

## Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association

## NEWSLETTER



1986



Vol. XXIV, No. 4

Official Publication

January/February 2010

## **President's Report**

by Charlotte Pierce

Happy New Year!

The end of 2009 is a good time to look back, reminisce, and make plans for 2010. It has been a good year for your Association thanks to you, the dancers, the DJs, the dance instructors and the Board of Directors.

The dance instruction scheduled by Bo Marlin, our Vice President and Dance Director, includes newer dances as well as reviews of dances that we learned previously. I appreciate it when experienced dancers join in "learning" one of the review lessons because that is really helpful to new dancers who look for experienced dancers to watch while learning.

The Association's demonstration dance group is strong and active. The Country Steppers perform about twice a month, provide lessons after demonstrations, publicize our dances at their demonstrations, and perform or teach at NVCWDA dances about twice a year. It is always fun to attend one of their demonstration dances so I hope you will do that at least once this year.

Your Association continues to publish the newsletter regularly. It is sent to members who request it and is available on our website to all who are interested. If you check out the newsletter online, you will see the pictures in color. Kerie Hitt keeps the website up-to-date so you can always check to see what is new. If the weather is bad, check the website or hotline to make sure that we are having a dance that night. If Fairfax County Public Schools cancels all activities on a Saturday, our dance will be canceled as well.

2009 your Association participated in two community activities. You donated \$2,340 to the



Halloween Dance 2009

Fisher House at the Benefit Dance in the spring, which definitely helps families visit their service member who suffered from injuries or disease. Even bad weather could not stop you from donating at least 8 bags of toys in addition to cash to Toys for Tots, which is sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve. There were some very happy children thanks to you! We have planned similar activities for 2010.

It seems like you are having fun at the dances because the dance floor stays full. The DJs are so good at picking out music and playing requests. We are very fortunate to have such outstanding DJs for our dances. The dance instructors are awesome, and I just wish there were more time for instruction.

Your Board of Directors is very dedicated to making each dance happen. It would be impossible to keep your Association and dances functioning without their help. In fact,

maybe some of you would like to be on the Board next year. Elections are in May so think about your talents and how you could use them to serve your Association.

> Keep dancing. —Charlie

_		_	
T	41-1-	iccua	
ın	Thie	ICCIID	

Communications Report	2
Board Meeting Summary	2
New Dance Locations	3
Special Events Article	3
Newsletter Deadline	3
NVCWDA Dance Schedule	3
Calendars	4
Dance Director Article	5
Birthdays and New Members	6
How Do I Get There?	6
Steppers Article and Performances	7
In Memoriam, Albert Botto	7
Membership Application	7
Memhershin Undate	8

### 2009-2010 NVCWDA **Board of Directors**

#### **OFFICERS**

President Charlie Pierce 703/339-8437

Vice President Bo Marlin 703/765-4258

Joyce Leamon Secretary

703/978-3220

Treasurer Donna Dennis 703/264-7891

**DIRECTORS** 

Dance Bo Marlin 703/765-4258

Eric Vondra Communications

703/689-9988

Membership Marty Johnson

703/323-8623

Planning Susan Scott

703/585-3307

Special Events Dan Pierce

703/339-8437

Linda Buckle At Large

703/830-1985

Luella Montgomery Steppers

703/971-2931

Past President Gary Campbell

703/858-0701

The NVCWDA is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting CW dancing for the enjoyment of our members and friends.

The NVCWDA Newsletter is published bimonthly by the Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association, Inc.; P.O. Box 384; Merrifield, VA 22116-0384. Initial memberships and annual renewals are \$18 per year, or \$30 for two years payable to NVCWDA at the address below. Advertising deadline is the 10th of the preceding month. Advertising rates: camera ready full page display ads, \$160; 1/2 page, \$80; 1/4 page, \$40; business-card ads, \$20. Email prepaid advertising material (high resolution pdf if available) to communications@nvcwda.org, Mail check to NVCWDA, P.O. Box 384, Merrifield, VA 22116-0384.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NVCWDA Membership Director, P.O. Box 384, Merrifield, VA 22116-0384

#### **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Newsletter Coordinator Eric Vondra 703/689-9988 Newsletter Design Lydia Vitale 703/430-2398

> Webmaster Kerie Hitt webmaster@nvcwda.org

Hotline Mistress Diane Foster 703/823-5673

Printed by Payne Publishers, Inc. Manassas, VA 703/369-5454

## **Communications Report**

by Eric Vondra

It's only been half a year or so since Olga and I started dancing with the Association, and we're already feeling at home at the dances and a bit more confident of our nascent dancing abilities. Maybe it's my nature, but I always want to learn things the right way, and need to remind myself periodically that the main point is to have fun, not necessarily to become a great dancer. As with any hobby, however, the more accomplished you become, the more satisfaction you seem to be able to gain from whatever it is you're doing. Learning to dance is fun, but it can be frustrating sometimes. One thing is immediately obvious—balance is key to dancing (in more ways than one) and to just about everything else in life. Rather than making resolutions, I just remind myself of that when ushering in each new year.

It's great to see new people coming to the dances, and equally gratifying to see the regulars continuing to show up. As Bo notes in his article, we'll be providing some instruction to beginners in the coming months. Still being a beginner in just about all respects myself, I understand how important it is to make everyone feel that they can get up and dance. We've certainly got some very skilled dancers in the Association, and I have nothing but praise and thanks for the patience

they show us greenhorns and the help they provide in ways they may not even realize. What makes it all work is communicating, and I encourage all members to provide the board and each other with input, suggestions, and of course, just good old friendly banter. A newsletter article submission wouldn't hurt once in a while, too (hint, hint).

Recently Olga and I tested the waters at a few new venues. We checked out The Ballroom in Centreville last month. It's got a nice wood floor and an intimate atmosphere. We had a good time, and past NVCWDA president Gary Campbell did a fine job of keeping the jukebox (laptop these days) pumping out good country tunes. He even taught a few line dances. On another night we tried the Austin Grill, also in Centreville, pretty much across the road from The Ballroom. They had just started "country line dancing" on Saturday nights. We did have a good time and learned a couple of new line dances, but after just a few country tunes most of the music tended toward, well, non-country. I've read on the Internet that even at a lot of famous Texas dance halls it's hard to hear good old country music. Well, if you can dance to it, it's good stuff, but it sure is nice to hear a good George Strait tune, twin fiddles and a steel guitar when you're out there trying to learn to two-step. It just feels right. There's still a lot of good country and western music out there, thank goodness, so here's to 2010 and all the country-western dancing (and the occasional souped-up Johnny Cashmeets-hip-hop thing) that comes our way.

## Summary of November 18 Board Meeting

November - The board met on November 18, 2009. The main focus was planning for the New Year's Eve Dance, for which a budget of \$1,000 was authorized. Marty reported that membership continues to increase slowly, with a total of 172 current members. Eleven memberships were due to expire, and Marty will send out letters reminding them to renew. Bo reported that we will begin a series of beginner dance lessons for a variety of couples dances starting in January. Bo also provided a list of

special dances for the coming year, and the board voted to cancel the dance on Labor Day weekend. The Steppers were scheduled to teach at the December 5 dance and perform at the December 19 dance. Donna reported that the bank balance as of October 30, 2009 was \$4,212.01. Next board meeting: January 5, 2010.



### Dancing at The Ballroom and Colvin Run

We have two new dancing opportunities on Saturdays when there are no NVCWDA dances: The Ballroom in Centreville and the Colvin Run Community Center in Great Falls.

Michele Kearney and Darryl Adams founded The Ballroom in 2005 and, along with employee Alan Steele, wish to provide a friendly, relaxed atmosphere where both individuals and couples can learn social dancing and improve their dance skills. Their goals are to help you achieve some of the many benefits possible through dance and achieve them in a friendly and enjoyable environment. They teach all the ballroom dances, including Country-Western, Argentine Tango, West Coast Swing, and Hustle, bringing many years of teaching experience into their lessons, and all hold varying degrees of ISTD certification in the American Smooth, Rhythm, Theatre Arts, or International Standard dances. Michele and Darryl invite you to attend their next Country-Western dance on January 23 and every fourth Saturday of each month thereafter. You can find their classes and dance parties listed on their website at www.theballroomstudio.com. For questions or for more information, contact Michele or Darryl at dance@theballroomstudio.com or (703) 266-8040.

Ed Cottrell and Gail Crum, along with Colvin Run Citizen's Association, will host dances on the second Saturday of each month at the Colvin Run Community Center in Great Falls, starting January 9. With a large floating wood dance floor and contemporary and classic dance music provided by a DJ, you can dance West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Shag, Hustle, Two-Step, Latin, Waltz and more. There's an introductory West Coast Swing lesson from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. with dancing until midnight. You can contact Ed at edcottrell@macp.org or (703) 435-5620 or Gail at gailcrum3@aol.com or (703) 450-6539.

**The Ballroom** is located at 14245G Centreville Square, Centreville, VA 20121 (on 29 between 66 and 28 across from the Giant).

**The Colvin Run Community Center** is located at 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066 (10 minutes west of Tysons Corner off Rte. 7).

See Other Places to Dance (page 5) for details.

### **Special Events**

by Dan Pierce

As another year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for helping to make this a great year of Country and Western dancing for NVCWDA. Without your support and enthusiasm our dances just would not be as much fun. So, give yourself a pat on the back and let's keep on dancing into the New Year.

Our next big event is NVCWDA's big New Year's Dance, which will be held at Ft. Myer. If getting through security at Ft. Myer is holding you back, please do not let that be a deterrent. To get on post all you need to do is show your driver's license and tell them where you are going. It's a relatively simple and painless process. So, why not join your friends and fellow dancers at the biggest dance of the year. We are looking forward to seeing you on New Year's Eve.

Starting the New Year, we have a few special dances coming up. In February we have our annual Valentine's Dance, so plan to bring your favorite dance partner and maybe we can talk the DJ into playing romantic tunes to dance to. In March we have our St. Patrick's Day Dance. You don't have to be Irish to appreciate "St. Patty's" Day. So as Scotty would say, "keep smiling and keep on dancing." See you on the dance floor.

If you are coming to the New Years dance and would like to bring something (goodies or otherwise) please contact Charlie or me to find out what we may need.





## Newsletter Deadline

10th of February for articles, reports, ads and news items

E-mail to: communications@nvcwda.org

Send Microsoft Word or Text Files.

Send photos separately as tif, eps, jpeg, or bitmap files (high resolution)

#### **NVCWDA 2010 DANCE SCHEDULE**

Free dance lessons 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. • Open dancing 8:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

				Lesson at 7:30		Lesson	at 8:00
Date	Event	Location	DJ	Instructor(s)	Dance	Instructor(s)	Dance
Jan 16		Jackson Middle Sch	Brown	Eileen Scott	Quarter to Six Line Dance Review	Cliff and Donna (Tentative)	Beginners East Coast Swing
Jan 30		Jackson Middle Sch	Handy	Bo and Ann Marlin	Queen's Waltz Line Dance	Matt Leonard	Harmony Stroll Couples Specialty
Feb 6		Jackson Middle Sch	Cole	Vitale	Here Comes the Rain (Itsy) - Line Dance	Brian and Kathy O'Conner	Beginners Night Club Two Step
Feb 20	Valentine's Day Dance	Jackson Middle Sch	Fanelli	Kathy Fanelli	Crazy Legs Line Dance	Linda Bloyer	McGraw Stroll Couples Specialty

Admission: \$10 Members / \$12 Non-members / \$5 Children under 18 accompanied by an adult. Members PSDC: \$10.

Monitor hotline and web site for advance notice on March dances and last minute changes.

## Dance Schedule

# January 2010



#### NVCWDA Dances Free Dance Lessons

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Lessons Open dancing 8:30 - 11:00 p.m.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
176, Amhearst Ave	<b>n Scott:</b> Monday night line dance classes resume 1/11/2010 at American Legion Post nue, Springfield, 8:00-9:30 p.m. No class on holidays. Pay as you go; no pre-registration				New Year's Day	2
County classes. C		y 1/12/2010 at Lane	@verizon.net. See Park e Elementary School c			NVCWDA NO DANCE
Reston Dance (Reston Community Center)	4	5	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	7 Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	Swingin' Country at the Dance Factory Colvin Run Dance Ed and Gail
Stafford American Legion	11	12	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Annual Holiday Party Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	NVCWDA Jackson Middle School
17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration	19	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	The Ballroom Dance Centreville
Stafford American Legion 24	25	26	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	NVCWDA Jackson Middle School

February 2010



**Gail Smith** has a Nokesville dance on Thursdays. Email: rgsmith@wildblue.net for information. Currently run by Barry Fink

	$\mathcal{L}$				normation. Currently	Tull by bally lillk
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	NVCWDA Jackson Middle School
Reston Dance (Reston Community Center)	8	9	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	Swingin' Country at the Dance Factory Colvin Run Dance Ed and Gail
Valentine's Day 14 Stafford American Legion	Presidents' Day 15	16	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	NVCWDA Jackson Middle School Valentine's Dance
21	22	23	Dawn & Dean Cherry Hill	Nokesville Gail Smith	PSDC Vienna Am. Legion Jim and Peggy Dale and Anita	The Ballroom Dance Centreville
Stafford American Legion					Schedule chan Please contact d directly to co	ance organizers

For more information on dances see contact information listed with directions (How Do I Get There) on page six. PSDC Fridays = Country/Swing Mix
Vienna American Legion
(w/Beginner & Int. Lessons)
http://www.jimandpeggy.com

Line Dance Lessons in Sterling, VA Mondays - 7:00-9:00 p.m., Fridays - 7:00-8:00 p.m. Bernie & Lydia Vitale dancenl@comcast.net or call 703-430-2398

#### A Note from the Dance Director

by Bo Marlin

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a blessed and joyous Christmas and has a wonderful New Year—however and wherever you choose to celebrate. If you miss our New Year's Eve Dance at Fort Myer, you will miss another fabulous event. As usual, there will be plenty of great food (and desserts) as we dance our way into the New Year. If you choose to stay at home or celebrate elsewhere, please keep us in mind for our 2010 celebration—it will be here before you know it!

As we begin another year of Association dance events, I'd like to thank all our DJs and volunteer dance instructors for the great job they all did for us last year. As we often say (because it's true), we couldn't hold our dances without them. So be sure to thank them all when you get the opportunity.

Along those lines, I'm also pleased to announce that all our regular DJs have agreed to stay on with us again this year. So...many thanks to Bill Cole; Kat Fanelli; Bernie and Lydia Vitale; Kevin Handy; and BJ Brown for signing on with us again and supporting our Association. We know they can all make more money at other dance venues around town, so we really appreciate the sacrifice they have elected to make to be with us and provide our "tunes."

With a New Year also comes a little change. We're going to try something different with our dance instruction this year. Beginning this month and continuing through early May, we'll be scheduling a series of couples dance lessons (East Coast Swing, Night Club Two Step, Two Step, Waltz, and West Coast Swing) specifically geared toward true beginners during our second half hour of instruction. If you haven't noticed, we're getting a fair number of new dancers

at our dances (and that's a great thing), so we've elected to devote some time to give them some couples dance basics to get them started on the right foot (pun intended) towards a good foundation for their country-western dance repertoire. While the lessons will be focused on our true beginners, even the most experienced dancers can always use a lesson or two on the basics to improve their dance technique. So look for that change in the dance instruction schedules for the upcoming months—and please join us!

Finally, it's always worthwhile to review our country-western dance etiquette to start off the New Year. In country-western dancing, the dance floor is divided into concentric lanes. The outside lane is the fast lane. Traffic moves around the dance floor in a counter-clockwise direction. If you're going to be moving slowly, stay in an inner lane and let people pass you on the outside. The closer you go to the center, the slower you may go.

If you're doing stationary dances like a line dance or swing dance instead of a traveling dance, you should dance in the center of the main floor (or on our smaller floor directly in front of the tables). Line dancers should make every effort to confine their dancing to the center of the floor so they don't block others who may still want to dance around them. Remember, the faster the dance, the smaller your steps should be.

If you do inadvertently bump into someone on the dance floor, always make the appropriate apologies (regardless of who may have actually been at fault). If you really have a problem on the dance floor that a simple apology and smile won't resolve, please contact a board member and let them assist you with the problem.

Thanks for making 2009 a great year for the Association. With your attendance and understanding, I'm confident 2010 will be even better. As always, see you on the dance floor!

#### **Other Places to Dance**

#### **American Legion Post 290 in Stafford**

1204 American Legion Rd (County Rd 628)
Country-western lessons and dancing with Matt Leonard.
Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
\$7.00 per person. For more information call Matt: (703) 509-5044.

#### The Corral at Fast Eddies of Centreville

14114 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120
Thursdays; line dance, two-step,
couples dance lessons 7:00-8:30 p.m.
followed by dancing to the Southern Winds Band
and DJ until 11 p.m.
(703) 266-1888 or www.fasteddies.com
(Note: Country dancing only on Thursday nights now.)

#### **Dance Factory**

954 N. Monroe St, Arlington, VA 22201
Two-step, East and West Coast Swing, Waltz,
Cha Cha, Hustle, Nightclub Two-Step
Second Saturday of every month (Next: Jan. 9)
Hosted by Mal and Linda Zerden
Beginners lessons 8:00-9:30 p.m.,
dancing to DJ music until midnight
\$12 includes the lesson, dancing, and light refreshments
Call Mal at (703) 560-4724 or see www.dancefactory.com

#### The Ballroom

www.theballroomstudio.com
14245G Centreville Square, Centreville, VA 20121
(on 29 between 66 and 28 across from the Giant)
Fourth Saturday of every month (Next dance - January 23)
Two-step, East and West Coast Swing, Waltz, Cha Cha,
Line-dancing, and Hustle
Co-hosted by members of the Country Steppers
7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

#### The Colvin Run Community Center

10201 Colvin Run Road,
Great Falls, VA 22066 (10 minutes west of
Tysons Corner off Rte. 7).
Second Saturday of every month (Next dance - January 9)
West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Shag, Hustle, Two-Step,
Latin, Waltz and more.
email: edcottrell@macp.org or gailcrum3@aol.com



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

#### **January Birthdays**

	, =
01/01	William Garrison
01/03	Rodger Andrews
01/04	Ruth Swart
01/05	Dave Shrader
01/06	Esther Dunlap
01/06	Mary Rossmeier
01/10	Teri Henry
01/11	Eric Moomey
01/13	Patricia Dutton
01/16	Susan Scott
01/17	Susan Hesser
01/17	Cathy Kennedy
01/19	Ann Marlin
01/21	Patricia Kelley
01/27	William Wong
01/28	Karen Stang
	01/03 01/04 01/05 01/06 01/06 01/10 01/11 01/13 01/16 01/17 01/17 01/19 01/21 01/27

01/30 Pat McNees

01/31 Cynthia Tallia

#### **February Birthdays**

02/01	Teresa Hardisty
02/03	
02/03	Anthony Gallo
02/06	James Birnbaum
02/08	James Raney
02/16	Vicki Nellis
02/17	Diana Davis
02/18	Robert Smith
02/21	Charles Mudd
02/21	Timothy Sizer
02/24	Peter Trelogan
02/27	Bill Markland
02/29	Anita Grove

## **Welcome New Members!**

Sharon Cheng John Dever Holly Harris Robert Lamons Penny Lamons Michelle Moomey Eric Moomey Angela Roberts

## **Looking for Lessons?**

Check out Fairfax County ParkTakes (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes.htm) for lessons offered by NVCWDA members Scotty, Barbara, Eileen, and Don. Also look at the calendar on page 4 of this newsletter, which has information about classes given by various folks around the area. Many of the other dance places listed in the newsletter offer lessons. You also can search for lessons on the dance web pages shown on the NVCWDA web site (www.nvcwda.org/links.html). Sign up for DC's Community Dance News, the weekly electronic newsletter from Dave Moldover (dave@danceinfo.com), and you will see lots of dance events.

## HOW DO I GET THERE?

Cherry Hill, Fr. the Capital Beltway, take Exit 25 (US Route 1 South). Take first right onto Cherry Hill Road and go 1 mile to Cherry Hill Park and Camp Grounds. Entrance on the left. Follow entrance road to back of the park, make a right turn at the 3rd STOP sign. Center is on left just past swimming pool. Parking is free. http://www.dance-info.com/

Colvin Run Community Center, is located at 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066 (10 minutes west of Tysons Corner off Rte. 7). Contact Ed at edcottrell@macp.org or (703) 435-5620 or Gail at gailcrum3@aol.com or (703) 450-6539

**Dance Factory**, 954 Monroe St, Arlington, VA. From 495, I-66 East, take N. Fairfax Dr. Exit, left on Monroe, the studio is on the corner across from Virginia Square Metro. http://www.dancefactory.com/saturdays.html. 703/528-9770.

**Luther Jackson Middle School**, 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church, VA. From the Capital Beltway: Take exit 50A-B to US-50 W/Arlington Blvd toward Fairfax. Merge onto Gallows Rd/VA-650 N. Turn left on Gatehouse Rd then right into school. Park in back lot near buses/tennis courts.

**Nokesville Firehall**, Rt. 28 South to left on Fitzwater. Left on Marstellar. Firehall on left. For info email: rgsmith@wildblue.net

**Reston Community Center**, Fr. W. on Dulles Toll Rd, take Reston Parkway Exit, turn left on Reston Parkway, go to 2nd traffic signal and turn left on Sunrise Valley Drive, go to 1st traffic light and turn right on Colts Neck Road, go 1/4 mile and turn left into Hunters Woods Shopping Center. Community Center is in courtyard behind shopping center. 703-476-4500.

**Stafford American Legion**, 1204 American Legion Rd (County Rd 628), Stafford, VA. From I-95 south, take exit 143A for VA-610 E. Merge onto Garrisonville Rd/VA 610. Turn right at US 1. Go about 5.3 miles. Turn right at American Legion Rd. Go .3 mi.

**The Ballroom**, is located at 14245G Centreville Square, Centreville, VA 20121 (on 29 between 66 and 28 across from the Giant). www.theballroomstudio.com (703) 266-8040

Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N., Vienna, VA. Upstairs Ballroom. From DC: Take 66 to exit 62, Nutley St. Drive North to Rte. 123. Turn right, drive 3/4 mile to Center St. N. (at Starbuck's). Turn left onto Center St., cross Church St. and AyrHill Ave. Turn left into the American Legion just past the hidden entrance sign. Continue around building to right to upper parking lot. For more info and alternate directions: Go to http://www.jimandpeggy.com. Click on link for PSDC.

## Steppers Report

by Luella Montgomery

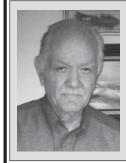
The Country Steppers have completed another successful year with more than 30 performances. We practice every Saturday morning at the Little River Church of Christ in Annandale, performing for the people there. Unfortunately, the performance at the Armed Forces Retirement Center in the District had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Considering the contributions to our country by the residents there, this would hardly have been enough of a thank you. However, the weather was cooperative for our annual performance at the National Capital Christmas Tree on the Ellipse. It was a little chilly but the hearty enthusiasm of our audience, enduring the cold, kept us warm.

The Country Steppers would like to thank all of you who have supported the team throughout the year and look forward to another enjoyable year. The Country Steppers team members are like a family and very dedicated, but more importantly we enjoy what we do and encourage others to join the team.

#### **Upcoming Stepper Performances**

Saturday, Jan. 23, The Hermitage, Alexandria, VA, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30 Forest Glen, Centreville, VA, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 Paul Springs Retirement Center, Alexandria, VA, 2 p.m.



## In Memoriam - Albert Botto

Before Thanksgiving we lost one of our members who helped build the Association. Albert Botto passed away from cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jeanne.

#### **COUNTRY STORES**

Show an active NVCWDA membership card before making purchase and get a discount on regularly priced merchandise.

The Silver Parrot 703/549-8530 113 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sal's Shoe Repairing 703/941-9864 7312 Little River Tpke. Annandale, VA 22003

W. J. Colt & Company 703/971-7555 6690 Springfield Mall Springfield, VA 22150

Todav's date



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CHANGE FORM

Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association PO Box 384 Merrifield. VA 22116-0384



01/2008 Individual Members ONLY NEW ADDRESS **Membership Category** Check here New \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year - \$18.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 year - \$30.00 City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year - \$18.00 Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_\_Day\_\_\_\_ (Must be 18 years of age) \_\_\_\_\_ 2 year - \$30.00 Membership # Phone: Home ( ) Work ( ) Make check payable to NVCWDA subscribe you to email updates of club Cash Check# Please check your preferences on the following questions: 

★ New members are entitled to one free admission to a regular dance.

## Membership Update

By Marty Johnson

Happy New Year! As usual, it is hard to believe another year has gone by and that it is time to make some new resolutions. At this time last year, it was my hope that we could launch a membership drive during 2009. Unfortunately, that never got off the ground. Instead, the Board decided to focus more on bringing in new attendees to the dances. If you have noticed a lot of new faces at the dances in the past few months, I think you will agree that the Board's efforts in this area have paid off. And several of those new faces have turned into new members. We actually have had *eight* new members join since the last newsletter. That is fantastic!

So what should the resolution be for 2010? It seems to me we should continue our efforts to bring in new attendees and keep them coming back by continuing to hold the best country-western dances in the area! Hopefully, they will have such a good time, they will eventually join. We went from 168 at the end of 2008 to 176 at the end of 2009, and I think we should set a completely realistic goal of going over 200 members by the end of 2010. Think about what you can do to help us make that happen, and send me an email with your ideas.

Here's to another year full of fabulous NVCWDA dances!



(on 29 between 66 and 28 across from the Giant)

Country-Western/Swing Dance (co-hosted by members of the Country Steppers)

Every 4th Saturday (next dance January 23)

7:30 to 10:30 \$12 per person

Light refreshments served

14245G Centreville Square Centreville, VA 20121 703.266.8040

dance@theballroomstudio.com www.theballroomstudio.com

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COUNTRY-WESTERN DANCE ASSOCIATION PO BOX 384 MERRIFIELD, VA 22116-0384

Address Service Requested

NVCWDA HOTLINE 703-860-4941

NVCWDA WEBSITE ADDRESS www.nvcwda.org

NVCWDA EMAIL ADDRESS info@nvcwda.org

www.nvcwda.org