

THE MID-AMERICA DANCE MOVEMENT

There has been a steady, growing movement (and demand) for amateur DanceSport competitions to be held more often in the central state areas of the country.

With the USA Dance 2019 National DanceSport Championships now taking place in Orem, Utah (April 12-13), USA Dance anticipates more and more competitions being organized in mid-America and expanding the overall competition offerings to members.

The 2019 DanceSport calendar includes several central area registered events – Phoenix DanceSport Challenge (Mar. 23-24), The New World DanceSport (May 24-25) in Ohio, and two Rocky Mountain Competitions in Colorado (Spring – May and Fall – September); plus two National Qualifying Events – Chicago DanceSport Challenge (October) and the new San Antonio DanceSport Championships (May). (See *DanceSport Calendar* page 36.)

KANSAS CITY DANCE CLASSIC OVERLAND PARK, KS | SEPT. 8-9, 2018

ALL PHOTOS BY YANG CHEN

The growing popularity of the Kansas City Dance Classic in Overland, KS has meant very positive changes for event organizers Matt and Ellen Pansing. The first five years of the Classic were successful one-day events held at a local ballroom studio.

As the event's entries grew -- an increase in syllabus through championship competitors from around the country -- the event inevitably needed 1 ½ days in 2018 for its 6th year.

The move to the more spacious Overland Park Marriott provided the benefit of a 40' x 72" floating floor, larger changing rooms and a separate practice floor. As Kansas City's organizers know, growth is good and the smallest of details managing the larger events does matter. This year, with events ending midday into the second day, meant an opportunity to sponsor four different dance workshops.

In Kansas City, the Classic has also gained the support of the local dance studios, as Matt reports, which means welcomed growth of teacher-student events. The support of local dancers also enabled the KCDC to award \$4,000 in scholarships to division winners.

Emcee for the 2018 KCDC was Yang Chen (NY) and Music Director Daniel Libatique (NJ), along with Chair of Judges Dan Calloway (MD) and Scrutineer Mark Tabor (TX).

Senior III Silver Standard Division (WFQ): Fred Prior & Linda Larson-Prior (AR), 5th; Lynn Griebahn & Brenda Griebahn (FL), 1st



Mark Harris & Lorrie McCurdy (KS), Ladies Teacher-Student Open Two-Step, 1st; Dan Guillotte & Priscilla Young (MO), Gents Teacher-Student Open Two-Step, 1st



William Hooker & Robyn Collins (CO) Gold Scholarship Standard, 1st



Edward Nockunas & Beth Schuette (CO) Senior III, IV Bronze Rhythm, 1st, 1st

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FALL COMPETITION DENVER, CO | SEPT. 22, 2018

ALL PHOTOS BY JENNIFER WINKELMANN

For the past 15 years, the Rocky Mountain (CO) Chapter 5006 has hosted its one-day competitions in the Denver area. The Fall Competition, second in the chapter's yearly competition series, which this year was held Sept. 22, normally coincides with the Chapter's September celebration of National Ballroom Dance Week.

A USA Dance-registered competition, the Rocky Mountain Spring and Fall Competitions are traditionally held at the 152-year-old historic Denver Turnverein, which was founded as a gymnastics club by German immigrants to America.

Event-day officials included Emcees Daneen Shelton and Edward Larkin, DJ Carolyn Catanni, Scrutineers Lauren Springli and John Springli, who also managed the o2cm registration and heat list development.

The Fall event had 39 competitors on the floor, 17 leaders and 19 followers, who danced 117 heats, International Standard and Latin, American Smooth and Rhythm and Club-style dances.

Event details at www.usadancedenver.org and results at www.o2cm.com.