USA Dance Chapter 2017
Meeting Minutes

Meeting/Project Name: March Board Meeting

Date/Time: 03/06/2026 at 7:00 PM

Location: Teams (Virtual)

Organizer: Lillie Kuss

Attendance:

Board Member	Title	Present	Absent		Board Member	Title	Present	Absent
Eric Hoyer	President	X			Catherine Donohue	Director-At-Large 1	X	
Luke Collins	Vice President	X			Lily Porter	Director-At-Large 2	X	
Stephen Benton Jenne	Treasurer	X			Ashley Grant	Director-At-Large 3	X	
Lillie Kuss	Secretary	X			Farbod Maya	Director-At-Large 5	X	

Committee	Representative	Role	Voting Member (Y/N)
Executive	Eric Hoyer	Chair	Yes
Membership	Catherine Donohue	Chair	Yes
Finance	Stephen Benton Jenne	Chair	Yes
Governance	Luke Collins	Chair	Yes
Programmatic	Eric Hoyer	Interim - Chair	Yes
Fundraising	Eric Hoyer	Chair	Yes
Performance & Production	Lily Porter	Chair	Yes
Education & Training	Eric Hoyer	Chair	Yes
Outreach & Partnerships	Stephen Benton Jenne	Chair	Yes
Marketing and Communications	Ashley Grant	Chair	Yes

Invited Guests	Title	Present	Absent
Cheyenne Hannigan	Professional Instructor		X

Agenda:

Opening

- Call to Order: Eric Hoyer, President

Reports

- Executive Committee Report
  - Had a great committee meeting, discussing next steps for strategic planning
  - Planning to adopt new policies this month

USA Dance Chapter 2017
Meeting Minutes

  - Sent out a Board and Volunteer Stakeholder Survey in last month's board meeting recap email
    - Hoping to get anonymous responses from everyone in the next 1-2 weeks
    - Will present results at next board meeting with LuAnn Buechler

- Membership Committee Report
  - Learned how to look up new members, renewing members, and birthdays through the USA Dance website
  - Updated the Membership Committee section of the Newsletter

- Finance Committee Report
  - We had a good month overall for attendance
  - The Valentine's Featured Event underperformed compared to last year, but was still good for it being in February
  - The chapter operated at a bit more of a loss compared to January
  - The March finance report will reflect our income better, because of when invoices were sent out
  - In the process of deciding how to segregate the funds for the competitive team

- Governance Committee Report
  - Working on filling the open Programmatic Committee Chair Position
  - Looking into how special elections work and will be creating an SOP on it

- Programmatic Committee Report
  - Instructors are scheduled through March
  - Eric will volunteer his time to instruct at Dancing Downtown if our instructor funds run out earlier than intended
    - We have open sponsorship opportunities for businesses to support us
  - We started a ballroom dance team
    - Team captain is Sunshine Schmidt and she can be contacted at captain@usadance2017.org
    - The team will be reporting to the Programmatic Committee
    - Several people from the 2025 Winter Dance Enchantment Project have joined this team
    - The team will be communicating between each other through the Band app for safety reasons
    - It is currently an informal team until more is set up
    - One youth has signed up with a cross-age consent form
    - Anyone who is on the team or works with the team will need to become SafeSport trained if those policies get adopted tonight

USA Dance Chapter 2017
Meeting Minutes

- Fundraising Committee Report
    - SEMAC asked us to fill out a survey on how they can better serve the community
        - It is available through Eric if anyone would like to fill it out anonymously
    - Looking at matching grants and funding for the dance team through Rochester Sports Foundation
        - They will match dollar for dollar of what we can raise, up to $5,000
    - Planning the annual fundraiser
        - Exploring the idea of having a Dance-a-thon at the Kahler Grand Hotel on National Dance Day, September 19th, 2026
            - The date unfortunately falls during Latino Fest and The Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics and Latin Americans' Gala
            - The dance-a-thon event would run from 8:00AM-4:00PM
            - Participants secure sponsors ahead of time, who donate a determined amount of money for every song they dance
            - Throwing around the idea of allowing participants the option to raise money for a non-profit of their choice. This might be a way to get more people to participate, while still staying true to our values. We would still keep 10-20% to cover our costs.
            - A formal Gala would follow the event, with a presentation, speaker, and the top three dance-a-thon finalists battling it out for the win
        - Would also like to do a dancer night out at a local restaurant(s) if someone is willing to work on that
    - Spring Formal
        - We have secured a donor to match up to $800 of ticket proceeds at our event
    - We've been asked to teach a lesson at a Gala put on by a local school
        - They will hire an instructor through us and either donate money or put our logo up at the event

- Performance and Production Committee Report
    - Our last featured event had a bit of a lower turnout, but that may have been due to it being on a Holiday
    - Had a board meeting to come up with ideas for the next featured event
    - Our next featured event is themed "Around the World"
    - Decoration ideas so far include:
        - 100 different country flags
        - Fun fact sheets about dances in different places in the world
        - A map with push pins for everyone to show where they are from
    - Halftime ideas include:
        - Foxtrot mixer
        - Four corners game with an "Around the World" theme, though it may be too complicated for first timers

USA Dance Chapter 2017
Meeting Minutes

- Education and Training Committee Report
    - SafeSport Training Policies
        - Eric motioned to adopt the minor athlete and abuse protection policies formally introduced to the board at our last board meeting. Luke Collins seconded the motion. Ayes 8 (AG, CD, EH, FY, LC, LK, LP, SBJ), Nays 0, Abstain 0. Motion carried.
        - We will start a master document of chapter approved polices to have in Teams
        - Eric will send out links for our board to get SafeSport trained

- Outreach and Partnerships Committee Report
    - Developed a Volunteer Hours Submission Form
        - To be submitted for every day you volunteer
        - Will be available in Teams
        - To be used by board members, committee members, and other general volunteers
    - Developed new partnerships:
        - Rochester Arts and Sciences Academy
        - Winona State University Dance Club
    - Current Partnerships
        - Olmstead County History Center
            - The Dancing through the Decades event is going well

- Marketing and Communications Committee Report
    - Lots of good interactions are happening with our social media posts
    - Ashley is scheduling a meeting with Eric and a committee meeting sometime within the next month
    - A laptop has been ordered for our chapter to use
        - It will initially be set up for Ashley to use for marketing and communications committee tasks, but the plan is to eventually give everyone on the board log in access to it

- Miscellaneous Reports
    - Lillie Kuss
        - The February Meeting Minutes have been approved, and will soon be on the website
    - Farbod
        - Asked the board if it would be possible to add intermediate lessons to Dancing Downtown
            - The reason we currently only teach beginner lessons is so we can encourage dancers to explore the local dance studios for more instruction. Our newly formed dance team will provide an opportunity for more advanced instruction for those who are interested.

- Farbod is interested in education and training, so Cheyenne and Eric will reach out to him to join their committee
- Delegate Position
  - Farbod will take on a delegate role within the board
    - If anyone has tasks that they would like help with, please connect with Farbod

- Eric Hoyer
  - Committee emails
    - The purpose of committee emails is for the community to be able to ask questions to the right people, even if they don't have a specific contact. As board members change year after year, these committee emails will not.
  - Committee meetings
    - Please add the Board of Directors to your committee meetings, so the board knows what day it is on

Open Discussion

- Luke Collins
  - Requested a directory document be made with all the board member and committee email addresses and their respective responsibilities
    - Eric volunteered to make it
      - He will also include who the members are in each committee
- Lily Porter
  - Royal Coronation Ball Black and White Formal
    - Asked the board if the title of the spring formal could be edited down shorter
      - It was discussed that since the title has already been announced and printed into calendars, we would keep it the same
      - The Performance and Production Committee has the power to change any of our future themes if they haven't been put on the calendar or promoted yet
  - December Winter Formal
    - Currently scheduled for December 12th, but may change to December 19th
      - An argument of changing it to the 19th is that it is closer to Christmas
      - Cons to changing the date are that people who are used to the second Saturday of the month might not show up and people may be busy so close to the Holiday
      - Lily will do a temperature check with our regular attendees
- Eric Hoyer
  - Please complete the board survey in reference to how the executive committee is doing to further our mission
    - Responses will go to Eric's coach

- Everyone is doing awesome things

Closing

- Announcements: Out next dance is Around the World themed on Saturday, March 14th, 2026
- Adjournment: Eric Hoyer motioned to adjourn. Lily Porter seconded it.
- Next Meeting: April 3rd, 2026