

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
October 2017



October 1, 2017

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

Attached is the October issue of the Dance Whispers, “The Convention Issue”. Congratulations to State Queen Svetlana Gites and the Golden Gate Chapter for an absolutely wonderful dancing weekend. When Sandy and I arrived on Thursday afternoon we ran into Amy and Dan Ansaldi, the convention organizers, and asked what we could do to help. Their reply was that, “we are their guests and our job was to have fun.” And that we did thanks for the hard work of Golden Gate members under the visionary guidance of Amy and Dan. Thank You!

Be sure to check out pages 4-5 to see all our competition winners and photos.

Did you know that one of our members is a 3 time gold medalist in the 2017 FINA World Master’s Swimming Championships? He also won some NSD dance competition trophies this year too! If you’re curious as to who amongst us achieved such an incredible feat, turn to page 7 and read all about it.

San Fernando Valley Chapter will be trying something new this year for their coronation. You can find out the details on page 8.

On page 9 you can get a glimpse into what the last night with the Gavel Club trophy is like.

Have you ever wondered what happens when housekeeping finds 4 whips and 2 tiger outfits laid out in a hotel room? Well, if you want to know check out page 10...really... this stuff can’t be made up!

As we start heading into the holidays there is plenty of dancing ahead of us. I hope to see you at Palomar’s Coronation on October 7th and San Fernando Valley’s 2-day Dance/ Coronation event November 11-12, and Los Angeles Chapter’s Coronation on January 20th, 2018. Flyers for all of these can be found at the end of this Dance Whispers issue.

Never Stop Dancing,
Tom Wells

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
October 2017



VIVA LAS VEGAS! 2017 NSD State Convention Recap

While we promised that “What Happened in Vegas Would Stay in Vegas”, we hope you won’t mind if we recap a bit of the incredible weekend that was the 2017 NSD State Convention!



Elvis: Chuck Talmadge

Friday evening we kicked off our “Stars Come Out at Night” event with an extravagant buffet, followed by an evening of dancing and fun, full of showgirls, celebrity look alike and lots of Elvis hip action. Have you ever seen so many celebrities come out of one limousine? It was a super stretch indeed! We hope you took advantage of the photo booth outside the ballroom to capture some fun memories. We also held the very first NSD Same Sex Competition, which was won by Mike Cowlshaw from Palomar and Brian Yip from San Fernando Valley. Congratulations to you both! We are also very appreciative to

Mike Cowlshaw for acting as DJ on Friday night, and keeping you all dancing. Thank you, Mike! We ended the evening with hospitality graciously hosted by the Fresno chapter.



“Stars Come Out At Night” Opening Show

Saturday, the day started with official business in the form of meetings and some opportunities to learn new dance techniques and movements with two seminars taught by the

incredible Chelsea Farrah and Eric Kopkte. Our past and current Presidents attended the Gavel Club Luncheon.

When it was time for the afternoon dance, everyone came dressed in their finest white attire as we headed to the “Chapel of Love”. It was wonderful to look around the room and see so many people dressed head to toe in white. Our own Formation Team kicked the afternoon off with an exhibition



Golden Gate Formation Team

performance featuring our favorite couple Joe and Elena Malta getting married yet again. This afternoon also marked the official start of competitions, and we were so impressed with the participation as well as the dancing. We also got our first taste of the Formation Team Competition. All of the hard work each team put into their routines showed in spades!



Showgirl Honor Guard

Saturday evening, our Showgirl Honor Guard, made up of past Golden Gate Queens started off the Coronation procession as we crowned our new State Queen Svetalana Gites. It was an evening of high glamour with showgirl head centerpieces created by Patrick Jude, that would rival those at any star studded affair, and our State Queen was framed by



Royal Court (L-R) Vlad Gites, New State Queen Svetlana Gites, Son, Boris Gites, Grandson, Kayden Mishell Gites, Daughter-in law, Lauren Gites



Janice and Peter Imperial

a backdrop of the Bellagio fountains. State Queen Svetlana and her husband and escort Vlad Gites danced an elegant tango that they had been working on for months. Their honor dance was performed by Vlad's cousin and wife, Vadim and Oxana Raskin, who travelled all the way from Moscow to be a part of this special day. Following the ceremony, we enjoyed a delicious three course meal, and then danced the night away. Throughout the evening we enjoyed additional competitions,



Eric Koptke and Chelsea Farrah

and a four dance showcase exquisitely danced by Chelsea Farrah and Eric Koptke, followed by hospitality, generously hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter.

Sunday morning, the Delegates meeting kicked off the day. More dance seminars followed, and attendees had the opportunity to participate in rumba and cha cha lessons taught by our incredible Latin professionals, Tytus Bergstrom and LiWen Ang. Late morning,



Queen of Hearts Crown Circle Luncheon (R-L) Queen Amy Ansaldi, Past State Queen Susan Johnson, New State Queen Svetlana Gites, Queen Rita Parma, Queen Sue Robinson, Queen Elena Malta

our Queens again took center stage at the "Queen of Hearts" Crown Circle Luncheon, honoring our new State Queen Svetlana, and bidding farewell to outgoing State Queen Susan Johnson, of Los Angeles. Fifty Six Queens attended this fantastic event. That is a lot of Girl Power in one room!

Sunday afternoon we set our watches for Swing Time, "Sin City Swing" and Peter and Janice Imperial kicked off the afternoon dance with a high energy swing routine set to "Rock Around the Clock". From there the dancing didn't stop,

as additional competitions took place, along with Round Two of our Formation Team competition. It was great to see so many incredible routines, and fantastic participation from our sister chapters.

Sunday evening, as darkness fell, we were entertained by the Master of Magic and Illusion, Vladislav the Magnificent, and his assistant, the Glamorous Gabrielle. After a couple of wild cats broke free, the

incomparable Siegfried and Roy came out of retirement to restore order. It was indeed a magical affair, as we held our final competitions of the weekend, and drew our lucky raffle winners. Was it an illusion, or did Rachel Seward of San Fernando Valley really win two weekend stays at Marriott properties? That was incredible; talk about feeling lucky! The evening ended on a fiery note with a spicy four dance showcase by our pros Tytus and LiWen, followed by one last opportunity to enjoy hospitality, provided by our gracious hosts, the San Fernando Valley Chapter.

Monday morning, we took our tired feet to the ballroom for one last farewell, and a sneak peek of Fresno's 2018 Convention plans. They took us on a whirlwind tour of New York and introduced us to all the fun in store for us over Labor Day Weekend 2018. Following a delicious breakfast buffet the



2017 Gavel Club Award Recipient Carla Hartunian

recipient of the 2017 Gavel Club Award, Carla Hartunian from Fresno, was announced. Carla is a source of friendship and helpfulness to all of NSD and well deserving of this high honor. Congratulations Carla! We also learned the results of the competitions, as our winners were awarded their trophies, and the accompanying bragging rights.

Congratulations to all of you who took home a trophy. Congratulations as well to

Palomar, Bakersfield, San Diego, Visalia, and our Formation Team Competition Winner, San Fernando Valley, for putting on some incredibly entertaining routines for the enjoyment of all of us!

We are so fortunate to have an incredible group of talented, dedicated, energetic, enthusiastic, creative, wonderful, hard working people who make up the Golden Gate Chapter! Each of our members made a contribution to the weekend, and rose to every occasion to help us deliver an event that was truly spectacular. Thank you to all of you who gave so willingly of

your time, talents, and resources. We could not have put on this event without the contributions that each of you made, and we would not have wanted to. You are a family to us! Thank you for indulging all of our crazy ideas, and working so hard to help us turn them into a reality.

Thank you to all of our Sister Chapters for turning up in force to our event. Your presence and participation was the cherry on top of the weekend for us. The Queens, and their escorts, the officers, the competitors, the Formation Teams, the first time attendees, the many time attendees, the dance hosts, and everyone in between...you made the weekend special by showing up, by dressing up, by participating. It was great to see the dance floor packed with people who were having a great time.

We are looking forward to the 2018 Convention and are ready to take a bite out of the Big Apple!

-Amy and Dan Ansaldi
2017 Convention Co-Chairs



When I left my house at 11 AM on Friday, September 1st, my car registered an outside temperature of 96F. I thought it is time to get a new car – 96F one block from the cold Pacific Ocean, that cannot be right! Little did I know that an all time high record was broken later that day, and the temperature

rose to whopping 100 degrees near the ocean!

Inside the beautiful Waterfront Marriott in Burlingame last minute preparations were underway. The members of our chapter worked tirelessly on many tasks at the same time trying to solve all unsolvable problems and fix all seemingly unfixable things.

Friday evening was enjoyable (despite the failing air-conditioning - I don't think Marriott Burlingame had ever expected such high temperatures) with superb food, competitions and general dancing. For the first time in the history of NSD we had a same sex dance competition, which was so interesting to watch. The competitors did not just dance, but had fun as well. I hope everyone had a good time, I certainly had. Our "stars" came out of the limo and went on to dance with all the guests. I think every Golden Gate chapter member was either a celebrity or a showgirl on that night.

I can't say enough about the decorations! They went beyond my wildest dreams!

Saturday started off with the white party and our team performance. I was in awe of the decorations – Ken and Barbie wedding couples – each one in different style hand-made dress and tuxedo.

And then the coronation... I had not anticipated such grandeur. I am forever in debt to our Golden Gate chapter Queens that were my honor guards – so unexpected! I was a bit nervous before my dance, but I should not have been. My crown bearer, my little grandson Kayden, stole the show. He was so well behaved and

quiet that I had to look several times to ensure he was there. The honor dance, a beautiful waltz, was performed by Vlad's cousin Vadim and his wife Oxana. They flew from Moscow specifically to take part in our convention, and their dance brought tears to my eyes. They only started dancing two years ago after our son's wedding. But, boy have they progressed!

Dinner was exceptional, and I hope everybody enjoyed the food and decorations.

Our professional couple, Eric Koptke and Chelsea Farrah were so graceful in their performance, that I wish I could paint. If I could, I would be able to draw them as they were dancing, to catch this magical moment, to catch this incredible movement.

Sunday started with Crown Circle Lunch. All the Queens (past and present) were thoroughly entertained by a real magician. The room was decorated in red, black and white with gold accents following the Queen-of-Hearts theme. Everything was made for you to feel positively royal (at least for a few hours).

Overall it was a more relaxed day, but filled with more competitions and more dancing. And more friendly team performances. And magic was in the air.

Tytus and LiWen's performance was so different, unusual, and beautiful!

But all good things come to an end. So, did our 2017 Dance convention

I hope all the guests had a wonderful weekend.

I want to thank all the members of Golden Gate chapter who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this fun and memorable affair. Those who created the decorations, those who helped assemble and disassemble them. Those who made all our guests feel welcome, and those who conceived the idea, the theme, and brought it to fruition. I can't list all the names (that would be our chapter's roster), but I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Keep dancing, keep laughing, and see you all on the next event,
-Queen Svetlana.



Thank you all for attending 2017 Convention and State Queen Coronation Sept 1 - 4 in San Francisco! It was so much fun hosting our sister chapters and getting to know you! BTW, sorry about the weather, but then, I wasn't in charge of weather!

If I start naming people who were significant for this event, I know I'll leave someone out, so I'll just say, we have amazing members and I'm proud to be GG's Chapter Queen. (Nod to Dan, Amy, Patrick!)

So excited...I'll be traveling with STATE QUEEN Svetlana Gites & her husband, Vlad to your upcoming chapter coronations and are we going to have fun! Note to Susan Johnson: Didn't we have fun getting on the Queen Mum's nerves at rehearsal? Love you!

-GG Chapter Queen Vera Harvey



Dance Competition Results



Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Senior Waltz	Patrick Jude & Marcia Nelson Golden Gate	Boris & Shulamit Rabinovich Golden Gate	Duane & Donna Thornton Palomar
Senior Rumba	George Plante & Christiane Lannes Palomar	Don Hubbard & Stella Kanterakis Palomar	Boris & Shulamit Rabinovich Golden Gate
Senior Cha Cha	Patrick Jude & Marcia Nelson Golden Gate	Don Hubbard & Darlene Drury Palomar	Jesus & Antonia Quinene Palomar
One Star American Smooth	Patrick and Latiffah McGinness San Diego	Elliot and Linda Lum Palomar	Jack and Marilee Ragland Palomar
One Star Int'l Standard	Patrick and Latiffah McGinness San Diego	Robert Quan & Frances Solano Los Angeles	Jack and Marilee Ragland Palomar
One Star American Rhythm	Jeff Hudson & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	David Morgan & Linda Bennet Fresno	Patrick and Latiffah McGinness San Diego
One Star Int'l Latin (Non- Sanctioned)	Jeff Hudson & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	Danny Caraza - Guest Penny Elliot - Palomar	Jack and Marilee Ragland Palomar
Two Star American Smooth	Mike Cowlshaw - Palomar Gabrielle von Stephens - Golden Gate	John and Leanne Wong San Fernando Valley	Joseph Hidalgo & Deanna Stanton San Fernando Valley
Two Star Int'l Standard	Frank Lacson & Jennifer Etheridge San Diego	Mike Cowlshaw - Palomar Gabrielle von Stephens - Golden Gate	Peter and Janice Imperial Golden Gate



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



1st - One Star Latin



2nd - One Star Latin



3rd - One Star Latin



1st - Two Star Smooth



2nd - Two Star Smooth



3rd - Two Star Smooth



1st - Two Star Standard



2nd - Two Star Standard



3rd - Two Star Standard



Dance Competition Results



Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Two Star American Rhythm	Jeff Hudson & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	David Morgan & Linda Bennet Fresno	Patrick and Latiffah McGinness San Diego
Two Star Int'l Latin	Frank Lacson & Jennifer Etheridge San Diego	Jeff Hudson & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	Peter and Janice Imperial Golden Gate
Three Star American Smooth	Ben and Wendy Wilson Bakersfield	Mike Cowlishaw - Palomar Gabrielle von Stephens - Golden Gate	Joseph Hidalgo & Deanna Stanton San Fernando Valley
Three Star Int'l Standard	Peter and Janice Imperial Golden Gate	Frank Lacson & Ann Vutisaksatit San Diego	Len & Pam Eng San Diego
Three Star American Rhythm	Jeff Hudson & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	David Morgan & Linda Bennet Fresno
Three Star Int'l Latin	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Frank Lacson & Jennifer Etheridge San Diego	Len & Pam Eng San Diego
Four Star American Smooth	Frank Lacson & Jennifer Etheridge San Diego	Shane & Myra Nielsen Visalia	Joseph Hidalgo & Deanna Stanton San Fernando Valley
Four Star American Rhythm	Frank Lacson & Jennifer Etheridge San Diego	Jeff Hudson & Ji Kenworthy San Diego	Peter and Janice Imperial Golden Gate



1st - Two Star Rhythm 2nd - Two Star Rhythm 3rd - Two Star Rhythm



1st - Two Star Latin 2nd - Two Star Latin 3rd - Two Star Latin



1st - Three Star Smooth 2nd - Three Star Smooth 3rd - Three Star Smooth



1st - Three Star Standard 2nd - Three Star Standard 3rd - Three Star Standard



1st - Three Star Rhythm 2nd - Three Star Rhythm 3rd - Three Star Rhythm



1st - Three Star Latin 2nd - Three Star Latin 3rd - Three Star Latin



1st - Four Star Smooth 2nd - Four Star Smooth 3rd - Four Star Smooth



1st - Four Star Rhythm 2nd - Four Star Rhythm 3rd - Four Star Rhythm

Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



I think what happened in “that Vegas”, will definitely not stay in “That Vegas”, as everyone is either still talking about it , or still recovering from it.

those showgirl heads, and so many other things. And Chuck Talmage who made Amy’s dream of the limousine came true. We are blessed that our chapter has so much talent and so many people willing to work, thank you to all!!

We also loved Fresno’s presentation of next year’s theme ”New York”, especially Lynn Sanders’ and James Kleinrath’s dance. Can hardly wait till next labor day.

In tooting our own horn, I would like to list all the awesome wins our members scored in the competitions:



What a show it was. You will probably hear from several of our members on their take of the event, including our Queen Vera and the Chairs of the event, awesome Amy and Dan Ansaldi, who’s vision came true, thanks to the tireless talent of all of our members.

Patrick Jude, who surely had issues with his hands after crocheting all those Barbie wedding dresses and making all



Patrick Jude and Marcia Nelson took first place in the senior Senior Waltz and Senior Cha Cha.

Boris and Shulamit Rabinovich came in second. They also placed 3rd in the Senior Rumba.

Mike Caulshaw and Gabrielle von Stephens came in 1st in 2-Star American, and 2nd in 3-Star American and 2-Star Standard, after practicing only 3 times. Mike also placed 1st in Same Sex West coast with Brian Yip of San Fernando Valley.

Gabrielle also took second place in the Jack and Jill Waltz with Les Forare.

In 3-Star American Rhythm Igor and Nadia Tillinin came in 2nd place and in 3-Star Intl. Latin they placed in 1st place.

Janice and Peter Imperial took 3rd place in Intl. Standard 2-Star, 1st place in Intl 3-Star. 3rd place in American Rhythm 1-Star, 3rd in 2-Star, 3rd in Intl Latin 4-Star.

Bill Hage came back from a Princess Cruise to Alaska with his niece, where he encountered horrible weather, with rain and drizzle and consequently contracted pneumonia. He is still at a rehabilitation place in Pacifica, but now recovering well. Call me if you need the address for cards or visits. We wish him the best.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



A word from PSD President Fred Deutsch: “Palomar had great time at Convention 2017! I am taking this opportunity to express how proud I am of Palomar Smooth Dancers and the strong support shown by all of our members during our recent NSD Convention hosted by the Golden Gate Chapter. (A stellar event, by the way!) Over 50% of our chapter members attended the convention, which is close to 100% of our truly active membership. Such strong attendance helps build chapter camaraderie and provides newer members with a deeper appreciation of what National Smooth Dancers is all about. It was also a great weekend for renewing old friendships and meeting new friends from our sister chapters.

Our Formation Team’s West Coast Swing routine to Hey, Big Spender went off very well and provided wonderful entertainment for all, thanks to the time and effort put in by Marsha Hanson and Penny Elliot. Palomar had a strong presence in the dance competitions by many of our newer members, in addition to our more seasoned dancers.

Most importantly, for me, was the active participation of our members during the weekend’s events, and the energy and enthusiasm displayed by our members on the dance floor. Thank you to everyone involved for your time, energy, and enthusiastic support of Smooth Dance.”



Palomar’s 2017 Formation Team: (L-R) George & Miriam Mozes, Fred & Geri Deutsch, Tom & Ann Mauro, Frank & Cathy Lombardi, Kelly & Carol Kimmitt, Stella Kanterakis, Jack & Marilee Ragland, Elliott & Queen Linda Lum, Carl Jeffries, Jesus & Antonia Quinene, Mike Cowlshaw & Penny Elliot.

A Queen’s Luncheon in honor of Queen-Elect Miriam Semler was held on Friday, August 4th at The Canyons Restaurant in Carlsbad. An annual event attended by all past Palomar Queens where we give the Queen-Elect special advice to prepare her for her upcoming reign. You can count on a well-prepared reign for Queen-Elect Marion with all the “experienced advice” that was bestowed upon her!



PSD Queen’s Luncheon attendees: (L-R) Queen Debbie, Queen Peggy, Queen Marsha, Queen Sue, Queen Mary, Queen Miriam, Queen-Elect Marion, Queen Geri, Queen Donna, Queen Linda, Queen Kao & Queen Darlene.

Our August Social’s theme of the evening was “Viva Las Vegas” in the spirit of the coming Convention. Activities started with a Rumba lesson taught by Irene and James Friedhof to 55 dancers. Hosts, Jackie Nowack, Mariko Turner, Peter Chang and Sharon and John Taliaferro provided an excellent snack of pizza & salad and desert. The table place settings were especially theme centered, with a high-heeled dress shoe, glitter, cards and dice depicting ‘Las Vegas or Bust’.

The September Social was a popular party with over 100 dancers attending to the theme ‘Fall Leaves.’ Members and guests dressed in Fall fashions and the table settings of leaves and harvest completed the scene. This and refreshments of fresh vegetables and pumpkin pie were provided by hosts Penny Elliot, Hiro Petter, Sui Lyn, Amiel Sharon, Josie Rutledge and Jeane Minsky. Teachers Irina and James Friedhof continued their instruction of the American Rumba to 52 students. Queen-Elect, Marion Semler, preparing for her coming Coronation October 7, performed with her teacher Mark Chapman an elegant Waltz!

The highlight of the evening was the acknowledgement of the Convention trophies won by Palomar Dancers at Convention. A special table, set up by Stella Kanterakis, displayed all the trophies along with a photo she framed of each couple. Stella gave thanks to members who had helped her to progress to a level of a performer in the Formation Team and a dancer in competition.



Stella Kanterakis put together a beautiful display of awards from Convention at the September Social.

Stella, who danced three nights and two days without incident, upon stepping up to receive her second place trophy at the Awards Breakfast, broke her toe! Her partner in competition, Don Hubbard, presented her with a ‘Purple Heart Medal’ for receiving a grievous wound during the performance of duty.

DON HUBBARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By: Debbie Atherton

Special acclaim goes out to 12-year member Don Hubbard! Don won three gold medals at the 2017 FINA World Masters



Don Hubbard accepting one of his three his gold metal in Budapest, Hungary at the FINA World Masters Swimming Championships.

Swimming Championships held in Budapest, Hungary last month. Competing in the 90-94 age group, he won three freestyle races at the 100, 200 and 400 meter distances. Don started competing in the US Masters swimming competition in 1982. These are the first individual Gold’s that Don has won in World competition. In 2008 he won two silvers in Perth Australia in 2008. “It gets easier as you move along” Don said, “I have outlasted most of my competition.” Congratulations Don

San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Rachel Seward



The SFV Smooth Dancers Chapter proudly presents a mini-weekend event of dance, showcases, crowning of a new chapter queen, brunch and fun Saturday, November

11th, and Sunday, November 12th.

A Star-Spangled Coronation & Royal Brunch

Honoring Queen-Elect Deanna Stanton

Sunday, November 12, 2017

La Canada Country Club, 500 Godbey Drive, La Canada - 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The exquisite La Canada Country Club is the elegant venue chosen by our Queen-elect to host her patriotic "Star-Spangled Coronation" with a Hollywood "La La Land" twist.

Ticket Price: \$38.00 includes brunch, coronation event, dancing and showcases, no host champagne bar and music by one of our favorites, Tom Mendola. Attire: Dress to Impress

Registration required by October 31st — (a) Online at <http://www.nsdsv.org/coronation.htm> (b) OR send check payable to SFV Smooth Dancers to: Gee Gee Barden 19740 Pine Valley Way, Porter Ranch, CA 91326

NEWSFLASH - Saturday, November 11, 2017
Hollywood Dance Academy, 6732 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys - 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Be in awe of an evening of dance and professional entertainment featuring the 2017 Blackpool third place winners in the Professional American Smooth event, Max Sinitsa and Tatiana Seliverstova. This wonderful evening's co-host is the owner of Hollywood Dance Academy, Yelena Chsukareva. Cost is \$14 and will include food, wine and lots of dancing.

Information/Questions about the mini weekend contact: Joan Robinson - (818) 951-1516 or email her at joandanceforlife@gmail.com

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at what happened to SFV Smooth Dancers in Vegas because...

What Happens In Vegas...Doesn't Always Stay In Vegas...

First we thank Golden Gate NSD for hosting a convention that like Las Vegas can't be described in just one word.

The SFV Showstoppers in Las Vegas



We loved your enthusiasm for the Viva Las Vegas theme, the outstanding entertainment, showgirls and show gentlemen, and we greatly appreciate all your inspiration and dedication in making this a convention that will be remembered. We were so happy to have been the recipients of all your hard work and talent for those four fun-filled days. SIMPLY SAID, WOW, this convention was adventurous, scenic, and fabulous, just like the real Vegas.

Dancers Take Your Positions - Our dance competitors discovered how to win in Vegas and on the dance floor. John and Leanne Wong took second place in 2-Star American smooth; while Joseph Hidalgo and Deanna Stanton took 3rd place in 2-Star, 3-Star, and 4-Star American Smooth. In the Same Sex Couples WCS Brian Yip and his partner, Mike Cowlshaw (Palomar), were awarded 1st place, while Joan Robinson and her partner, Lynn Sanders (Fresno) took second. Joan also won 3rd place with her partner in the Jack and Jill Waltz.

The BIG Winner - At the conclusion of the convention and the public vote, the name "Winner" was given to SFV's Formation Team for their Tango infusion routine performed to the "Mission Impossible" theme. All of the formation team members deserve great credit for their sustained effort and dedication in creating, perfecting, and presenting an outstanding routine.

Team Leaders: David Moutrey, Choreographer and Teacher; Joan Robinson, Team Leader; Team Members: L to R Michael Spann & Joan Robinson, Barbara Greenlaw & Bill Steeber, Sophia Yong & Brian Yip, Kushan & Niro Kuru, James Baron & Loretta Kalan.

SFV "Mission Impossible" Formation Dance Troop



One of the favorite parts of Vegas — FOOD & DRINK

There's always a line at every club for guests and the Golden Gate Convention Food & Drink Club was no different. Food and drink were enjoyed each night with the SFV chapter hosting the Sunday night hospitality. We gratefully thank Leanne Wong for taking care of all the details.

Los Angeles Chapter

Farewell from your State Queen



I have passed the “torch” to the new State Queen Svetlana Gites from Golden Gate during this year’s convention at the Airport Marriott. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your State Queen this past year—I have been able to assist the new queens at their coronations and renewed previous friendships. Thank you for the honor in representing the LA chapter as State Queen. I do continue to represent this chapter as Chapter Queen until January

2018. There are two more coronations left this year—Palomar and SFV. Sandy Wells will fill in for me at Palomar and my final one will be SFV.

-Susan Johnson, Los Angeles Chapter Queen

Golden Gate convention. Fabulous, wonderful, beautiful and all other wondrous adjectives. This was LA chapter.



(L-R) Alice Mah Miller, Craig Miller, Francy Solano, Robert Quan, Victor Lee, Debby Ku, Vic Herzfeld, Shari Herzfeld, Sandy Wells, Tom Wells, Susan Johnson, Chuck Johnson

We all had such a great time and there were some highs and lows.

First the lows... Tom Wells gave up the Gavel club trophy...tisk, tisk

Tom’s last night with the Gavel Club Award perpetual trophy he received as the 2016 Gavel Club Award recipient was bitter-sweet; sad to give it up, but happy that another deserving smooth dancer would be receiving it. That person is Carla Hartunian.



edited by Sandy Wells

Highs: Robert Quan and Francy Solano placed second in one star international smooth waltz.



Francy Solano and Robert Quan brought home the 2nd place trophy for the 1-Star International Standard competition. Congratulations, we are proud of you!



Club news: Yueh-Shen and Doug Failing attending a Pirate themed Dinner Dance and won second place in the costume contest. I can guess what they will be wearing for our Halloween Party on Oct. 15th.

Judi Van Brocklin has been jet setting around Italy...Cefalu Sicily, Agrigento, Segesta, Mazara, Positano, Amalfi,...and so much more. I am so jealous.



Ken and Marion Scholtz recently attended the Santa Monica Oceanaires Ice Cream Social and Western Music celebration. Ken performs regularly with the Oceanaires; a men’s a cappella chorus.

San Diego Chapter

edited by Frank Lacson



Law & Order: Murphy's Edition

Written by Anthony Wood, captions and photos by Frank Lacson

For those who have participated or attended a National Smooth Dancers' Convention, all the events and dances the entire weekend seem to be part of a very well-orchestrated plan. The seamless transitions from one event to the other never seems to be plagued by problems.

But, not all is as it appears.....

The San Diego Smooth Dancers had entered the Team competition and their routine required several props as part of our performance.

Upon arriving at the hotel on Wednesday, the piano prop, which was to be stored safely in my room, got stuck in the elevator doors and required security and management to get it extracted from its perilous state. This now had me on the hotel manager's "problem guest" list.

The next morning, while up in my room, I had unwrapped two new bull whips that we use in our performance routine. Because they were tightly wound from the packing and shipping, I decided to uncurl them by hanging them in the shower and letting the steam relax the leather – much the same as taking wrinkles out of clothes. The old whips I had left stretched out across the bed along with the "Tiger" outfits that Shirley McCloskey and Cindy Perry were to wear as part of the routine.

Just a typical room with 2 whips hanging in the shower, 2 whips draped across the bed and 2 tiger outfits. I then left for a day sightseeing.

That's when Housekeeping entered my room.



Exhibit A: A sighting of one of the bullwhips, wielded by President Shirley McCloskey (L) as Queen Liz Tarnove / Siegfried and/or Roy (R) runs for her life. Sources on the street say the whip is named "Robert's Rules of Order".

The series of events that occurred next has the makings of a very bad comedy movie.

Apparently, being a little shocked at what they saw in my room, Housekeeping called their supervisors and refused to enter the room again. The supervisor called my mobile phone, which was listed on file, and ask if I could return to the hotel because Housekeeping had encountered a "problem" in my

room.

Waiting for me, when I arrived back to the hotel, was the same supervisor who had to deal with the piano that got jammed in the elevator. As soon as he saw and recognized me, I saw him rolling his eyes. I believe, at that moment, he knew this was not going to be an ordinary weekend at the hotel.

Their first question to me was, "Mr. Wood. Is there, possibly, something that you need to tell us about what's going on in your room?"



Exhibit B: Mr. Anthony Wood (C) directing some sort of choreographed routine, while posing in a manner that portrays plausible deniability. [Editor's note: Mr. Wood is there, possibly, something that you need to tell us about what's going on during Sundays at 6 pm in August?]

After explaining that all the items in the room were props for a performance he just shook his head in total disbelief and sent me on my way.

I wish that the story ended there. It was only Thursday morning. Housekeeping refused to enter my room, as they have a right to do when there is concern for their safety, until the weekend shift arrived on Saturday. By Saturday afternoon I finally had clean sheets, towels and a freshened room.



Exhibit C: All is well, yet some mysteries remain unsolved as presumably missing Chuck DiSessa Presley (L) dances with Pirate Queen Liz Tarnove (R).

It was a very good thing that we were not doing the Bo Peep and Sheep routine, too. Had the Bo Peep, sheep and wolf costumes items been part of the arsenal of props in my hotel room, Kay Ryan may have had to bail me out of jail.

Bakersfield Chapter

I want to start this newsletter by thanking Golden Gate for a fantastic state convention. From start to finish it was a first-rate effort!



The team dancers were really entertaining to watch and the professionals, Chelsea Farrah and Eric Koptke were wonderful to see as were Tytus Bergstrom and LiWen Ang. Watching the pros is always my favorite part of any convention; and this year was no exception!



(Left) Ben and Wendy Wilson accept their trophy for first place in the 3 Star American Smooth competition.



(Right) Kay Boyer and Jack & Jill partner, Josh Tiejfen, took second place in the east coast swing contest

The competitions this year were phenomenal, so many talented people. Our own BEN and WENDY WILSON came away with a first place in their THREE-STAR competition. We are so proud of them! They are a beautiful couple and they represent our chapter so well!

Our Queen-Elect, Kay Boyer won a trophy in a Jack-n-Jill contest for East Coast Swing, nice job!



I want to extend congratulations to our new State Queen, Svetlana Gites, I am so happy for her; I know she will represent Golden State well and make a great State Queen!

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



Congratulations go out to all the competitors that won in their respective divisions and I also want to extend a special congratulation to Carla Hartunian for being chosen for the Gavel Club Award a most prestigious honor!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our October dance is being hosted by Marietta Tan, and the theme is 'SPOOKATULAR'. Here's our chance to dress up in a costume or come as you are! Our Halloween dances are always fun and this should be no exception!

The date is October 28th from 7:00-10:00pm. At Riverview Gymnasium, 401 Willow Dr. Hope to see you there! Remember members are free, and couples are \$25 and singles are \$15.

The November dance hosted by Debbie Cadena is being held on November 18th at our Riverview location 401 Willow Dr.

The theme is "Harvest of Friendship". "We live for the bounties of Fall. But the Harvest of Friendship is Blessed above all."

Note the date, NOVEMBER 18th, a week earlier because of Thanksgiving.

Also coming up our December dance hosted by our Queen Barbara Norcross and the theme is "Come Prance with Me". The date is December 9th, 2017. More details to follow. Mark your calendar as this dance is also earlier in the month!

We will be holding our annual New Year's Eve dance at the Women's Club again this year, but as of the date of this newsletter, I don't know the chairperson who is chairing it.

PAST EVENTS:



September dance committee members (left) Jerry and Chris Conrad and (right) Gail Buckles and Barbara Norcross.

Our September dance was chaired by me, Dorothy Vaughan and I had a wonderful committee to work with. The theme was "Dancing into Fall".

Steve Peterson played our wonderful music. Debbie Cadena created some fantastic decorations for the dance and we were honored to have BEN AND WENDY WILSON dance a fabulous Tango for us!

It was a wonderful dance and I hope everyone who attended had a great time!

Our August dance hosted by JoAnn Georgio was called "A Little Bit of Italy" and it was a lot of fun! The music was spun by Dennis Acosta. JoAnn chose pizza for all of us to eat and it was a great snack!

Fresno Chapter

Fall is here – Woohoo!!!! And it started off with a fantastic Labor Day weekend at Golden Gate’s convention. It was obvious that crew had worked their ☺ off and we were so well treated. THANK YOU! Fresno was well represented, with 21 members and guests attending, and we represented well, coming home with 4 trophies (Lynn’s and Joan Robinson’s 2nd place in Same-Sex West Coast Swing; David’s and Linda’s one-, two- and three-star rhythm competitions) and Carla’s Gavel Club Award!!!! Congratulations, one and all!



(Left) Carla Hartunian was awarded the prestigious Gavel Club Award. (Right) Linda Bennet and David Morgan brought home trophies for 1-Star, 2-Star and 3-Star American Rhythm competitions!

Fresno is hard at work planning for next year’s convention, New York, New York. For those of you who were not at convention, here is our “Save the Date” card!

Fresno Smooth Dancers Presents
The 2018 NSD
State Convention

Save the Date

New York, New York
August 31st - September 3rd
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Fresno

edited by Linda Bennett



We are also enjoying our monthly socials. August took us to a great beach party on the 20th. Jan Mitchell set the scene with fun Luau décor and David Morgan made sure the “beachy” music created ocean breezes—at least in our minds as it was most definitely not tropical outside! Stepping in for Mr. Alex, Miss Mata taught the Cha-Cha. And well, the rest of the story is, you came, we ate, danced, and laughed the afternoon away.

September provided us the perfect opportunity to celebrate Joe Lo Fresno’s 100th BIRTHDAY! Congratulations to Joe for reaching this momentous milestone and for allowing us to celebrate with you! Rei Marquez began the afternoon teaching an East Coast Swing lesson; then we danced and celebrated with cupcakes and photos and, of course, by singing Happy Birthday!

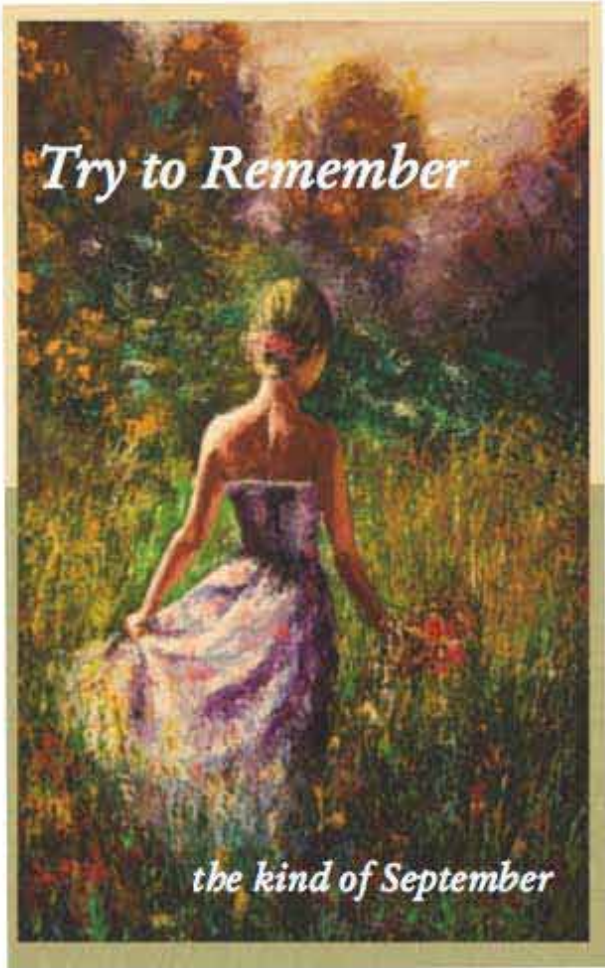


October’s “Spooky” will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017, hosted by Lorraine Tilton. Franco Peraza will teach a scary Rumba lesson at 2:00 p.m., followed by social dancing from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please join us for a hauntingly good time!

November’s event will take us to Paris for I Love Paris in the Fall, on November 19, 2017. David Morgan will host this event, and Alex Pereira will teach us a Foxtrot lesson. (Same time frame as usual, 2:00-5:00 p.m.) Oooh la la!

* * * * *

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. See www.fresnosmoothdancers.org for flyers. We would love to see you there!!



Palomar Smooth Dancers
invite you to the coronation of
Queen-Elect Marion Semler

7th of October 2017

Ocean Hills Country Club
4701 Lesiure Village Way, Oceanside, 92056

Hospitality 2:00pm - 4:00pm

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

Honor Dance: Penny Elliot & Danny Caraza
Entertainment: Peter & Marsha Hanson

Accomodations may be made at TownePlace Suites by Marriott
2201 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 92081 760 216-6010 PSDS \$99.
or online <http://cwp.marriott.com/sanvi/palomarsmoothdancers/>

All are invited to the Queen's Breakfast. Sunday October 8th at 9:00am
Shadow Ridge Golf Club, 1980 Gateway Drive, Vista, CA 92083

And if you remember, then follow... by sending a check made to "Palomar Smooth Dancers".

Mail to: Debbie Atherton-Kincaid, 1835 Logan Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Chapter: _____

#of Dinners _____ @ \$60./each _____

#of Breakfasts _____ @ \$25/each _____

Total _____

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SMOOTH DANCERS invites you to -

A Star Spangled Coronation

HONORING QUEEN-ELECT

Deanna Stanton

*Find Information, Forms and
Purchase Tickets Online at
<http://www.nsdsv.org>*

Saturday, NOVEMBER 11, 2017.

7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Join us for Pro Shows, DANCING, Food & WINE

HOLLYWOOD DANCE ACADEMY

6732 Van Nuys Blvd.

Van Nuys, CA 91405

\$14 per person

Sunday, NOVEMBER 12, 2017.

10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

La Cañada Country Club

5500 Godbey Dr.

La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Pro Show, Coronation Brunch & Dance

\$38 per person

Saturday Hospitality will be at the LaZar home: 4417 Bergamo Drive, Encino, CA 91436.

All That Jazz!



Coronation of Queen Elect Francy Solano

Saturday January 20, 2018

The Glendale Hilton Hotel 100 W. Glenoaks Blvd.

Glendale, CA 91202 818/956/5466

Hospitality 2:30 pm

Reception 6pm, Dinner 7pm

Presentation of Queens 6:30Pm

Dinner and Dance \$65 Black Tie Optional

Breakfast for two included with room.

NSD rate \$129- Self Parking \$10

Please Detach and Mail. RSVP By Jan 15, 2018 to:

Susan Johnson 1420 Santo Domingo Ave, Duarte, CA 91010

Make checks payable to LA NSD Email Staplers@aol.com

Names _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Dinner Choice: Chicken ___ Fish ___ Vegetarian ___ Dinners @\$65 ___

Queen's Breakfast included with room rental