

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
October 2021



2022 Coronation Central: Los Angeles Chapter - January 8; San Diego Chapter - March 5; Bakersfield Chapter - March 26; Golden Gate Chapter - April 9; Visalia Chapter - May 21; Fresno Chapter - June 4; Palomar Chapter - July, date TBD; San Fernando Valley Chapter - November 5.

2022 Convention: September 2-5; Margaritaville Resort, Palm Springs
“Give My Regards To Broadway”



The Dance Whispers Editors (L-R): Alice Mah Miller - Los Angeles; Frank Lacson & Mark Chapman - San Diego; Carl Chesbrough - Golden Gate; John Sankis - Palomar; Rachel Seward - San Fernando Valley; Marcy Diller - Bakersfield; Lewis Griswold - Visalia; Linda Bennett - Fresno.



Publishing Editor
Tom Wells

Does it feel different to you? It seems to be feeling different to me too! I mean, I was working on how to fit all of the content into this issue instead of searching for content to put in! It is starting to feel a little different.

As you see above, we have Coronations scheduled for 2022 starting with Los Angeles Chapter on January 8th (pp 3 & 13). The 2022 Convention is scheduled for September 2-5 (p12). The Bakersfield dance weekend is scheduled for March 25-27. I noticed that Golden Gate is planning their annual New Year's Gala for December 30th (p4). Chapters are hosting dances and members are travelling again. It is starting to feel a little different!

With this issue, Dance Whispers is welcoming two new editors; Alice Mah Miller for Los Angeles and Lewis Griswold for Visalia. This is also the first issue Marcy Diller has taken on solo. We welcome you to the Dance Whispers editor's family. I also want to express my gratitude for all of the work our outgoing editor's have done; Sandy Wells for Los Angeles, Myra & Shane Nielsen for Visalia and Liora Malicdem for Bakersfield.

Then that pesky little feeling crops up warning me not to get too hopeful...after all it took Bakersfield 4 tries to finally get the Boards and Dance weekend to happen!

However, things are starting to feel positive because in this issue we are introducing new members, 11 in all (p3)! Do you know how long it has been since we've had new members introduced within these pages? December 2019!

While we are on the topic of “do you know”, do you know the event that inspired the formation of National Smooth Dancers? No? Well, be sure to check out page 5.

If you've never been a member of a dance performance team but wondered what it would be like, you may find interesting reading on page 2. Rachel Seward provides us with an insight of what it is like to be on a performance team.

Things are different!! I want to thank those members who called and wrote messages to me regarding my thoughts in the August issue. Since things are starting to feel different I wanted to say again:

Returning to ballroom dancing is a joy, but I would be remiss to ignore that it is also a risk in the current climate. Respect of others while on the dance floor is important; respect for those who, for many reasons, cannot join us on the dance floor yet is just as important. For them, it is equally important to know that when circumstances improve to the point they are able to join us, we will be there with open arms to enthusiastically welcome them back!

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor soon.
Until then,
Never Stop Dancing!

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE A DANCE TROUPE?

Hello, after the SFV dance troupe Ragtime Mischief showcase in Bakersfield, Tom asked me to write something about what it means to be on a dance troupe and perform. At first, we all thought the idea of being in a dance troupe was going to give us a chance to reconnect with our dance friends, and an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with dance steps we had not used for over a year. We also thought it would help us re-energize ourselves with the most significant reward being fun and entertaining others. But, we all realized quickly that there was much more to it.

Before I go further, let me say that it is an honor, a privilege, and a serious commitment to be a part of a troupe. For me, being a part of a dance troupe is comparable to participating in a select sport because it requires a level of dedication. In this case, you share your talent and love of dance with peers who share the same passion for dance, enthusiasm to learn, and commitment to the team and the performance.

Our SFV dance troupe was successful because members were committed to the performance and had a chance to highlight a part of themselves that others may not have seen before this showcase.

Let me dive a little deeper for you

•How does it differ from chapter/studio dances?

While commitment is the first and foremost to the dance troupes' success, again, we all learned quickly that there was artistry and unison required along with time and a financial commitment.

A dance troupe is different from studio dance in that our chapters or studio dances have a variety of tempos and beats; a dance troupe requires specific styling, creativity, and often synchronized choreography.

•What is the time commitment?

Practices are essential because being on a dance troupe encompasses other styles of dance and music. It focuses on the perfection of a showcase based upon the dance style, music, technique, and unison. This requires practice, practice, and more practice, individually and as a team.

•What expenses are there?

Some of the essential costs include hiring a professional for choreography, teaching the steps and stylizing of the dance, and focusing on the perfection of the routine based on technique and unison.

Other expenses include costumes, accessories, and some one-on-one lessons with a professional.

Of course, the financial commitment will vary for each showcase and per dancer. While each team member wanted the performance experience, we tried keeping costs to a minimum by not always practicing our choreography at a studio or paying a floor fee for practice sessions. Instead, we supported each other by practicing at the homes of our teammates that had a dance floor or open space.

A lot of the costs depend on how the showcase is choreographed, what style of dance being presented, and the technique chosen, plus the number of dancers in the troupe.

SFV decided not to invest time, talents, and finances to perform the Charlie Chaplain Ragtime Mischief showcase only once. They performed again at our studio's Grand Opening.

•What are the benefits of a dance team?

So, yes, there is a time and financial commitment. However, being on a dance team is a wonderful opportunity to continue doing something you love and to develop new skills and strengths that can be used in other genres of your dance life. Teamwork will have a new definition. For example, two of us were injured during practice and had to drop out. But, because we were a united team, the showcase continued, and our dance troupe got the chance to get that serious adrenaline rush that performing brings.

I am hopeful that this information is informative and encourages each of you to join a dance troupe, and especially helpful to the four NSD chapters that will showcase their dance troupes at the NSD 2022 Convention. We look forward to your incredible and exciting performances ...and don't forget to have fun!

I wish for everyone in NSD to continue to do this something we love called dance whether in a dance troupe or studio.

Rachel Seward & The 2021 Ragtime Mischief Cast



Los Angeles Chapter is pleased to introduce two new members, Donna Erikson and Sophia Chui. They have been attending our tea dances since we have re-opened in July and we are very happy to welcome them into the Los Angeles Chapter family. We formally inducted Donna and Sophia at our October 11th Halloween dance.



We have continued to hold our tea dances despite the Delta Variant of Covid-19, though it has been touch and go as far as if we will have enough to pull off a break-even event. Having gone to an online registration and payment system along with mail in reservations has been very helpful for us in planning the dances.



The Los Angeles Chapter is excited to be planning our Coronation of Queen Sandy Wells on Saturday January 8th. We will be holding our coronation at the Garibaldina Society Hall which provides us a wonderful 2000 sq foot dance floor. Music will be provided by DJ Tom Mendola, from the band Summer Wind, which you may recognize from our last convention hosted by San Fernando Valley Chapter. A room block has been made at the conveniently located Marriott Courtyard in Old Town Pasadena at a rate of \$129. The Garibaldina Society is located an easy 15 minute drive away. The room block will be released 30 days prior to the coronation so you will want to make your reservations early. The Marriott has a 48 hour cancellation policy, so if your plans change the Marriott will allow you to cancel your reservation without penalty. So make your hotel reservation early and make sure you lock in this great price. Please check the attached flyer for more information.

Tom and Sandy Wells recently returned from a fabulous 14 day bus trip where we visited 8 national parks. It was beyond description! Some of the highlights included the Grand Canyon, a Navajo cookout at Arches National Park, Mount Rushmore, white water river rafting down the Shoshone (boy, did they get wet), Yellowstone, a 13 mile scenic float down the Snake River at Jackson, WY, close encounters with an abundance of wildlife like bears, bison, condors... and so much more! If you want to see the USA, this trip is an incredible way to do it.



Palomar Smooth Dancers added nine new members this September!

Peggy Lee reported that before the meeting starts, each of us contributes a quarter. At the end of the meeting, the queen draws a name for the stack of those who paid. Our new member Concepcion Richter won all the quarters last night!

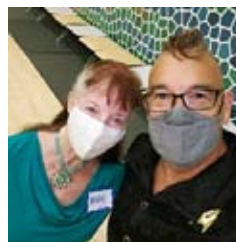


(left to Right) Joyce Odom, Jack Kerr, Mary Kerr, Reid Merrill, Renee Merrill, Letitia Wilbur, Larry Wilbur, Paul Richter, Concepcion Richter. Photo by Peggy Lee

The following are from a PSD social:

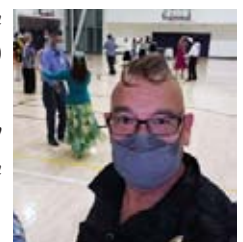


Looks like it might be Jack and Marilee (on left) & guess the rest!



(Left) Looks like Ann Mauro, (Queen Ann) and Mario Lira.

(Right) Mario? with masked dancers in background.



On September 12th, Golden Gate had our second dance since the pandemic started. To remain compliant with county and venue restrictions, we were required to wear masks at all times indoors, including while dancing.

While we anticipated that this would have an impact on our attendance, and it did, we still ended up with just under 50 attendees, and we had a fabulous time.



Susan Simmons went all out to bring her chosen theme of “Fall Fiesta” to life. She forgot nothing when it came to creating a bold, colorful, and festive backdrop for us to dance the afternoon away. All of the extra touches including special place mats and tablecloths for each table were above and beyond and left all of us marveling at her creativity! Not to mention that she drove all the way from Sacramento! Thank you so much, Susan!

Lest there be any doubt where to find the fun, Susan made sure to clear it up with a special sign pointing us all in the right direction.

The afternoon kicked off with a great bachata lesson taught by Ylva Wentzell, followed by a delicious snack box prepared by Miguel & Angela.

Special thanks to Vera for donating water, cookies, and chips to keep the dancers happy!



New Member: In September, Golden Gate has welcomed our first multi-chapter member, Lynn Sanders. Lynn has been a long-time member of the Fresno chapter, and we thank Fresno for sharing Lynn with our chapter. She has been attending many of our events, and it is great to call her a member.

New Year’s Gala: We are preparing for our annual New Year’s Gala to celebrate 2022. It will be held at the Foster City Crowne Plaza on Thursday, December 30, 2021. This will be a smaller event, as the hotel is having the tables more spaced out, and fewer at each table. We will be requiring vaccinations of our guests. However, there will be a 3-course meal, champagne toast, a balloon drop, and of course, lots of dancing. If you are in the area, please join us!

Visalia Smooth Dancers celebrates 46 years

Visalia Smooth Dancers celebrated its 46th anniversary this month. That’s a lot of foxtrot, waltz and tango!

After a previous smooth dancers club, the Mt. Whitney chapter, disbanded in 1971, dance enthusiasts Gino and Phyllis Demillo “could not stand not having a dance club,” according to a written account. They reached out to the home office of National Smooth Dancers in Los Angeles about applying for a chapter charter.

The home office said we needed 25 people, club officers, and must meet other requirements:

“Furthermore, members must...be 21 years of age, be able to do basic Waltz/Foxtrot and basic Rumba or Tango, be a citizen of the United States and be of good moral character.”

Apparently we qualified, as the charter dance was held Nov. 1, 1975, at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Hall, to the music of the Hill Parnell band. Cost: \$4.00 per ticket, including a special dance show.

The next year, Stella Yocum was crowned the first queen. In 1977, the club booked a charter bus “with bar and food” to attend the San Francisco Convention and a tradition was born.

The Visalia club has hosted state conventions several times and looks forward to doing so again in 2023.

In reaching the 46-year milestone, grateful thanks are due to the generations of volunteers who decorated the dance hall month after month, planned summer luaus and Christmas dances, welcomed new members, and attended all those club meetings. Thank you all.

The Bakersfield Tango

Sixteen Visalia Smooth Dancers attended the Roaring 2020’s extravaganza in Bakersfield in August. Visalia Queen Carol Bixler filed this report:



Myra and Shane Nielsen dancing a wonderful Tango as a spotlight dance during the Bakersfield event.

“Our hats are off to the Bakersfield club for a wonderful event. It was so great to see so many old friends on the dance floor. Everyone enjoyed the Team performances and Spotlights. On Saturday night, Myra and Shane Nielsen represented our club with a fantastic Tango.

The coronation of Rose Petersen was absolutely beautiful in every way from their Queen’s Waltz, to decorations, food, and gorgeous family. It just couldn’t have been any better.”

Additionally, “Our thanks go out to Victor Lee and Debby Ku and Josh and Rachel Harless for all of the fun line dances. The entertainment by Nick Cheremukhin and Viktorija was amazing. It was hard to



The Queens from the Bakersfield coronation held on August 7, 2021. decide which of their four dances was the favorite.”

Thank you, Bakersfield!

Return of the monthly social

The Visalia club is holding monthly socials again starting July. Whoo hoo! Our regular dance venue at the Exeter Memorial Building reopened, allowing the return to normalcy.

Attendance has been strong. Several members of the Fresno club attended our August social. Thank you Fresno!

We’ve made a few adjustments. The potluck dinner preceding socials has been suspended in favor of light snacks and beverages.

Line dances are being taught at socials in lieu of couples dance instruction. The chairs are mostly empty when there’s a line dance going on.

What’s next

We are excited to be hosting a catered dinner dance on Dec. 4, at the PPAV hall in Visalia. It’s guaranteed to be a fun event, so please get your reservation in by Nov. 20. For details, see the flyer at VisaliaSmoothDancers.com or call Laura Encinas.

More news

John Forest is the club’s new webmaster. Lew Griswold is writing our club news for Dance Whispers.

There are now three people teaching ballroom dance lessons in Visalia.

Eileen Chavez is teaching group lessons on Friday or Saturday evenings at the Grange, and Tuesdays at the IOOF Hall on Court Street.

Susan Morelock is teaching private lessons Mondays at the Grange.

Franco Peraza is teaching group lessons Tuesday evening at the Grange.

Did you know that... “One Sunday evening back in the year 1937 a group of contest dancers, all staunch partisans of “smooth” dancing, were gathered around the bandstand of the ballroom on Lick Pier in Santa Monica, They were watching the distressing spectacle of contest prizes being handed out, one after another, to the jitterbug maniacs.” And because of this spectacle, National Smooth Dancers was founded! (Ballroom Dance Magazine - August 1962)

Fresno’s Smooth Dancers are so excited to report that we had excellent attendance at our July, August and September dances, and we are thrilled to be dancing again! We had to wait until our venue (Clovis Senior Center) opened back up, and we continue to follow the Center’s (based on city, state and CDC) guidelines.



Carla Hartunian with dance instructor Rei Marquez.

August’s event was a Luau hosted by Lorraine Tilton, whose decorations were crowned by a fresh pineapple and leis on every table. The party was a blast with Visalia members and guests adding to our Fresno attendees for a very fun crowd. Rei Marquez taught us a challenging foxtrot routine and stayed awhile to visit and give advice.

Nancy Cargill hosted a “Silly Tee Shirt” party at our September dance, with her own silly tee shirt collection used as party decorations; she hung them on the walls and laid them out on the tables and had us giggling all afternoon. Add in the ones we wore ourselves and a “silly” time was had by all! Pete Swingle from Studio 65 taught us a challenging salsa routine, and stayed to hang out with us most of the afternoon, answering questions, giving advice and just visiting, seeming to enjoy himself.



Our October dance will be held on the 17th (again as we go to print), and will be a Monster Mash hosted by Henry and Cindy Wegermann. We hope for a ghoulishly fun time with all of us in costume.

We are happy to report that we have a new member, Pat Coppock, who joined us in September.

Our members: Queen Ruth and her son, Isaac, traveled to Seattle, Washington for a nice vacation in August.



Catching up with our Members

Sharon Crisp from Fresno Chapter competed in the Ms. Senior Golden Years pageant in Pahrump, Nevada on September 18 and, while she did not win the crown, she reports that she had a great time and made 5 new friends.



Sharon's Final Walk



Sharon performing "Whatever Lola Wants"



Our 40's and earlier Bathing Suits (in the dressing room)



Our opening number "Thank heavens for little girls".



Bakersfield's Smooth Dancers were pleased to crown Rose Peterson as our new queen. The week after dancing her beautiful routine for us, Rose and her husband, Steve, enjoyed a week long vacation hiking around Bryce Canyon, one of their favorite spots! Rose is very excited to serve as queen and looks forward to visiting other Smooth Dancer chapters, as Covid protocols allow.

Our Bakersfield Smooth Dancers chapter has grown in membership under the direction of our new instructors Josh and Rachel Harless. Josh has one of those smiles that helps the frustration of learning new dance steps melt away. He believes anyone can dance and has incredible patience. He says that the only limitations are the limits we place on ourselves. Josh has received certification by GSDTA (Golden State Dance Teachers Association) in several dance styles. Josh devoted several hundred hours of training and performance of dances to earn this certification.



Dance instructors Josh and Rachel Harless.

Rachel earned her degree at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and while she was a student, she joined many social dance clubs learning numerous styles of dance. Rachel's favorite dance is the hustle, and she makes it look so fun. Rachel choreographed our dance routine that we performed this summer at the Bakersfield dance event. She now has the team working on a Christmas performance. It is a fast-paced lively routine that you will just have to come and watch!

The 20 members of this summer's performance

team enjoyed dancing a choreographed routine. One member expressed how nervous she was while another member cannot wait to perform another one and incorporate more difficult

moves like lifts. One lady was so grateful to be able to participate as she said, "I appreciate them allowing me to participate even without a partner," as Josh and Rachel both stepped in and danced the male parts. Another member shared that he felt it gave him "the opportunity to glide into another world and become someone else for a time." Although most members had performed previously in some way, this was still an exciting opportunity, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening. We would like to encourage all Smooth Dancers to give it a try!



Recently, we were fortunate to perform our waltz routine again at two other venues: The Event Center in Moorpark on October 1st and at the Giessinger Winery in Westlake Village on October 2nd. The eight of us enjoyed performing once again and the ladies thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to float around the floor in flowing colorful dresses!



I interviewed several of the dance performance team members and found that we have different favorite dances. Lindy loves nightclub two step because it is elegant and smooth. Nancy enjoys the foxtrot because she loves the music and flying around a huge dance floor. Debi prefers the Latin dances because they are so much fun and skill-level friendly. Liora and Rich's reasons for choosing the Lindy Hop: the music, the freedom, the pure joy of it! And, Rick prefers the waltz as he is a true romantic and enjoys adding a dramatic feeling to his dance when the music calls for it. Isn't it great that there are so many different types of dances to learn and enjoy? What's your favorite and why?

Getting out and dancing again has really helped to lift our moods and we are feeling optimistic. Regarding our performances, Debi said, "We did great considering most of us haven't danced regularly in a while" due to the pandemic. I agree and hope you will be dancing, too!

Fresno Smooth Dancers presents

A MONSTER MASH



Sunday, October 17th

Hosted by Henry and Cindy Wegermann

Rumba Lesson by Alex Pereira

NSD members \$10.00

Lesson 2:00

Guests \$15.00

Dancing 3:00-5:00

Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth St.
Clovis, CA

For information call Lynn (408) 220-4075

www.fresnosmoothdancers.org



San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers

Masks and Proof of Vaccination Required

**Saturday,
Nov 6, 2021
7:00 - 10:30PM**



**Get these dance dates
on your calendar!**

**December 4
Holiday Dance
January 1**

also studio parties here
every Friday & Saturday

*Please enter from the
rear of the building
(under the blue awning)*

*Overflow parking is
acceptable at both Citibank
and Wells Fargo except for
areas closest to the ATMs.*

Hollywood Academy of Dance



**Dance Lesson
Dance and
instructor TBA**

DJ - Tom Mendola

All Ballroom, Swing
and Nightclub styles
Mixers

Schedule

Members Meeting 6:15 PM
Dance Lesson 7:15 PM
Dancing 8:00 - 10:30 PM

Members \$15, Non-Members \$20
Dance class, munchies, beverages included.

Become a member! Ask at the dance or see the website nsdsfv.org.

Visalia Smooth Dancers invite you to

Carnival Dance



November
13th

7:00 to 10:00 pm

Exeter
Memorial
324 N. Kaweah

All NSD members - \$10 Guests - \$15

Entertainment

Light snacks and beverages Music by Cheryl Levitan

Questions - Wendy 686-9786 Carol 688-0302

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc

Present Our:



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

NEW YEAR'S GALA DINNER DANCE

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
1221 CHESS DRIVE, FOSTER CITY, CA

5:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

FORMAL ATTIRE REQUESTED



ELEGANT THREE COURSE DINNER



CHAMPAGNE TOAST



DJ MUSIC



DANCE HOSTS



BALLOON DROP



COMPLIMENTARY PARKING



SPACIOUS DANCE FLOOR

\$100/Person Through December 1st

\$115/Person After December 1st

Please make checks payable to "Golden Gate Smooth Dancers" and Mail to:
Stella Wong at 3171 Susan Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066
Please include entrée selection on your check or via our online reservation system:

GGSD Website

Hotel Rooms Available at Group Rate of \$119.00 (King)

\$129.00 (Two Queens) (Rate available through December 16th)

Reserve Online: <https://book.passkey.com/go/GoldenGateSmoothDancersRB>

Reserve by Phone: 888-233-9527 Ask for: Golden Gate Smooth Dancers/Dec30

SCHEDULE OF EVENING:

5:30-6:00

Registration
& No-Host Cocktail
Reception

6:00-7:00

Dancing

7:00-8:00

Three Course Dinner w/
Choice of Entree:

Prime Rib

or

Mahi Mahi

or

Ravioli (Vegetarian)

8:00-10:30

Dancing

10:30-11:00

Champagne Toast

Balloon Drop & Dancing

Reservations and Entrée
Selection Required by:
December 23rd @ 4:00 PM

Online Reservations are
encouraged at:

<https://www.goldengatedancers.org/>

Credit card and check payments
accepted.

*Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc
shall not be held liable for injuries or
illness (including Covid-19) sustained
by persons attending this event.*

*Proof of vaccination must be presented
as a condition of admission to this
event.*

*Current county requirements specify
that a mask must be worn except when
actively eating or drinking. If masks
become optional, that will be
communicated to all attendees*

“Give my Regards to Broadway” September 2-5, 2022



Our creative team enjoying lunch at Margaritaville Resort:

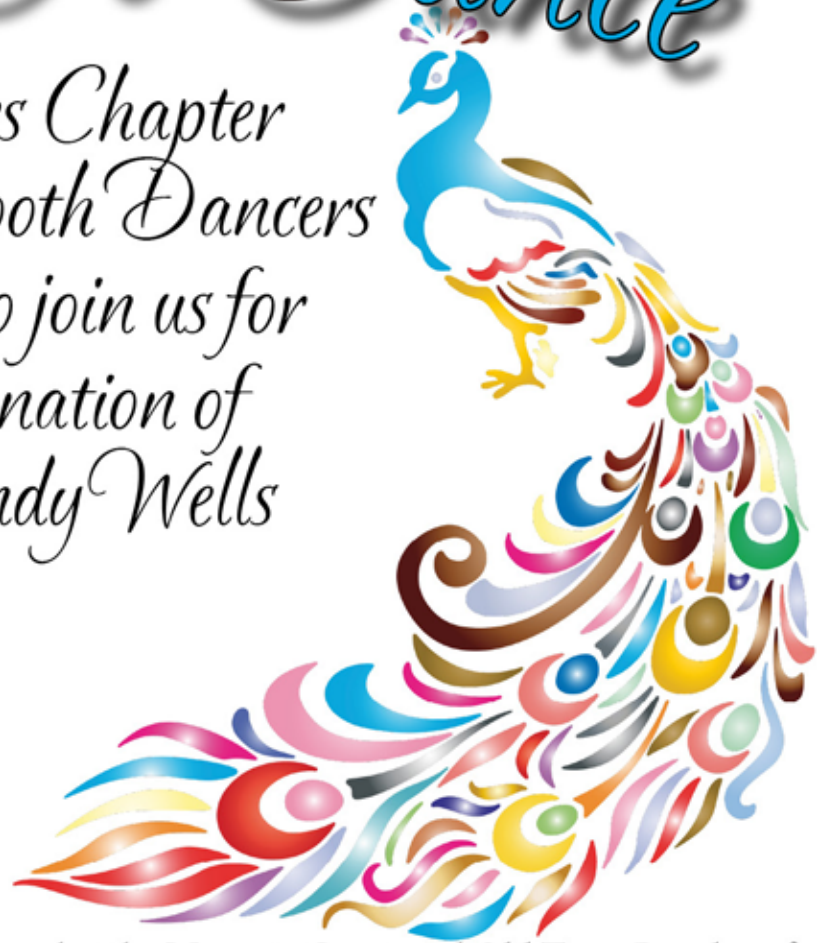
Join the San Diego Smooth Dancer for a trip to Broadway, the most famous theatrical district in the world. Take in Broadway sensations: My Fair Lady, Grease, Moulin Rouge, Chicago and the Big Deal.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Margaritaville Resort at 1-866-724-0603 and asking for the “National Smooth Dancers” block of rooms.

Group code for NSD is 2771375. More information is on the San Diego Smooth Dancers website, under “NSD Convention 2022”.

Born To Dance

Los Angeles Chapter
National Smooth Dancers
Invites you to join us for
The Coronation of
Queen Sandy Wells



Saturday, January 8, 2022
Hospitality 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Dinner/Dance 6:00 - 11:00 pm
Dress Attire: Black Tie Optional
The Garibaldina M.B. Society
4533 N Figueroa St
Los Angeles, CA 90065

A complimentary room block has been arranged at the **Marriott Courtyard Old Town Pasadena** for \$129+tax/night. Reservations ***MUST*** be made by December 8, 2021 to secure this special rate. There is a 48 hour cancellation policy in case your plans change and you need to cancel your hotel reservation.

Make your reservations now so you don't forget!

Marriott Courtyard, 180 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 403-7600

Current L.A. County/City
public health orders will be in
effect during this event.



Please RSVP by January 3, 2022

Name _____

NSD Chapter _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

Of Reservations _____ x \$65 _____

MEAL CHOICE: Tri-Tip _____ Total _____

Vegetarian Eggplant Parmigiana _____

Dinner Includes: Salad, Pasta, Main Entree and Dessert

Please make checks payable to "NSD"
and mail to:

Susan Johnson
1420 Santo Domingo Ave.
Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 794-1101 / staplers@aol.com

E-mail Special Meal Requirements to:
Sandy Wells - ssticco@ca.rr.com