencing the emptiness in our lives caused by the inability to dance. We look forward to the day we can all dance again!

2020 has pretty much kicked us up one side and down the other. Aside from Covid and having to curtail our dancing fun, we all know people dealing with evacuation and loss due to the Creek and SQF fires. It is heartbreaking, and we haven't seen blue skies or been able to breathe clean air in our valley for more than a month!

Sadly, two of our members have experienced difficult loss, and our chapter has lost two of its members.



Sue Dowell. Sue passed away on September 4, 2020, in the presence of her husband and their two daughters at her home in The Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens after a 10-month battle with cancer. Sue was raised in Bakersfield, where she attended high school and junior college before transferring to the nursing program at Fresno State. Sue met her husband, Bob Dowell, at Fresno State and they married on September 7, 1963. Bob & Sue had two lovely and talented daughters, Jacque & Stacy, who both completed their education at Fresno State as well.



Sue and Bob moved several times before returning to be near family and friends as they raised their daughters in Fresno. Sue worked as a School Nurse for 24 years at FUSD and after retiring, she led a student Screening Team for about 30 days per year. She dearly loved the Team nurses and the wonderful opportunity to "ease" into retirement. Sue was an active member at Sierra Sport & Racquet Club, playing tennis with family & friends. Later she became an avid ballroom dancer, competing with Bob throughout the state. Sue was State Queen in 2000 for National Smooth Dancers and truly enjoyed the love and fellowship of all of her friends.

Sue is survived by her husband Bob and daughters Jacque Evans & Stacy McIntosh, their Husbands Kip and Brad and four grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Kevin Koller and sister, Shannon Poe. A Celebration of Life will be held after COVID restrictions are relaxed so family & friends can enjoy their remembrances of our Sue.



Joe LoFreso. Joseph John LoFreso went to be with our Heavenly Father on September 13, 2020, having just celebrated his 103rd birthday. Joseph was born September 10, 1917 in Jamaica, New York. He enlisted in the Army in 1942, and served 3 1/2 years as a Medical Technician in World War II. Upon his discharge Joseph came back

to the Bronx, New York working as a Plasterer, and to make a life for himself. It was there that he met the love of his life, Lucille De Luce. They were married May 30, 1948. On November 28, 1950, their only son, Joseph Michael was



born. In 1953, Joseph moved his family to Fresno, CA. He and his wife Lucille opened Leiby's Donut Shop. Joseph became a very successful Plastering Contractor for many years of his life. Joseph retired and opened Hollywood Video Biz in 1981, with his son, Joseph.

Joseph and his wife Lucille, had a love for Ballroom Dancing. They were members of Big Band Dance Society, National Smooth Dancers, and The Sixties Dance Club. Joseph was also a member of Post 509, Moose Lodge, and an Honorary Life Member of The Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his son Joseph and his wife Connie, his three grandchildren: granddaughter, Carolyn Lee and her Husband Jae; granddaughter, Nicole Eriksen and her husband Sean; grandson, Joseph Jr., and his fiancée Jacee Smalldino; and his three great-grandsons, Sean Jr., Max, and Greysen.

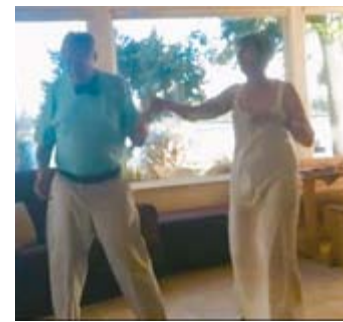


Queen Ruth Galvante lost her mother, Edith Johnson, on August 24, 2020. We were blessed by Edith's presence at several of our Smooth Dancers functions.



Patty Taniguchi also lost her mother, Mary Lew, on August 16, 2020. Patty's mother's death was additionally sad in that she was in a nursing home in Visalia and, because of COVID-19, Patty had not been able to visit her for several months prior to her passing.

On a happier note, Lynn Sanders and Linda Bennett have each been able to take safe vacations, David and Jennifer Morgan have been busy with a backyard project for their granddaughters, and Jan Mitchell celebrated her 2020 birthday in a beautiful, dancing way.



COVID-19 ROAD TRIPS!

To replace “flying” anywhere many of us have decided to just drive our way around the U.S.!! Here are a few stories!!

JOHN SARKIS and girlfriend, Joyce, took a 4,100 mile ROAD TRIP to Minnesota to see his daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter!



(Top Left) John & Joyce at Mt. Rushmore.

(Above) Pontoon boat fun on Wood Lake in Emily, MN.

(Bottom Left) John & Joyce enjoying 4-wheelers on his Daughters 360 Acre Ranch in MN!

DUANE & DONNA THORNTON traveled to Michigan in their 25’ motorhome visiting family & long-time friends along the way from August 25 – October 3. They travelled a total of 5,500 miles! The first leg the A/C went out and they drove to Phoenix, AZ in 115 Degree weather to Donna’s friend, of 50 years, where they got it repaired, Phew! Next leg, they hit the edge of a hurricane downpour which leaked water through a vent – that was fixed in Joplin, Missouri while visiting their granddaughter!! Finally arriving in Michigan to see Duane’s family! Great times exploring Michigan. On the way home they traveled through Idaho & on to Oregon and down the coast to Carmel with a scary ride down Hwy. 1 in the motorhome!! Arriving home for their 61st Anniversary celebration given by their granddaughter Zoe!



PENNY ELLIOTT ventured around Southern California with her sister and nieces. Independence Day reenactment in Yucaipa. Julian where they went bobsledding down an open mountain track! To Big Bear Lake to go down into a real mine shaft. City of San Diego scooter tour, kayaking and even an Amphibious Harbor tour!



(Above) The group enjoying the Amphibious Harbor Tour in San Diego.

(Top Left) Bobsledding down an open mine shaft at Big Bear Lake.

(Bottom Left) Great fun bobsledding down a real mine shaft in Julian.

DEBBIE ATHERTON & MICHAEL MIHOS had a great 2 ½ week road trip - destination Astoria, OR at the Columbia River to see long-time friends. On the way home stopping in Coos Bay, OR for 3 days of camping & hiking the beautiful Oregon Coast! Then stopping in Redding/Mt. Shasta to visit Michael’s family. Of course, we never miss a chance to hit Paso Robles for some wonderful wine tasting experiences.



(Above) Wine tasting in Paso Robles Cheers!

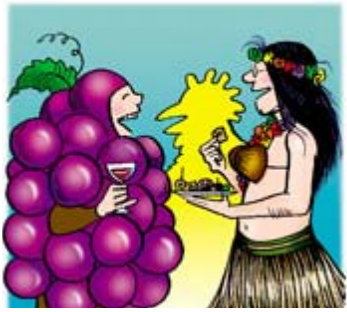
(Top Left) Sunset Bay Campground certainly lived up to its name!

(Bottom Left) Hiking the Oregon Coast.

(Far Top Left) Boating on the lake in Michigan with their niece & her husband.

(Far Top Right) Duane & Donna relaxing at Duane’s sister’s home.

(Bottom Left) Michigan Group – Nieces & Nephews!



"Your new hip and knee replacements come with a remote control app for Tap, Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha-cha, Jitterbug, Texas Two Step, Irish Folk Dance and Disco."



"Objection, Your Honor. Counsel is leading the witness."

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

FROM THE



Hollywood Academy of Dance --

“It’s Ballroom-Crazy California Bandstand”

\$15.00 PER PERSON; \$25.00 PER COUPLE
Or \$55.00 and \$95.00 for all Saturdays in June.

45 MIN. LESSON – WITH NATALIA LIND
Pro-Am Dancers to Watch.

Pro Showcase at 8:15 p.m. (Most Nights.)

Great DJ music to dance to in your homes.

ALL THIS WITH CAREFUL SOCIAL DISTANCING!

Zoom-ing with Joan, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. for Social Interaction.

Email Joan @ joandanceforlife@gmail.com for weekly promos.



Reviews From the Audience!

“Last Saturday’s dance was FANTASTIC!”

“I followed along with Natalia’s excellent Cha-Cha line dance instructions, and I learned it! Her partner was helpful too.”

“Tom did a great job as DJ. He fielded requests and kept us informed of what he was playing.”