

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS



June 2005

ABD Hotline: (512) 989-3939

Website: <http://www.austinballroomdancers.org>

Election Edition

The ABD Annual Membership Meeting is next Saturday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. before the dance at the Austin Recreation Center. All members are urged to come. It's a great opportunity to find out what's going on AND cast your vote for new board members. If you won't be able to come to the meeting you can get an absentee ballot from Paul Labuda or Sue Reading at the Hancock Center during class sessions Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

FYI for new members: ABD holds a board election every year, but in the interest of continuity only half of the positions are open in any one election. The current board members are:

President: Paul Labuda

Vice President: Susan Shelton

Treasurer: Lanette Bading

Secretary: Carol (Ainsworth) Wills

Membership Coordinator: (vacant)

Program Coordinator: Margaret Osborne

Publicity Coordinator: Sue Reading

To help our membership get to know the folks running for the open Board positions, we asked for brief letters from each Candidate. Their responses are below. Please remember to attend the Annual Membership Meeting June 25th to cast your vote! Please check

www.austinballroomdancers.org/amendedByLaws.shtml, Section 3.8 for descriptions of the offices.

Vice President: Susan Shelton

My name is Susan Shelton, and I am running for a second term as Vice President. In my current term, I have worked to reach out to other dance organizations and instigated our first affiliate program with the Austin Swing Syndicate. I would like to encourage the membership to participate in this outreach. I believe we have a great opportunity to bring new people to ABD with the recent popularity of a nationally broadcast TV show about

ballroom dancing, and the upcoming release of a documentary film about pre-teens learning how to ballroom dance. I want prospective members to discover what a joy ballroom dance is, both socially and physically. I want them to see what a fantastic organization ABD is, and how much we have to offer!

Program Director: Margaret Osborne

My name is Margaret Osborne and I am running for Program Director in this election. Last December, I was asked to take over the position when the previous Program Director resigned. I have really enjoyed the job and, through it, getting to know many more fellow ABD members.

We have a wonderful and unique organization, which offers first class social ballroom lessons to rival any school in the U.S. The Board is encouraging all age groups to join us so that we, as a club, can grow. As a member of the Board, I am committed to the goal of keeping our lessons and dances enjoyable and fun experiences.

Membership Coordinator: Lanette Bading

This is to express my interest in the position on the Board of ABD as Membership Coordinator. I have been a member of ABD since about 1983, and have volunteered my services in numerous capacities. A number of years ago, the board requested a review of the books and records, which I performed without charge. At the board's request I then prepared the club's tax return since for many years an outside accountant had been paid for this service. I did so without pay and have done so annually since the 1999 tax year, saving the club several thousand dollars. The board asked me to become Treasurer, and I have served in that capacity since late 2000. During that time, in addition to the cost savings in outside accounting fees, I renegotiated contracts for the club's insurance, which reduced our insurance costs and increased our coverage. I recommended a reduction

in member dues which was approved, providing members an incentive for longer-term membership.

I am devoted to the objectives of ABD. I believe my long-term membership and experience as Treasurer will bring a history and continuity, since five of the other six board members (besides me) have been serving less than one year. Existing board members frequently ask me for assistance in handling issues which are unfamiliar to them. For example, when the Program Coordinator resigned, I handled some of those functions, and familiarized the new volunteer on the coordination with Hancock Recreation Center for the closeout of class fees and reimbursement from the City. As Treasurer, I obviously dealt extensively with member dues. I previously handled an Access database of membership for another tax-exempt organization with about 600-700 members, and feel confident I can perform the duties of Membership Coordinator.

A board position requires service not only in the functions of the specific position, but also general service. In addition to the many hours devoted to the financial responsibilities as Treasurer, I have attended most classes and dances, helped with preparation of class invoices with HRC, handled membership applications and receipts, helped setup and teardown at dances, etc. The ABD hotline is also in my home, and I handle many calls on a daily basis.

I would look forward to continuing to serve ABD in a board position, and wish to submit my request for consideration as Membership Coordinator.

Membership Coordinator: Charlotte Lapham

As stated in the Membership Coordinator description in the Austin Ballroom Dancers'

Austin Ballroom Dancers
P.O. Box 4571
Austin, TX 78765

Bylaws, I plan to maintain the current membership list with my knowledge of the Microsoft Access software (I have sixteen hours (16) of Access Database Training and eight hours (8) of FileMaker Pro Database training through The University of Texas continuing education). As an Information Technology Professional, I have sixteen years of software experience and my knowledge of these database applications will enable me to not only maintain and update the current membership information, but also create detailed reports for Austin Ballroom Dancers' Board review.

I will be a Team Member, providing full support to the Austin Ballroom Board Members and ABD Members, with my major objective being that of increasing the number of new members, retaining current members, and reinstate lost members for Austin Ballroom Dancers' weekly classes and Saturday dances. I would like to establish a "Meet and Greet" Program for new members and/or new attendees to classes and dances which might include introductions in the newsletter and/or photos of the new members. I would like to entertain the possibility of ABD Membership Cards which would be especially helpful to HRC in class registration. Additionally, I would like to suggest an "Anniversary Dance" with invitations to new, current, and past members.

Treasurer: Tim Rudloff

I have been a member of ABD for nearly a year, and have very much enjoyed meeting the people involved. It is a very welcoming group. I would be happy to contribute something to the club, and would like you to consider me for the treasurer position.

Mailing Address
Street Number
City, State Zip