

## Professional Dancers Federation

### NDCA Bi-Annual Meeting Report July 2019

The July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was productive and quick. It was one of the smallest meetings I have attended so far, with several delegates and committee members unable to attend for various reasons.

By far the most exciting and happy news was President Brian McDonald awarding four individuals with the title of Honorary Life Member for exceptional service and dedication to the NDCA, its pursuits and ideals.

Congratulations Honorary Life Members:  
Judi Hatton 1st Vice-President  
Dennis Rogers - Treasurer  
Lee Wakefield - Ballroom Director  
John Kimmins - Championship Committee  
Chairman



I want to address a few of the conversations that took place which have direct impact on our PDF members. Richard Booth the Chairman of the Invigilation Committee encouraged us to let our members know that the invigilation test is available to them should they wish to have this credential listed on the NDCA website. After confirming that the candidate is a current NDCA Licensed Championship Adjudicator he will send them the test. This will greatly boost our number of current and qualified Invigilators.

The motions that were approved in his Invigilation report that our members should note include:

- 1 - Left Side Same Foot Position in grapevine is allowed in Silver American Foxtrot. This is the LONE exception to the LSSFP.
- 2 - Remove Invigilation for the NightClub dances.
- 3- Approve the new Bronze, Silver & Gold restrictions, effective Jan 20, 2020. (As soon as I have a listing of these I will present them to our members.)
- 4 - The new Bronze and Silver Smooth syllabus will be effective October 14 2019.
- 5 - Delay the Gold Smooth to become effective also on October 14 2019 to coincide with the effective date for the Bronze and Silver..
- 6 - Update the current Descriptions of Allowable Dance Positions and Holds to include Proximities.
- 7 - Member Organizations are REQUIRED publish to their membership which syllabus figures are in compliance with the NDCA Approved Figures, Elements, & Restrictions. Since the PDF does not have a syllabus I simply suggest always publish a current and accurate syllabus and restriction list, with highlighted changes, encouraging our members to be aware of the updates.
- 8 - Invigilators are not the Costume Check person.

9 - A qualified Invigilator must be A+B+C+D+ championship certified by a member organization of the NDCA.

All of these changes were seen as a positive advancement to the Invigilation program.

For the organizers who are interested in using the new Premier Competition Software Richard also encouraged organizers to let him know if they would like to have the developer attend their event as they used it. He has done so for several other competitions and the result was fast paced advancement with live updates, while he witnessed real time use of the software.

All other proposed motions for the meeting passed unanimously, with the exception of the NDTA's motion #9, requiring all NDCA registrants to belong to a member body. NDTA asked that their motion be tabled until the January meeting so that all Member Organizations have ample time to discuss with their members.

Also Motion #6 was additionally reworded to remove the word professional. Now all competitors who reside in the USA are required to be licensed with the NDCA, regardless of license held by WDC or other countries.

Proposed Rule Change #11 passed. And I queried whether or not it would be extended to the Rhythm division as well. The PDF was tasked with addressing the Rhythm specialists to decide if this was desired or needed, and if so which dance would be the appropriate dance to drop in the initial rounds. In my personal conversation after the meeting I responded that I did not believe Mambo was appropriate as this is the defining dance for the Rhythm division. I also suggested that Bolero not be removed as this dance was a necessary component of the round giving the competitors a slower dance and a moment to catch their breath. It was generally agreed upon at the lunch table that Swing could be an appropriate dance to remove. I acknowledged that we would follow up on this over the next few months and report back in January.

Of the motions that were discussed that one that presented the most consternation for a few of the PDF members was Motion #5. This motion added the "at the discretion of the Chairman" to an already existing rule regarding the application of penalties for various invigilation infractions. I brought up the idea that competitors are afraid of unfair judges, unqualified-unfair-uninterested invigilators, and now they will have cause to be afraid of unfair Chairmen. We discussed at length what infractions might be given lower penalties. The end result is not a concrete list of steps but rather the idea that minor infractions are determined to be things that can easily, and are immediately, fixable, as well as mistakes that gained no significant competitive advantage to the offender. PreTeen offenders would also be dealt with generally differently as they have a far less ability to make on the fly changes. This may still be an unsatisfactory answer to those who question the integrity of the invigilation process, however it should be understandable that a teacher that executes a pattern which contained sloppy questionable footwork, a momentary incorrect handhold, was unaware of current changes yet made immediate actions to rectify the situation could be dealt with differently than repeat, blatant, or combative offenders.

V/R

Larinda McRaven

Central States Vice President

