USA Dance Chapter 2017
Meeting Minutes

Meeting/Project Name: April Board Meeting

Date/Time: April 13th, 2026

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	
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	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	Benton Jenne	Chair	Yes
Marketing and Communications	Ashley Grant	Chair	Yes

Invited Guests	Title	Present	Absent
Cheyenne Hannigan	Professional Instructor / Education and Training Co-chair		X
LuAnn Buechler	Business Coach/Coach Initiative	X	

Agenda:

Opening

- Call to Order: Eric Hoyer, President

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Reports

- Executive Committee Report
  - The committee met and discussed updates for each committee
  - In process of developing a strategic plan for the next three to five years, starting with January 2027

- Membership Committee Report
  - We've had two new members this month and two renewing

- Governance Committee Report
  - Investigated any potential rules relating to special elections and did not find any
    - Will make a note regarding special elections in the elections SOP

- Programmatic Committee Report
  - Had a hiccup during Dancing Downtown this week when the instructor forgot to add it to his calendar
    - Started the night with general dancing instead and had the lesson at 7, when the instructor could arrive
  - We had a full room at the Friday Dance Series today, which is great to see since previously turnout has been low
  - Dancing through the Decades is going well
  - Working on getting a space for our newly formed Southern Minnesota Dance Team to practice

- Performance and Production Committee Report
  - Our next formal is Saturday April 11th, the Royal Coronation Black and White Formal
    - We have some decorations on order and will be using the goblets from our previous Princess and Princesses Ball
    - There will be performances during halftime, door prizes, a foxtrot mixer, maybe a partner switching game, and an around the world dance if we have time
  - Trying to recruit dancers for a performance opportunity on Sunday, April 12th
    - At The Art House in La Crosse, WI
    - Eric and Cheyenne will be performing
    - Will try to recruit at Dancing Downtown and at our formal with a survey sign up form
  - Dancing through the Decades is going well
  - Nationals recognized us for Chapter of the Year for District 2, so we will present that at our formal
  - There is potential to be doing some ticket giveaways for the April Showcase at the Olmstead County History Center
    - This will help build excitement and momentum for the event

- Finance Committee Report

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- April has been a pretty good month for the chapter, all things considered
  - Paid invoices for January, February, and March this past month
  - Sustained only a minor loss
- Connected with the corporate assistant treasurer, Karen
  - Working on getting access to the chapter's Wells Fargo bank account by next Tuesday
  - Setting up documentation for when we give out credits to our amateur instructors

- Fundraising Committee Report
  - Continuing to ask for sponsorships
    - Recieved a few more bronze sponsorships at $500
    - Waiting to hear back on two possible Champion Sponsorships
    - Created flyers for event attendees to take to their employers, families, and businesses to help spread the word on our sponsorship opportunities
  - Purchased a couple of plastic buckets for donations
    - Used at our Wild Wild West event
    - Can use at Dancing Downtown
  - Annual fundraiser
    - We have a venue and dance floor lined up
    - Potentially looking to get a live orchestra
    - A $1,000 deposit is required to hold down the venue, which will require board approval as it is greater than $500

      - Eric motioned to approve a $1000 deposit on the venue for our annual fundraiser. Benton seconded the motion. Ayes 7 (AG, CD, EH, LC, LK, LP, SBJ), Nays 0, Abstain 0. Motion carried.

- Education and Training Committee Report
  - Safe Sport Training
    - Counting how many people we need to provide the Safe Sport training for
      - This includes anyone who would be involved with youth in any capacity
      - Eric Hoyer and Benton Jenne are already Safe Sport trained
    - Plan on abiding by the Safe Sport Policies beginning July 1st

- Outreach and Partnerships Committee Report
  - Eric represented our chapter at the Ben Franklin Elementary School Career Fair
  - Dancing through the Decades with the History Center of Olmstead County continues to be successful as we get closer to the Grand Dance Celebration on the 25th
  - Booked an event with the Rochester Art and Science Academy
  - The 507 Experience

- Project with the goal of bridging community gaps, sharing stories, and building a strong community through listening and conversations
    - Something we already encourage at our events
- Asking the community to get involved
    - Not asking for financial support, just the support of spreading the concept of building a community through conversations and sharing stories
    - Asking our chapter to sign a partnership agreement to allow them to put our chapter logo on their website and have us put the 507 Experience logo on our website and or printed materials saying we are a supporter
        - Sending to the Governance Committee first to make sure it doesn't go against our bylaws
            - If approved by the Governance Committee and there are no objections, Eric Hoyer will sign the agreement. No objections were shared at the meeting.

- Southern Minnesota USA Dance Coloring Book Idea
    - Would be neat to hand out to kids at Rochester Fest
    - The coloring pages could include dancers in our community today, as well as dancers throughout the history of the chapter
    - Would require permission and consent from everyone included in the book, which may take some time
    - Will put the idea on the backburner until someone is willing to head it up

- Marketing and Communications Committee Report
    - Creating a checklist for social media posts to stay consistent
    - Will be changing our cover photo on Facebook
        - Showed the board three different options created with AI and decided to go in a new direction with a real-life photo instead
            - Planning on getting a group photo at our next formal dance next weekend
                - If that doesn't work out, we could collage some photos together with the words, "Better Together."

Coach Initiative Insights

- **LuAnn Buechler**
    - Working with Eric to help develop core values and build culture within our organization
    - Crafted a document around key words from our values statement
        - Document titled, "Culture Action Implementation Plan – USA Dance" can be found in the April 2026 board meeting folder
            - Was accepted by our executive board
            - Looks at each of our core values (passions), describes them in detail, and provides a template to strengthen those values

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- Created a contribution statement with AI that describes who our organization is
  - "Together, we commit to living these values in action – on the dance floor, in our leadership, and throughout the Southern Minnesota community. Our culture is how we show up, serve, and sustain the joy of dance for generations to come."
- Went through an exercise during the meeting to judge on a scale of zero to ten, how our organization is doing to live out our core values today
  - Respect: 6, 7
  - Teamwork: 3, 6, 7
  - Inclusivity: 8, 9
  - Learning: 6, 7, 8,
  - Sustainability: 5, 6
- Eric will share the results of the anonymous survey we completed in his board recap email

Open Discussion

- Lillie Kuss
  - Safe Sport Policies can be found in the Teams Admin channel shared documents "Board Approved Policies" folder
  - Will be sending out the March Meeting Minutes for approval soon, so check your email

- Benton Jenne
  - Will be posting a link in the board member chat to the volunteer form for easier access

Closing

- Announcements: Our Black and White Formal is Saturday, April 11th, 2026
- Adjournment: Eric Hoyer motioned to adjourn. Lily Porter seconded it.
- Next Meeting: May 1st, 2026