



MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



National Events: Fixing the Competitions

Reprint from the swingandhustle eGroups. Author, David Flynn.

By now many of you have heard about our concerns here regarding fairness at dance competitions. People are bone tired of hearing the same old drag "All the dancers were great, the competition was wonderful, and the dresses were beautiful." Face it, everybody who's on the scene knows that there are problems at these events. We all also know that those problems affect us mortals, our scores, and our costs for admission.

Changes needed to fix the dance competitions:

1.) **Judge or Competitor?** – Currently, judges at many of the open swing comps can also compete. HUGE error there. The Olympics would never have the French ice skaters judge the German ice skaters on Friday, then change roles on Saturday. Why do event promoters do this? To help afford the pros. Now think about that for a moment... At a competition run by a top national promoter, I noted that a couple years back – no couple that judged and then competed was beaten in any event or at any dance by a competitor who did not judge. Suspicious? Heck, I was...

2.) **Problems with Showcase events** - when the rules state something like the following, Classic events - "No lifts allowed," Showcase events – "Anything goes, nothing required" get nervous. To any smart classic competitor this means "I'll just change my costume, and music, and do my classic routine again in the showcase event, without lifts." Guess who looks smoother and more "on time," the people doing lifts, or the classic dancers w/o the lifts? You guessed it. Again, showcasers will never beat classic dancers in those rounds if you have only classic dancers for judges. Why even bother to learn the lifts? I have noticed that if the Pro demos that precede the competition have not even one lift in them, and you're gonna be dancing showcase – you're wasting your money. We asked our top nationally ranked swing/country coach for some help with a lift in a \$120 two hour lesson. She said, don't ask me, I don't do lifts. We said, "You're kidding, you're a judge for the showcase division in this competition!" Typical...

3.) **Pro Jack and Jills** – Who is selected to be in these is very controversial. There is definitely a clique at the top. The power to be "in" doesn't come from the dancers, it comes from the promoters who empower them to increase receipts. They are essentially saying, "Come to my competition which has 9 national champions, vs. his competition which only has 6." These slots should go to pros based upon some objective well known standard like total NASDE points.

4.) **Too many promoters doing too many competitions** – we have about three times the number of national caliber dance events needed to serve the dance population that is intended to pay for them. If I gave you my list of events promoters have scheduled for this year, you'd be shocked. Each of these events needs to attract between 1,000 – 10,000 people to pay their bills. No dancer can afford more than one of these events per month at the most. What does it take to be a promoter? Well based upon who we have doing it now, it doesn't appear that you have to even be a dance champion. We run the Greenbelt competition so I'll tell you how that works. We hire the pros, a band a couple of DJ's rent the room, advertise and do a website. There's a little more than that, but basically, we just re-shuffle money taken at the door to the people we've hired. We don't profit, but now we're big shots who run an dance event and everybody wants to work for us. Get the drift?

Dance Art Collectibles

will return for the May dance.
See below for details on the wonderful discounts Linda gives to MSDA members.

DANCE ART COLLECTIBLES

By Linda Jaworski: A large collection of wonderful dance related art and collectibles. **10% discount on unframed posters and 15% off framed posters to MSDA members.** 33228 West 12 Mile, Suite 138, F. Hills. For more info: 248-788-4048 or ljaworski@aol.com.

NEXT MSDA PARTY

MAY 19

at the AMBER HOUSE

Lesson 3 PM

Dance Party 4PM- 8PM

Our parties are at the Cabaret Ballroom located inside 'The Amber House, 7012 E Nine Mile Road, Warren, MI. 586-754-3434

DANCE LESSON

For the last two months, Kevin Collins has been our guest teacher. He introduced a new dance to the club....Ballroom Cha Cha. The second class was just as large and popular as the first, so we're bringing him back. There's still time to jump in and learn this exciting, new dance, even if you missed the first lesson. Kevin's bio is on page 4.

•••••

If any members would like to get together and go to Yesterdays, where they do a lot of Ballroom, on a Tuesday or Thursday night, just let me know and I'll send out a notice. It's always a great time!!

NEW MEMBERS

The MSDA warmly welcomes the following Dancers to the club. Thanks so much for your support!

- TERRI SWEET
- HENRY LIBERACKI
- GEORGE MASON
- JAKI ROSSMER
- CAREY DELANO



The MSDA has a birthday party every month for those with birthdays during that month. We announce the members' names, have a birthday dance especially for them and serve cake. We also have a small gift for those present at the party in their birthday month. Please be sure to open it before leaving the party...it needs to be laminated.

EDDIE	SHANNON	5/1
MEAGAN	WOODBURY	5/3
TECLA	LAMBERTI	5/4
LAURA	INGELS	5/6
RUSS	RAGONE	5/7
MARK	MORGAN	5/11
HOPE	LARSON	5/13
DARRELL	KENNEDY	5/13
JAMES	TONEY	5/14
NANCY	MCCAFFREY	5/17
MARY ANN	MILEWSKI	5/19
LOUIS	PALMERI	5/20
DEBORAH	SKOUSEN	5/20
BOB	BENNANE	5/22
PATTI	MORRIS	5/23
ANTHONY	COSGRO	5/25
MARK	ELLIOT	5/25
KATHIE	MCGEACHY	5/26
DAVID	FISHBACK	5/26
D. DOC	CHAMBERLAIN	5/27
CAROLINE	VO	5/28
THOMAS	BRILL	5/30



FUTURE PARTIES

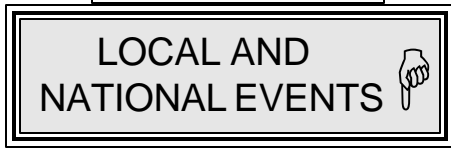


- June 23
- July 21
- August 18
- September 22
- October 20

Please note: Some of the dates are not on the 3rd Sunday due to holidays or convention dates.

The birthday cake for our parties is provided by Dave Michalski. He gives us a great discount and will give any MSDA member a discount too. Dave's shop is located at:

Gallery of Cakes
 29457 5 Mile Rd.
 Livonia, MI 48154
 734-427-9202
 Hours:
 Tues - Fri, 10 to 6
 Saturday, 10-2:30
 Sunday, Closed



USA GRAND NATIONALS

May 23-27 Atlanta, GA
 Competitions & workshops
 \$35,000 in prizes. Two swing ballrooms. 3 day pass..\$80
 (770) 512-7848 or http://www.gndcatlanta.com/
 Renaissance Waverly Hotel
 (888) 559-5671

DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIP

June 14-16 Chicago, IL
 Dancing & competitions.
 Phone: 773-267-3411
 http://www.chicagocrystalball.com/
 E-mail: info@chicagodance.com

GREATER PHOENIX SWING DANCE CONVENTION

July 3-7 Scottsdale, AZ
 Workshops, dancing & competitions. 800-242-2635
 http://gpsdc.org/

AMBER HOUSE DANCES

- **May 12 Country Dance**
- DJ Smiley Al. \$6. \$2 discount for food for MSDA members
- 3 PM lesson, 4-7 PM dance
- 586-754-3434
- **May 26 Strictly Disco Dance**
- Lesson 3 PM, Dance 4 PM

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

July 4-6 Chicago, IL
 Dancing & workshops
 3 day pass..\$60
 SW, WC, LDY, Shag, HU
 http://www.jitterbugchicago.com/page4.html
 Radisson Hotel O'Hare
 708-456-6000

NEW ORLEANS DANCE MARDI GRAS

July 17-22 New Orleans, LA
 Fairmont Hotel
 Competitions, workshops and Masquerade Ball
 Various packages available
 318-978-6226
 dancemardigras@aol.com

SWING FLING

Aug 2-4 Washington, DC
 Competitions & workshops
 \$10,000 in prizes. Gold weekend pass..\$125
 505-286-8646 or http://www.swingfling.com/swingfling/
 Sheraton Premiere Hotel
 800-572-7666

2002 VIRGINIA STATE OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 19-22 McLean, VA
 9 DJ's, 40 workshops, J & J's, all types of swing dancing.
 Contact Hutch at 703-698-9811 or crhutch@erols.com
 http://www.potomacswing.com

I have a few tickets for this event. Contact Sharon Nelson at sharon@sfnelson.com for more information.



DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS



THE DANCE CLUB classes begin each month at the Amber House in Warren. Schedule:

http://amberhouse-danceclub.com/class_schedule.htm. Private lessons available. Mambo, Hustle, ChaCha - Tango - Waltz - FoxTrot - Swing - West Coast. Huge Dance Floor! Amber House, 7012 E. Nine Mile Road (Just W. of VanDyke) Warren, MI. 586-754-3434

AMBER HOUSE also offers Tuesday lessons with Tim Constant. 7:30 to 8:30 PM for Int to Adv ECS. FMI: Call 586-754-3434. **New classes starting soon!** Contact Tim at ninmiller@hotmail.com

STARDUST DANCE STUDIO

Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members for their Friday night parties! Friday Night Dance Parties 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM. **Mother's Day Special Ladies Free** at our Friday Night Dance Party **May 10th!** FMI: 248-356-5678. See attached class schedule. <http://stardustballroom.com>

ROYAL OAK ARTHUR MURRAY

Friday night parties. 9:15 -10:45 PM. \$5. **Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members.** RHYTHM DANCE PARTY Saturday, May 11th, 8:30 — 11:00 PM. \$10.00 Per Person (Includes Refreshments) **\$2.00 Discounts given to MSDA members.** 811 North Main Street, Royal Oak. FMI: 248-548-4770

TROY DANCE STUDIO

They offer MSDA members \$1.00 discount on every event. They hold scheduled Theme Parties on Tuesdays. NEW STUDIO: FMI: Elaine Marrero, TDS. 248-689-3393.

TROY DANCE STUDIO WEST

6750 Orchard Lk. Rd., W.B. 248-538-4343. ElaineMarrero@iwon.com <http://troydancestudio.com>

DANCESPORT ACADEMY OF MICHIGAN

23666 Park, Dearborn, MI 48124 313-724-3262. The studio has Friday night open dances, \$8. Sat night dances are \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.** <http://www.dancesportacademy.com/>

DANCE ALERT

Want to receive the latest e-mail news on dance related events in Michigan? Want to know where the hottest dance floors are? To subscribe **free** to all the latest dance news, visit her website at:

<http://dancemichigan.com>.

Instructors, DJ's, Bands and Event Coordinators may advertise for free. You can print out a huge list of area dance floors or check out the Information Station at the monthly dance for her list.

RHYTHM N' SHOES DANCE STUDIO

\$1.00 discount to MSDA members on Thursday night dances. 8:30 to 10:30 PM. DJ..Suzie Brecht. 2172 Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills. 284-334-0299. RhythmNShoes@aol.com. See attached schedule.

DELIZ DANCESPORT

231 Eureka Road, Wyandotte, MI 48192 734 -281-1969. M-F, 1pm-10pm, Sat. by appt. 734-281-1969 or delizdance@aol.com

ARGENTINE TANGO DETROIT

7758 Auburn Road, Utica FMI: 810-254-0560

An instructor from Deliz DanceSport is teaching Salsa & Swing on Mondays!

NEW: Argentine Tango Tuesday evenings located at: SKY CLUB

GRAND OPENING May 14th

Open at 7:00, Free Lesson at 8:00

Hosted by Lori Burton. Sky Club is above Sangrias in downtown Royal Oak across from the Royal Oak theater. **\$1.00 off all events to MSDA members.** LnBrtn@compser.net

<http://www.argentinatangodetroit.com>

NEW STUDIO IN TOWN!!!

DANCE ELITE BALLROOM STUDIO

6315 Haggerty, just north of Maple (15 Mile) in Bloomfield Avenue Shoppes II, W.B. American and International Ballroom Dancing. Group and private lessons for all ages. Competitive dance coaching. Proprietors: Tina Wood, R.N. and Maros Reves, Professional Dance Instructor. 248-229-4979. **GRAND OPENING** in June. **\$1.00 discount to MSDA members.** See attached flyer.

PERSONAL TRAINER

Muscle toning, strength & balance training to increase your dance endurance & poise. At your gym. **10% discount per session to MSDA members for first 5 training hours.** Madelyn Kleitch, ACE certified. 313-882-5422.

COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Meagan Woodbury, MSDA member, is the lady to contact if you are a male dancer between 40 - 70, & you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on cruise ships. Meagan works for Loretta Blake & has been interviewer, trainer & tester for MI; Ca; Oh. areas 10 years. **\$5 discount for MSDA members.** (313) 886 -9394.

BE A JACKPOT WINNER!

REMEMBER THE 50/50 RAFFLE.

At each party, you can buy an arm's length worth of tickets for \$5.00. The raffle drawing is usually around 6 PM. Anyone can enter. You must be present to win.

•••••

REMINDER: Show your **MSDA** card at GLSDC and MSSHD dances to **get in at their member prices** Just show your card and save. The GLSDC schedule is at: <http://danceaway.com/GLSDC/calendar.html>. They have a club dance every Wednesday in Flint. MSSHD is on the 2nd Sunday of the month : bbudzyn@comcast.net <http://www.michiganswing.com/>

NEWS ABOUT CINCINNATI

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. The tickets have gone on sale for the Fall Convention by the Cincinnati Bop Club. **ONLY \$35 FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND!!** The dates are November 6-10. Please check out the attached flyer and order your tickets now because they go fast and there is a limit on the number sold. You need to get a confirmation code from the Bop Association before you can reserve a room. Last year we had over 60 members attend and It was TOO MUCH FUN. Call Paul Hennessey if you have questions. 1-513-697-6351

**GUEST INSTRUCTOR
KEVIN COLLINS**

Kevin Collins has taught privately, provided consultation to groups and individuals for over 20 years, and has choreographed for fund-raising events, and other social galas occurring in and around the City. About 8 years ago, Kevin Collins had the vision to assemble a group of exceptional dancers who would preserve and promote Detroit social dance styles. His style is high-energy, but smooth, with hints of tap dancing footwork. He was educated in Detroit's public school system and now instructs ballroom dancing to students throughout the Detroit Public Schools. Just about every day of the week you can find him teaching children or adults his many dance styles and techniques. His adult classes are taught at 17500 Northland Park Court in Southfield on Monday nights; on Wednesday and Saturday he is in downtown Detroit at the Coleman Young Recreation Center and on Thursdays he's found at the Yorkshire Dance Studio at 16641 E. Warren on Detroit's east side. In addition to many other awards, he and Pamela Woods are the winners of the 1999 and 2000 Motor City Ballroom Dance Contest.



More photos from Vicki's going away party....probably the biggest Pass and Catch hustle of all time!



Kevin Collins teaching the Reverse Turn



SITE OF THE MONTH
<http://lynchs.com/>

One of our long time vendors goes online. Lynch's carries dance related items, including dance skating, trim, theatrical make-up, costumes for seasonal activities and much more. You can even place an order online.

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION
SHARON NELSON
2152 SHANKIN
WOLVERINE LAKE, MI 48390
<http://msda.org>
sharon@sfnelson.com



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,
MAY 19, 2002!!

