

DMA Historian Report 2024

Good morning everyone. Last summer I attended and photographed the National Convention in Atlanta, and the SHIP and TTS programs in Buffalo. Unfortunately due to a series of planned and unplanned personal events, I am behind in processing these pictures. However, things are better now and I'm catching up on my backlog. I've been coordinating with Ava Lovsin in providing her with pictures for DMA's social media pages as requested. I also received a hard drive of pictures and videos from the 2022 and 2023 National Conventions from IT Cinema. While the media is organized into folders by names, events, and dates, the picture filenames are often the same in each folder, e.g., there are hundreds of pictures named IMG_0001.jpg, IMG_0002.jpg, etc. I'll have to figure out a better naming convention for these pictures in order to integrate them into my picture catalogs and manage them accordingly.

This past year I continued my research into DMA's history starting after the consolidation of the American National Association Masters of Dancing and the International Association Masters of Dancing in 1926. This year's efforts were concentrated on the origins of the local dance clubs and their affiliation with the Dancing Masters of America (D. M. of A.) starting in 1934. The information was gathered by reading the DMA Bulletins, including a section of The American Dancer Magazine, which was the earliest version of today's Dance Magazine. Reviewing this material is proving to be valuable, but I foresee a need to gather additional information from the Chapters, such as:

- The name of the Club/Chapter
- The date/location it was formed/incorporated (prior to affiliation)
- The date of affiliation with the Dancing Masters of America circa 1934
- A copy of their Certificate of Incorporation with the State
- A copy of their Charter
- A list of official name changes for the Club/Chapter
 - circa 1948 when D. M. of A. changed their name to Dance Masters of America (DMA)
 - July 2022
- The date the Club/Chapter was disbanded
- Additional information as requested by the DMA Executive Committee (e.g., copy of By-Laws)

I went through the DMA Archives and I only have a copy of Chapter 8's Certificate of Incorporation. In the coming months I will follow-up with the Chapters and/or National Area Directors to gather this information.

In a similar vein, every year I receive a few requests for information regarding a particular DMA member. This year's requests:

- Information regarding The Four Step Brothers, DMA Lifetime Achievement Award, in 1960
- Family memorabilia of Esther Hall Zollinger at the 1928 Pittsburgh Normal School and 1931 Los Angeles Convention

- Copy of Chapter 25's Charter and By-Laws.

I have found out that the people and/or events being asked about may have happened at the local/Chapter level, and not at the National Level. After providing whatever information I have, I may have to refer them to the appropriate Chapter to see if they have any more information.

Given the significance of the Consolidation in 1926, I offer a suggestion that the 2026 National Convention Welcome Party have a theme of the Consolidation and/or the Roaring '20s.

In closing, please talk to your Chapter's members and ask them to contact me prior to discarding your older or unwanted DMA items. You may have something that we are missing and could use. My email address is pjanusz@optonline.net. I prefer having you contact me by email as I work faster this way, and I can have a record of what we discussed. And please let me know if you would like to help me out with the research.

Sincerely,

Paul Janusz
DMA Historian