

## DMA Historian Report 2025

This year I did a lot of research of the time period 1926 - 1939. I reviewed the Dance Masters of America (D. M. of A.) Bulletins contained within the *The American Dancer* Magazine, issues September 1934 through February 1939. One of the main topics was the adoption of the Affiliation Plan in 1934, and starting in 1935, the affiliation of Clubs No. 1 through No. 23. I concluded research (for this year) at the point just prior to the affiliation of Club No. 24, Dance Educators of America, in early 1939, and prior to the consolidation of several clubs during 1940. I also researched when these Clubs were first established, often prior to affiliation.

Here's a quick summary of some of the Clubs that you you may not be familiar with: (Research performed through February, 1939, as of date June 2025).

Club No.	Year of Affiliation with D. M. of A.	Club Name	Cities/Area
5	1935	Northeastern New York State Council	Schenectady, NY Rochester, NY
7	1935	Dancing Teachers' Club of Boston	Boston, MA Brockton, MA
9	1935	Dancing Teachers Club of Rhode Island	Providence, RI Waltham, MA
11	1935	Texas Association Teachers of Dancing	Fort Worth, TX Austin, TX
12	1935	Dancing Masters of Wisconsin	Madison, WI Milwaukee, WI
14	1936	Carolina Dancing Teachers' Association	Hickory, NC Gastonia, NC Charleston, SC Spartanburg, SC
19	1937	Dancing Teachers of The Heart of America	Kansas City, MO
20	1937	Associated Dancing Teachers of New York and Pennsylvania	Wilkes Barre, PA Scranton, PA Hazleton, PA Elmira, NY
22	1938	Georgia Dancing Masters Association	Augusta, GA Atlanta, GA Savannah, GA Macon, GA Rome, GA

Club No.	Year of Affiliation with D. M. of A.	Club Name	Cities/Area
23	1938	Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi Dance Teachers Association	Memphis, TN
24	1939	Dance Educators of America	New York, NY

I will pass out an informative article that gives a brief synopsis of the Affiliation Plan up to April 1937.

Last summer I attended the National Convention in Anaheim, CA, and the Teachers Training School (TTS) and Student Honors Intensive Program (SHIP) at our new facilities at Ball State University. These pictures can be seen in a presentation in the Wall of Legends. These were also provided to Ava Lovsin for the DMA Social Media.

Next year will mark 100 years since the consolidation of the American National Association Masters of Dancing with the International Association Masters of Dancing into the Dancing Masters of America (D. M. of A.). I plan on having a number of presentations for next summer's convention to commemorate and showcase our history up to that point.

Sincerely,

Paul Janusz  
DMA Historian

# Bulletin

Dancing Masters of America,  
Inc., and Affiliated Clubs

by WALTER U. SOBY

## Affiliation Gains Momentum

In 1934 the Dancing Masters of America, Inc., adopted an affiliation plan whereby existing local clubs of dancing teachers could become a part of the national organization by their entire membership joining the D. M. of A. in a body. It afforded an opportunity for many dancing teachers to enjoy the privileges of national membership offered by the D. M. of A. without having to join as direct members. Members of affiliated clubs are given the following privileges: Recognition of active membership in the D. M. of A.; privilege of attending the Annual Normal School at prevailing members' rates; attendance at the Annual Conventions for the established Convention fee; a paid subscription to THE AMERICAN DANCER magazine; a monthly news bulletin and dance description service sponsored by the D. M. of A.; and the Convention Dance Description Book furnished to all affiliated members whether they attend the convention or not—without extra charge.

It was first thought that the affiliation plan would not work, but since its adoption there have been 19 clubs apply for affiliation, and the membership of the D. M. of A. has grown to nearly 1,200 members. Between the D. M. of A. convention in August, 1934, and the next convention in 1935, 12 clubs applied for affiliation. The first club to apply was the Associated Dancing Teachers of Southern California, who became affiliated Club No. 1. This was made possible through the efforts of Ernest Ryan of Los Angeles, vice-president of the D. M. of A. who, at the 1934 Convention, immediately recognized the value of affiliation and thereupon convinced the members of his local club in California that affiliation was the right procedure for the dancing profession. Therefore his club was the first to respond to the affiliation plan. Likewise, F. W. "Daddy" Kehl, principal of the D. M. of A. Normal School and Director, "sold" the idea to the Florida Society of Dancing Teachers and they became affiliated Club No. 2. Meanwhile, our president, Mrs. Montie Beach of Houston, lost no time in convincing the South Texas teachers that they should be part of the affiliation plan and therefore had her club lined up as No. 3. It was only a matter of 24 hours on applying for affiliation that

gave Florida Charter No. 2 and South Texas No. 3.

In rapid succession the following clubs came in under the affiliation plan: The Dancing Masters of Michigan, Club No. 4; The Northeastern New York State Council of Dancing Masters, Club No. 5; The Louisiana Association of Dancing Masters, Club No. 6; The Dancing Teachers Club of Boston, Mass., Club No. 7; The Western New York State Council of Dancing Masters, Club No. 8; The Dancing Teachers Club of Rhode Island, Club No. 9; The Pittsburgh Society for the Improvement of Dancing, now known as the Dancing Masters of Pittsburgh, Club No. 10; The Texas Association Teachers of Dancing, Club No. 11; and the Dancing Masters of Wisconsin, Club No. 12. This was all accomplished in one year's time. During the Normal School session of 1935 at Detroit, the application of the California Association Teachers of Dancing was received and they became Club No. 13. Between the 1935 Convention and the New York Convention in 1936, three more clubs were added to the list: The Carolina Dancing Teachers Association as Club No. 14; The Dancing Masters of North Carolina, Club No. 15; and the Cleveland and Ohio Dancing Teachers Association as Club No. 16.

Since Washington has been selected as the 1937 Normal School and Convention city for this year, renewed activities have been made possible in the Dancing Teachers Club of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D. C., through the efforts of Leroy H. Thayer of Washington, vice-president of the D. M. of A. In November two clubs were holding meetings on the same day, Sunday, the 15th, namely: The Dancing Teachers Club of Connecticut at Hartford, Conn., and the Washington Club in the District of Columbia. Both clubs discussed affiliation and voted to affiliate with the D. M. of A. on that day. The Washington Club passed on the resolution to affiliate at 4:30, and the Connecticut Club at 6:30. Therefore, the Washington Club became affiliated Club No. 17 by a two-hour margin, with the Connecticut Club becoming Club No. 18 two hours later.

A special meeting was called at Kansas City, Mo., on Sunday, February 21, at the Hotel Muehleback, at which time a new club was organized under the tentative name of the Dancing Teachers of the Heart of America, which may be changed at the March meeting. Mrs. Montie Beach, president of the D. M. A., was present. The following members were elected to office: Robert Lewis, president; William J. Mack, first vice-president; Dorothy Eisberg Shapiro, second vice-president; Harry E. Wolfe, secretary; Helen S. Thomas, treasurer; directors—Dorothy Perkins for three years, Adelaide Fogg for two years, and Helen Burwell for one year. After the election of officers and the adoption of the

constitution and by-laws, it was voted to apply for affiliation with the D. M. of A. There were about 50 teachers present, and 37 joined the new club. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 21. If the board of directors accepts the application, which no doubt they will, the Missouri club will be No. 19 under the affiliation plan.

## A New Club

A meeting of the Associated Dancing Teachers of New York and Pennsylvania was held at the studio of Sue Cassidy, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on Sunday, February 14. The following teachers taught: James Sutton, "Susie Q"; Ted Economids, tango and fox trot; Hilda Man Hertz, radio entertainment; Louise Bellinghausen, toe dance. There were 29 members present, and it was voted to hold the charter open for another month. All future meetings will be held in hotels instead of members' studios. The next meeting will be held at the Hotel Jermyn, Scranton, Pa., on Sunday, March 14, at which time they will vote on applying for affiliation with the D. M. of A. After the meeting a dinner will be served in the Omar Room of the Hotel Jermyn with a floor show to follow.

## Boston Club Again Makes Record

The Dancing Teachers Club of Boston has its entire membership of 104 members all in good standing. At the last meeting the following officers were elected for 1937: Harriet James, president; Ruth I. Byrne, first vice-president; Myron G. Ryder, second vice-president; Hazel Boone, secretary-treasurer; Doris Tower, delegate director. Miss Boone has also been appointed chairman of the Convention Committee. Their annual convention will be held at Boston in September. This is the third year that the Boston Club has had a hundred per cent membership in good standing.

## Connecticut Club

The Connecticut Club No. 18 held a meeting at the Hotel Bond, Hartford, on Sunday, February 28. The teachers for the day were Madame Annette, who taught "Tell Me Pretty Maiden" from Flora Dora; Eleanor Palmer, tap; Walter U. Soby, ballroom. Mrs. Truda Kashman of Hartford presented her pupils in a very interesting program in modern work.

## Western New York State Council

The Western New York State Council held its mid-winter convention in the Terrace Room of the Hotel Statler, Buffalo, on Sunday, February 14. Mrs. Virginia Bott Sheer was guest teacher for the day, presenting a three-hour program of children's work, tap and ballet. A banquet was held at the Club

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*Dancing Teachers of the Heart of America following the Kansas City, Mo. meeting at which the club was formed. MRS. MONTIE BEACH can be seen at table in rear with the association's first president, ROBERT LEWIS*

