



Dance Masters of America, Inc

National Area Directors Report

July 2023



Attached is a compilation of all seven (7) National Area Directors summary reports per chapter:

2022-2023 National Area Directors' appointed chapters:

Jeanne Cummings.....	8, 10, 25, 47
Jamie Lee Dain.....	2, 6, 36, 46
Courtney Greteman – Taylor.....	13, 18, 33, 44
Michele Rexroad.....	1, 4, 5, 21
Grace Pack.....	3, 34, 38, 40
Maria Whaley.....	15, 17, 35, 37
Diane Yednak.....	16, 26, 27, 28

Jeanne Cummings..... 8, 10, 25, 47

Chapter 8

I didn't get to visit or zoom in on this chapter, but their Secretary Marilyn Caccamise has kept me well informed by sending me minutes and chapter happenings, quickly responding to any emails that I send her.

Chapter 10

Chapter #10 has sent minutes of their meetings including one that I "zoomed " in on. Unfortunately, I couldn't hear too well. Their Treasurer, Diane Yednak, had updated their bylaws and standing rules making my job a lot easier.

Chapter 25

I got to visit this chapter and was able to connect with some long-time members that I hadn't seen in years. What a treat ! Ms. Mary Scout attends their chapter and keeps their Bylaws and Standing Rules updated. Rita Ogden Zeshonski keeps me informed with minutes and other things that I ask for.

Chapter 47

This is one of my long time adopted chapters. I attended their fall weekend and ended filling in on judging auditions. Unfortunately, they had to cancel their Solo Competition and their PASC. Whenever I need a Question answered or something concerning membership, I call Mary Behn Mentzer. Ricci Spriggs keeps me up to date on their minutes, and President Aunica Harvey always includes dates, time, and place of their meetings.

Jamie Lee Dain..... 2, 6, 36, 46

Chapter 2

The year with Chapter 2 has been one of no communication. I sent all of the information and requests for information just as I did the other Cha, pters. There was no response. I then messaged, texted and called the

member listed as president. Again, no response. At that point, I communicated with Advisory that there had been no communication. On March 1st, I received a call from Chapter #2's president who informed me that the chapter was having difficulties due to severe weather (floods, etc). I was told that many members were preoccupied with weather related issues to their homes and/or studios, were caring for relatives with illnesses, or just simply weren't wanting to participate in DMA activities due to recent life events. To my knowledge there were no events held with Chapter #2 this past season. There was no communication after that until I was able to sit down with Chapter #2 delegate at the National Convention. She informed me that there were indeed members wanting to keep the chapter going, even if just in the interim to get them back on track. There was quite a discrepancy in the information gained from the conversation in March and the conversation had at the National Convention.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 is a dream chapter!!! They would often get things to me before I even asked! They were fantastic about responding to inquiries. They were great about sending communication regarding meetings and minutes. There is not much to report, except that they are a strong, efficiently run chapter with a plethora of active members, all willing to chip in and work together for the betterment of their teachers and organization! Though I did not get to visit with Chapter 6 this season, I was able to sit in remotely on a meeting or 2. As I have Chapter 6 this season, I am very excited to get to Louisiana this upcoming year!

Chapter 36

Chapter 36 is in a rebuild. They were great with communication. We started off the year with a Zoom introduction meeting where I was able to meet Alice and Ceylan who are heading the rebuild. Chapter #36 was great with responding to information requests. It did take them some time to get ahold of their by-laws, etc., but these ladies have been very persistent and seem to get things done! They held several meetings with their small membership and truly included everyone in their quest to rebuild. They have been actively seeking out teachers at other conventions and workshops and inviting them to participate in their DMA events. They have been slowly but surely gaining new member prospects throughout the year! They did not hold a PASC, but they did hold a member student showcase. Members were able to enter routines in the showcase and "judges" were present to give feedback and critiques. They are hoping to hold a PASC this upcoming season and are excited about the California Convention. They are hoping to have several member studios in attendance!

Chapter 46

Chapter #46 was slow to communicate at first! But after messaging Chapter #46's president, Dawnell, things picked up. The chapter was good about getting me what was requested, usually after I sent a reminder. But they did get what was required to me. I was able to visit Chapter #46 for their Title Solo competition in Jan. It was lovely to meet everyone. While there, I was able to view the Chapter dynamic. Interestingly, they seem to have some very strong members. At the same time, not all of those members seem to communicate very well with each other. Not sure if they are simply concerned with stepping on each others toes or if there is some competition among the membership. All in all, they are a talented Chapter. My hope for them is that they can find comradery in their membership.

Courtney Greteman – Taylor..... 13, 18, 33, 44

Chapter 13

This chapter is amazing and they definitely have a well-oiled machine out there in sunny California. Communication with Elizabeth was always very quick. They always included me on their minutes, meeting

reminders, general membership emails and it was nice to see how efficient their chapter is at handling their events. I was able to zoom with their board as their May event conflicted for me but I do hope to get the chance to get out there at some point.

Chapter 18

Another solid chapter. Communication isn't as quick at Chapter 13 but they are definitely still at the top when it comes to getting me what I need. They, too, run a very efficient yearly agenda with their meetings and events. They have a lovely camaraderie that I was able to witness when I zoomed into their board meeting. I look forward to being able to talk to them in person in Atlanta. I was able to zoom into their board meeting and grand body as well.

Chapter 33

I was really looking forward to this chapter and hope that if re-elected, I am paired with them again. Reason being is I want to be able to connect with them at Nationals and make personal connections, that way if I am re-elected, my hope is that it will be easier to get the information. The generic email addresses (president@chapter33.com, etc) make it hard to actually connect with anyone. I had luck working with their business manager when it came to getting scores but that was it. Cindy Larsen connected me with Lisa but I haven't heard from her since January when I received their by-laws. I was supposed to attend their February event (which I feel would have also opened a lot of doors for communication) but wasn't cleared to travel after surgery.

Chapter 44

Communication was hit or miss with this chapter. Every now and again, Maegan was very quick at sending information and very appreciative when asking any questions. Other times, I would have to request it multiple times - and sometimes, not receiving anything after multiple attempts. I feel the same with Chapter 44 as I do with Chapter 33. My goal is to make more personal connections with them while in Atlanta.

Michele Rexroad..... 1, 4, 5, 21

Chapter 1

DMPC is a successful chapter with a 'small but mighty' and passionate board that works hard to create well-rounded experiences for their members and students. Their convention, PAC, scholarship and title events had year-over-year growth from the acquisition of new members as well as increased participation from existing members. The chapter's current goals are to continue encouraging more members outside of the board to get involved with committees and overall execution, as well as planning for succession of key roles.

Chapter 4

DMM continues to be a strong and well-organized chapter. With several members of their board in new roles they have done a great job navigating change, building a cohesive executive team, and spending countless hours transitioning their financial activities and records from a paper-based solution to an electronic solution. Their chapter held three successful and well-attended events focused on convention, title, PAC and scholarships.

Chapter 5

DMNE continues to be a strong and well-organized chapter under the leadership of a very cohesive and collaborative board. The chapter has done a great job of maintaining financial health while identifying various

ways to drive energy and engagement for membership. Their three events focused on convention, title, PAC and scholarships were successfully executed and attended.

Chapter 21

Although SLTDA is a small chapter, they are passionately focused on acquiring new membership to further build the organization. The board has done a great job updating documentation to ensure the most relevant information exists for overall governance and execution of competition events. In addition to growing membership, the chapter is also focused on reimagining their events to increase overall reach.

Grace Pack..... 3, 34, 38, 40

Chapter 3

South Texas Association of Dance Teachers

Chapter 3 held two successful events this year starting with with a Convention Weekend November 18-21 and finishing with a Solo Title/PAC Weekend February 17-19. I was able to attend the second weekend in person and am happy to report a thriving well-run, well-attended chapter event. I very much enjoyed their hospitality. I judged Petite and Teen Solo Title as well as 13 and Over PAC. Chapter 3 has a great amount of talent and passion among all involved. I was really impressed by their large Junior Membership Program.

Chapter 3 received quite a few bylaw suggestions this year. They were receptive and are working through the updates.

Chapter 34

Dance Masters of Mid-America

Chapter 34 held two events this year. The first of which was a Convention/Solo Title Weekend October 14-16. The event was very well attended with 198 Convention attendees and 18 Title Contestants. They also held a small in-studio PAC to accommodate for the one studio bringing numbers to nationals.

Chapter 34 is the most communicative and organized of all my chapters. They hold monthly board and grand body meetings. They promptly sent all reports, minutes and communications. If I ask for information, they are the first to get it to me. I was able to attend two meeting virtually and witnessed a great group of people working hard to keep their chapter moving forward. They are already planning for the events next year. After receiving their bylaw suggestions, they immediately jumped on it and made the necessary changes.

Chapter 38

Dance Masters of Canada

Chapter 38 has made such progress this year. This chapter has really struggled with the Covid shutdowns. Canada took longer than the US to open up and it really affected the dance studios and the chapter. This year they held a successful small fall convention on November 6th and then a Solo Title and PAC Weekend March 31-April 2. I was able to attend the latter and was really impressed. While the solo title was small with only 12 contestants, it was beautifully run and the stage presentation was very professional. The PAC was rather large with over 300 entries! I also witnessed a fabulous Junior Membership Program in action. Chapter 38 is working on getting more members actively involved in chapter events (student participation but also member participation) I am happy to say that a few new faces are stepping up.

Chapter 38 is very responsive and always sends me what I need in a timely manner. They received their bylaws suggestions and made all of the necessary changes promptly.

Chapter 40

Dance Masters of the Bluegrass

Chapter 40 held 3 successful events this year! They held a Fall Convention weekend with 323 registered which helped offset the costs of their Solo Title Weekend. This was the first time the chapter rented ballroom space instead of using a member's studio for convention classes. They were very happy with the outcome and the members were pleased. They had 70 Solo Title contestants in January. They also had a quite large PAC weekend March 24-26 with over 350 entries. I was able to jump on a Grand Body and Board Meeting virtually in March. This chapter has gone through quite a bit of change this year with new members holding all of the officer positions. Through my virtual participation and communications, I have witnessed a group of members that are very passionate about Dance Masters and are doing a great job working together to keep this chapter thriving. One highlight worthy mention would be the start of their new junior membership program this year. Quote from the DMB President "It was great to see all of our older dancers join in and help us runner events and competitions. You could tell how much they loved being a part of our organization and seeing how things behind the scenes worked".

Chapter 40 is very receptive and they are working hard on updating their bylaws and rules for years to come.

Maria Whaley..... 15, 17, 35, 37

Chapter 15

Chapter 15 has had another amazing year of growth, education and camaraderie. In October we held our annual Study Session for interested prospective members. Our chapter Junior Membership program has 37 amazing students, who have actively participated in fundraising, manual study sessions, special dance classes, and also performed spectacularly at our 2022 Fall Convention in November. Chapter 15 was honored to host 7 of the 8 National Title holders who joined us at our Fall Convention- to We are excited to have 8 solo title holders representing our chapter in Atlanta this summer. In February, we held our first in-person Winter Workshop and student scholarship audition classes since Covid. Classes were held for Junior and Teen/Senior dancers, Junior Members only classes, and special seminars and dance classes for our Teachers/Members. Rounding out our fantastic season was our Performing Arts Scholarship Competition held in March. We could not be the great chapter we are without the amazing support of its members, family, and friends who help make each of our events a spectacular success!

Chapter 17

In September, Chapter 17 held a successful workshop event at Chris Collins Dance Studio in Alexandria, VA. Students and teachers enjoyed classes taught by Maggie Kudirka, LeeAnne Schwartz, Shayna Crews, Annie Brockey, and Ashley Canterna-Hardy. Membership voted to establish memorial scholarships in the names of Cynthia Krug Wagner and Edna Lee Kuhn, both Chapter 17 members who passed away in 2022. These scholarships will be used for teacher and student financial hardship to attend Chapter 17 events.

Chapter 17 member and 2018 Mr. Dance of America, Sam Buchanan, also announced in September that he was cast as Macavity/Plato for a 9-month contract in the North American tour of Cats. Congratulations to Sam!

Our November workshop event was held in Williamsburg, VA. Students and teachers took class with Andrew Brader, Beth Fagan, Justin Lewis, and Daniel Padierna. Auditions were held for the Tom Waters and Alzine Cuppett scholarships, as well as the El and Bernice Warner scholarship for TTS, and awards were given at our

Sunday luncheon along with membership and service awards. Our junior members performed a ballet piece at the luncheon in honor of member Wally Dashiell, who had recently celebrated her 99th birthday. We also sent Wally 99 roses to commemorate this exciting milestone!

Some exciting personal news: Member Jaimie Kiska gave birth to Axel James Kiska, and Adrienne Canterna, sister of member Ashley Canterna-Hardy, gave birth to Vida Rain, both in December 2022. Much love to our expanding dance families!

Member Studio Updates: Member Ashley Canterna-Hardy opened her new studio, Artistic Movement Academy of Dance, in Glen Burnie, MD. The studio was previously Edna Lee Dance Studio, under the direction of owner Mary Moran. New member Rebecca Reed purchased Just Dance from member Sally Tierney. Best of luck to both of you as new studio owners!

In January, we held our winter workshop and title competition at the Dee Buchanan Studio of Dance and Middletown High School in Middletown, MD. Faculty and judges included Sophie Silnicki, Justin Lewis, Ashley Shaw, Scott Putnam, and Sara Schreiber. Scholarship auditions for our Van Cummings scholarship for the national convention were held on Sunday along with our workshop classes. Our title competition was a great success, and our deserving titleholders are: Miss Dance: Ashley Dougherty, teacher Ashley Canterna-Hardy; Mr. Dance: Justin Kelly, teacher Ashley Canterna-Hardy; Teen Miss Dance: Anami Halo, teacher Ashley Canterna-Hardy; Junior Miss Dance: Gabriella Hardy, teacher Ashley Canterna-Hardy; Junior Mr. Dance: Colton Eckenrode, teacher Dee Buchanan; Petite Miss Dance: Liberty Houldsworth, teacher Dee Buchanan.

Our March PAC was well-attended, and held at Skyline High School in Front Royal, VA. Judges were Danny Venini, Sarah Shaulis, Amanda Welch, and Jen Combest (special awards). We look forward to many of our PAC winners and our current titleholders representing our chapter at this year's national convention in Atlanta, and we wish all our DMA friends well.

Chapter 35

Lone Star Ch #35 held it's annual Competition, Workshop, and Auditions last fall. Even though we pack everything into one weekend, we love to celebrate our dancers, as well as our members. We held a special coronation, complete with crown and banner, to celebrate our 50 year member, Madeline Graves! Lone Star Ch #35 prides itself on our special awards we give our dancers. Trophies and crowns are special, but the most important awards we give are our "Caught you being good" awards. Each member is given buttons to give to performers (not their own) when they see something special happen, be it an act of sportsmanship, kindness, support, encouragement, or just a job well done.

Chapter 37

Chapter 37 held a Board Meeting and Grand Body Meeting in October 2022, and had a successful Spring Workshop, PAC, and Title Competitions in New Orleans, Louisiana in January. Our members have elected to change the name from Dixie Dance Masters to Dixie Association of Dance Teachers.

Diane Yednak..... 16, 26, 27, 28

Chapter 16

Chapter 16 has been a great chapter to work with. This Chapter provided any and all information in a timely and well thought out manner. I had the pleasure of visiting their Chapter in March of this year and was able to attend their board meeting. They work very well together and are considerate of keeping the rules, regulations

and Mission Statement of DMA. Their conventions and competitions are well thought out and everyone does their part to make this an extremely well run Chapter.

Chapter 26

I believe this chapter to be working very hard to make a come back after a devastating few years. I was able to attend a board meeting (via zoom). There was much discussion at this meeting regarding ways to get new members. Many different ideas were presented. They discussed having another convention at the beginning of the year, wherein students would be adjudicated by different members. (Money being a prevailing issue). There were able to have this convention and it is my understanding (via email from Jean) that it was well received. I was also able to email them a copy of the By-Laws (thank you Sean) which they did not have at that time. Sadly, they have not responded to anymore of my requests for information (I have emailed and also called and left messages).

Chapter 27

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend or meet via zoom with this Chapter. I asked many times, but I was told that they never had a quorum. They did return all the information required in a timely manner I think they tried to work things out, it was just never able to materialize. Looking towards the future I think they are working hard to keep the Chapter together. I did speak with Valerie and she advised that she was able to get their numbers up. I think any discussions regarding their membership that Nationals can give them would be appreciated.

Chapter 28

Chapter 28 was another great Chapter to work with. Their information was submitted on time and organized. I was able to attend one of their board meetings (via zoom) in the early part of the year, and I attended their convention in March. They were very welcoming and enthusiastic in their approach to competition. Lots of wonderful talent. All the members work well together to present a top notch competition. The members of this Chapter are well informed and handled themselves in a very professional manner.

Submitted by

Penny Koza-Lemansky

Penny Koza-Lemansky
DMA National President