



# Dance Masters of America, Inc

## National Area Directors Report

July 2024



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

### 2023-2024 National Area Directors' appointed chapters:

Diane Yednak.....	13,	16,	17,	27	Jamie Lee Dain.....	4,	6,	15,	37
Courtney Greteman-Taylor...	28,	33,	40,	44	Grace Pack.....	3,	18,	25,	38
Charlene Hibbs.....	1,	2,	34,	36	Dee Buchanan.....	8,	10,	26,	35
Valerie Saija-Moore.....	5,	46,	47						
(Koza-Lemansky.....)	48)								

### **SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTER:**

#### **Diane Yednak**

##### **CHAPTER 13**

Chapter 13 is a well run organization with many great ideas. The members of this chapter work well together and are eager to help in anyway that they can. Their ideas for communication among members are excellent, and in many cases would work well for other chapters. Anytime they were asked for information it was provided almost immediately. They have also graciously agreed to help the other chapters that share their area day with providing a means to obtain the snacks, drinks, etc. for our area day. With the other chapters traveling so far this has worked out great. I was scheduled to attend their May event, however, because of a health issue (ear) I was unable to travel at that time.

##### **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 scholarships, conventions and competitions are well thought out and everyone does their part to make this an extremely well run Chapter.

##### **CHAPTER 17**

I was able to attend in person in January 2024. Donna Lynch is the President, under her direction her meeting was well run. The communication among the members was delightful to watch. I think of all the chapters I have seen so far this chapter is working very hard to advance its membership. I heard many great ideas with regards to this matter. Their new Membership chair (Donna Reese) had many great ideas with regards to testing. We also talked at length with regards to the video that was sent to the Membership chair from Nationals and how that video was to be used. It was my pleasure to work with this Chapter.

##### **CHAPTER 27**

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend or meet via zoom with this Chapter. I asked many times, but unfortunately, it was never able to happen. They did return all the information required in a timely manner. 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.

## **Greteman-Taylor**

### **Chapter 28:**

I enjoyed working with Marla so much. I wasn't able to visit their chapter this year but I have had the privilege of judging for them in the past and I so enjoyed it. From their membership to their board, they really have such a great morale built in their chapter. Marla was extremely easy to work with and always quick to respond to needed items.

### **Chapter 33:**

I was so excited to be able to go in for the big event in February! I've heard so many great things about this weekend over the years and it was great to be able to experience it. Chapter 33 is a staple and one that you think about when you hear DMA. I believe that with their new board in place, they will continue to work back to the level that we all know them as. I was able to connect with their delegate in Atlanta and she has been a great resource for communication ever since. I love the personal connection that I have with some of their members and I hope to create new friendships with them this convention.

### **Chapter 40:**

This is a FANTASTIC chapter. From membership to leadership - they are hands on, work well together, and always one of the first to respond. I enjoyed being able to travel to their chapter to judge their title competition. They hosted such a great weekend. They are well-organized and have implemented a lot of great ideas within their chapter. I really enjoyed their acro video to help judges identify common errors and things to look for within the acro classes. While none of the information was new to the knowledge I already have, I felt it was a great tool and always a good reminder to see it.

### **Chapter 44:**

I loved being able to work with Chapter 44 again. While they prefer to work more on their own, communication was great this year. I was happy to connect with a few of their members in Atlanta last year. It really does make working electronically easier when you know who you are speaking with! I'm hopeful that we will see them back in the boardroom soon. While Anaheim wasn't one they were able to make work - I believe they are trying to shoot for Orlando in 2025.

## **Dee Bechanan**

### **CHAPTER 8:**

Visited in October. Chapter 8 shared that they are very happy with all of Advisory's efforts and are grateful for the work being done. They appreciate the committee working on the shorter convention schedule, and they are excited for the possibilities with Acrobatic Arts.

### **CHAPTER 10:**

Visited in September. They do a tremendous job of providing their high schoolers with access to college program connections, and they are extremely charity-focused, including donations to a variety of lovely causes. The energy was so organized, and the discussions at their meetings about their upcoming events made it clear that they are doing amazing work together.

### **CHAPTER 26:**

Visited in November. Chapter 26 is making headway! They have created a pre-competitive event for their member studios, and at the grand body meeting, it was evident how excited the members were for that event again this year. Jean and I were also able to test a new member!

### **CHAPTER 35:**

Visited in November. They had a really nice event, and it was a very supportive environment. Their membership was also enthusiastic about the possibility of a shorter convention, and they are very excited for a relationship with Acrobatic Arts.

## **Jamie Dain**

### **Chapter #4:**

I was thrilled to be able to visit Chapter #4 in March for their Spring workshop and PASC. Chapter #4 is meticulous in regard to their bylaws and official meeting paperwork. Members were extremely welcoming. I was so happy to be able to sit down with members before the start of the Spring session and simply chat about dance life in Michigan. While Chapter #4 holds several successful events throughout the season, I was most impressed with how they prepare their title holders. Their title holders are crowned earlier in the season, so that they may attend the Spring session and assist with classes, perform at their PASC event, attend a meeting with their parents and Chapter 4 Board members to make sure all is in order and that everyone is prepared for Nationals and even do a mock interview with teaches and judges present that weekend to obtain feedback. Likewise, those title holders were invited to sit down with us (the judges and member teachers) at meals throughout the weekend to ask us any questions in general about nationals. I absolutely love this idea!

### **Chapter #6:**

I was extremely excited to be able to visit Chapter #6 in January this season. Chapter #6 is a well oiled machine. Communication is always excellent! Everyone was so welcoming! It was great to be there simply to help out and really sit down to chat with members. The hospitality in Chapter #6 is unbelievable!!! I was able to attend a Grand Body meeting and was so impressed with the run out of members. I love how Chapter #6 has a member volunteer program that keeps track of all member volunteer hours and as a result, members are monetarily compensated! While visiting, I was able to attend their banquet and was thrilled to be able to view performances from their crowned title holders and overall PASC winners. It was quite a treat! It was also great to view the recognition given to several members for their service.

### **Chapter #15:**

Chapter #15 is an outstanding Chapter. Their membership is huge and membership seems to be thriving. I was able attend their Nov. 2023 event to judge titles, attend meetings, be a guest at their very impressive banquet, etc. While there, I was also able to see how they run their elections, chat with members, attend the President's reception...all done on a grand scale! While they need to update some by-laws to conform to the way DMA Nationals and Robert's Rules) expects business to be handled, overall they are a thriving Chapter. One thing I truly love, that their President has instated, is that they have meeting via Zoom with all Board members approx. 1 week prior to events to make sure all details for the event are in order to ensure things run as smoothly as possible. I was happy to be included in a few of these meetings and get a sense of how everyone works together.

### **Chapter #37:**

Chapter #37 is a smaller, but mighty chapter! I, unfortunately, was unable to visit in person this season due to other chapter's conflicting events, but was kept in the loop with several phone calls and zoom calls with Pam Mechana, their secretary. Pam reported that all is was going well in Chapter #37. Although, several members were hit with personal obstacles (health issues and/or caring for family members with various health issues), they worked together to successfully plan and execute events this season! Overall, they are a lovely chapter!

## **Valerie Saija-Moore**

### **Chapter 5**

Overall, the chapter had a great year. The PAC and Solo Title events were an outstanding success, showcasing impressive talent and awarding numerous scholarships. Despite this, there is a struggle to generate interest in the Solo Title, even with the promotion of scholarship rewards. The board of directors is highly impressive, but increasing participation at nationals remains a challenge. Addressing this issue, potentially through a shorter schedule and new locations, could add considerable value to the event. I had the opportunity to visit the chapter during its PAC & Solo Title event, as well as attend a zoom meeting or two. They have great communication and organization.

### **Chapter 21**

Chapter has officially dissolved. All active members have transferred to new chapters within their areas. I reached out several times to offer my help and support as they went through the process of dissolving the chapter, but really had no response and did not visit in-person.

## **Chapter 46**

Overall, the chapter had a good year, with membership growth. Participation in the PASC event and fall workshop was strong, although Title competition participation remains steady due to time and expense constraints. Scholarship audition participation was lower than desired, but plan to encourage more involvement next year. Their strengths include a unified goal of educating dancers, a commitment to high-quality faculty, reinvesting in our dancers, and fostering long-lasting friendships. The chapter has a very eager membership which contributes to their very established and seasoned Board of Directors. Moving forward, making the national convention more accessible by loosening chaperone qualifications or shortening required attendance would be beneficial. I was invited to attend their January event but was not able to visit in-person. However, I was able to “zoom” into one of their grand body meetings and record a welcome/greeting for them to use at their event. Great communication and connection throughout the year.

## **Chapter 47**

Overall, the chapter had a successful season. They have many members but not a lot of participation from its membership. Increased member involvement is needed to avoid financial losses. For their PASC event, the adjudicators offered live feedback with each routine. This allowed for an incredible learning opportunity for all involved. There is interest in reviving Solo Title, with plans to integrate it into the chapter's current events and follow up on updating rules. The board of directors are very accomplished, flexible and a very dedicated group of members who continue to provide the support the chapter needs to move forward. They have innovative ideas and create/organize events based on membership need/desire. I was invited to attend their PAC and Convention in February where I made great connections with their board of directors, and we had some great conversations about the direction and goals of the chapter. They are very reliable with communication.

## **Charlene Hibbs**

### **Chapter 1**

Chapter 1 holds monthly board meetings via zoom. They are a very healthy chapter and held a successful competition and convention weekend in March. With a successful competition and convention comes the problem we all face of too few people doing too much of the work so they are working to have both title and PAC have two codirectors to help spread the load of work.

### **Chapter 2**

Chapter 2 is in a rebuilding phase. Although the rebuilding process is slow, they had a successful year and held a Mid-Winter workshop available both in person and on zoom that had a DMA Manual review as well as a business seminar. They continue to brainstorm ways to grow their chapter.

### **Chapter 34**

Chapter 34 was always quick to keep me informed of the happenings of their Wednesday Grand Body coffee shop meetings. Which to me sounds like the best way to have a chapter meeting 😊 They held their convention in January and a small in studio PAC in March.

### **Chapter 36**

Chapter 36 has been in frequent contact and is very excited about our national convention in Anaheim. The chapter president is working hard to make sure their chapter is informed and in line with DMA. They held an event in January enjoyed by their members and continue to work on ideas to increase their membership.

## **Grace Pack**

### **CHAPTER 3**

Chapter 3 held two successful events this year starting with with a Fall Convention Weekend in November and finishing with a Solo Title/PAC Weekend in February. I was able to attend the second weekend in person and am happy to report a thriving chapter. They have a positive outlook and the Title/Pac event still had strong participation numbers despite

losing members to the new Texas Chapter. I very much enjoyed their hospitality. I judged the Junior and Miss Solo Titles as well as the 12 and Under PAC. Chapter 3 has a great amount of talent and passion among all involved. Chapter 3 is also actively working on updated their bylaws.

#### **CHAPTER 18**

Chapter 18 held three workshop weekends in the fall giving out scholarships at each one. They also held a successful PAC and Solo Title event in March. I was able to attend a board meeting via zoom and they have a great camaraderie with each other as well as a very organized approach to their year. They took all bylaw suggestions made.

#### **CHAPTER 25**

Chapter 25 had 3 successful events this years! A Fall Convention and Scholarship, a Winter Convention and a Spring Convention/PAC/Solo Title. Besides being in regular contact with President Jamie Dain and Secretary Rita Ogden, I was able to attend their Spring weekend in person. I attended a grand body meeting, taught and judged. They have such welcoming members and I really enjoyed my visit. Despite having quite a big participation in both their Convention and PAC, their Solo Title numbers still remain low. They are working on some different ideas and incentives to boost the Solo Title. Next year they will try incorporating it into their winter weekend to create a more exciting separate solo title event. They are also still recovering from the loss of their treasurer which has presented some unanticipated issues which they are working to resolve.

#### **CHAPTER 38**

Chapter 38 is continuing to strengthen their membership and participation. Their Fall Convention was very successful. The Spring PAC wasn't as financially lucrative as last year's event due to no participation of large groups but they did have a bigger solo title than last year. They will also be exploring the option of going non-profit in the upcoming year or so. I did not visit this year in person but I was able to attend a board and grand body meeting via zoom in the beginning of the year and I am in regular contact with Secretary Valerie Moore. Communication is always prompt.

#### **Koza-Lemansky**

##### **Chapter 48**

Chapter #48 Texas Dance Masters, charter was established on January 20, 2024 in Roanoke, Texas. The Advisory Committee flew into DFW on January 19<sup>th</sup> to test fourteen potential members in Ballet and Jazz and two potential members in Ballet and Modern. There are currently 25 members: 16 members certified, 8 members transferred, and one professional member who was approved. They had their Performing Arts Competition in Roanoke, Texas on February 16-18<sup>th</sup> and four title pageants resulting in seven title holders for 2024. They have fall convention and scholarship auditions scheduled for November 8-10<sup>th</sup> and will have a Grand Body Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. They plan to have multiple Zoom meetings with their Board of Directors and will be finalizing all fall and spring events for 2025 while at Nationals in Anaheim this summer.

Submitted by

Penny Koza-Lemansky

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DMA National President