



Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association **NEWSLETTER**

CELEBRATING TWENTY SEVEN YEARS OF TWO-STEPPING
27th
Anniversary
1986  2013

Vol. XXVII, No. 3

Official Publication

First Quarter 2013

President's Report

by Bo Marlin

Email: president@nvcwda.org

On behalf of your Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association, a Happy New Year to all! Ann and I hope everyone had a blessed and joyous holiday season and a wonderful New Year's celebration. As usual, as I write this, we are looking forward to another great New Year's Eve dance at a new location this year—the Pender United Methodist Church in Fairfax. I am sure everything will work out perfectly at this new location. If you miss our New Year's Eve dance, you miss a great event. We always have a fabulous assortment of food to enjoy, great country-western music, a terrific bunch of people to share the evening with, and, of course, much dancing to celebrate the passing of the old year and ringing in of the new year. Many thanks to Linda Buckle for coordinating all the "moving parts" and also to all those who volunteered to assist with setting up and preparing (or purchasing!) your favorite dishes to share. Each New Year's Eve party is another country-western dancing affair to remember.

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.

As most of you know, we had a number of "challenges" with our dance venues and finances last year, and we've heard that some of you may have some questions and/or suggestions for us. Therefore, we're going to have a general membership meeting at our dance on January 19 at the Accotink Church. To accommodate



The Country Steppers performing at The Ellipse in 2011. (This year's performance was rained out.)

the membership meeting, we won't be having any dance lessons that night, and the 7:30 to 8:30 time slot will be used for the general membership meeting. Open dancing will begin at 8:30 p.m. as usual. We're working on an agenda for the membership meeting and will post that on our web and Facebook pages.

We're still looking for alternate dance venues for occasions when the Accotink Church won't be available due to other functions. Thanks to those who have been giving us your ideas and input. We're seriously looking at another venue for our February 2 dance that appears to be promising at this point (Lincolnia Sr. Center). While we're looking, we'll be soliciting your feedback on what you'd consider "must haves" and what locations/dates/times would be "showstoppers" for you. So... keep an eye out for a survey that we're preparing to get your input. More on that to follow.

As always, we're looking for volunteer instructors to give lessons
—continued on page 2

General Membership Meeting January 19, 2013

Please attend the general membership meeting before the dance on January 19, 2013 from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at AUUC. (We will not have lessons before this dance, but we will have a short lesson on Circle 20 during the break around 9:30 p.m.)

The purpose of the meeting is to inform our members of the financial status of NVCWDA, describe our needs
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2012-2013 NVCWDA Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Bo Marlin
Vice President	Gary Campbell
Secretary	Pat McMurray
Treasurer	Gigi Castle (Karen Johnson, Acting)

DIRECTORS

Dance	Kathy Fanelli
Communications	Kerie Hitt
Membership	Eric Vondra
Planning	Steve Kinnett
Special Events	Vacant
At Large	Karen Johnson (Bo and Ann Marlin, Acting)
Steppers	Susan Scott
Past President	Charlie Pierce

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

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Communications Report

by Kerie Hitt

Email: communications@nvcwda.org

During 2012, we ceased printing the newsletter and went to electronic format only, started a Facebook page and Google online calendar of events, and began posting the stepsheets for lessons on our web page.

I continue doing NVCWDA's web page, newsletter, Facebook page, and online calendar. In response to a suggestion by one of our dancers, now I try to post the stepsheets in advance of the lessons when possible instead of after the lessons. Remember that by searching for dances on the internet, usually you will find YouTube videos that you can watch to learn or review the routines.

Newcomers to our dances must be overwhelmed by the number of different dances we do every night. I'm sure people first wonder "where do I start?" They might feel inadequate because they can't learn a zillion dances right off the bat. (Nobody can!) Then they give up in frustration and don't come back. They need to realize that learning the dances takes effort and practice, like any sport or other activity.

I have been trying to think of ways to help new people focus their efforts to learn the steps. In my opinion, they shouldn't waste time and memory cells learning a dance that is not called very often or a dance that goes with only one song. Instead, I suggest that at first they try to learn dances that we do fairly regularly. My idea is to have an online dance primer to help new people learn a few dances that we do at almost every dance. I plan to compile the stepsheets and videos for some old standbys such as Cruisin', Waltz Across Texas, Country 2 Step, and Tush Push line dances. I hope also to find similar cheat sheets for several partner dances, such as El Paso and Wooden Nickel. This way, motivated people can look at these dances ahead of time and practice in private. Then at our dances, they will know several dances for various songs each night. Once they gain confidence, they can move on and learn other dances. When they spend more time dancing and less time sitting on the sidelines, I hope they will want to continue to come to our dances.

One other suggestion for new line dancers: Dance in the middle of the floor so that people surround you on all sides. This way, if you are trying to follow someone who knows the dance, when the dance faces a new wall, you still will have someone to watch in front of you. If you start at the edge of the floor, once you change walls, you might not have anyone dancing in front of you anymore.

If you have any ideas for helping people enjoy our dances, please pass them along.

President's Report —cont. from pg. 1

and enterprising individuals to serve on our Board of Directors. We especially need instructors to teach couples dances. While it's still relatively early in the year, the new term for the Board of Directors (June) will be here before you know it. The election is in May. If you're interested, we definitely need your help and talents. Please contact Kathy Fanelli if you're interested in teaching and talk to any Board member for questions on the board positions or to volunteer. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Thanks to all of you for making 2012 another great year for your Association. With your continued support, I'm confident 2013 will be even better. As always, see you on the dance floor!

General Membership Meeting —cont. from pg. 1

for affordable dance venues, and explore options for increasing revenue to offset our expenses. Please come to give us your input regarding dance locations, fees, times, days of the week, fund raising suggestions, publicity ideas, and so forth. We need to know what is important to our members: Where are you willing to drive to dance? What is your price point? What times are best for you? What day of the week is better? You can contribute to making NVCWDA better by helping us answer these questions.

Newsletter Sections Now on Web Site

[NVCWDA Dance Schedule](#)
[Dance Event Calendar](#)
[Upcoming Steppers Performances](#)
[Looking for Lessons?](#)
[How Do I Get There?](#)

Membership Report

by Eric Vondra

Email: membership@nvcwda.org

As of the middle of December, NVCWDA had 188 members, with 37 of those overdue for renewal. This number has been holding steady since the last quarter, but we had just one new member join during the last quarter. So please talk to your friends and see if they'd like to come out to try some dancing with us. Even if they don't join, they'll probably have a good time and perhaps they'll come back. We'd like to have a good size membership, but dance attendance really makes the club what it is and keeps us financially solvent.

Most of you have shared your email address with NVCWDA, and you will receive an email reminder when your membership renewal is due. If you've forgotten when it is due, you can always email me at the address above and I'll let you know. If you aren't receiving any emails from the Association at all, but you do have email, probably we don't have your current email address, so please send that to me if in doubt. When any of your contact information changes, please email me with those details, too, so you don't miss any announcements. If you have no email or prefer not to use it, I will send reminders and renewal letters via regular mail.

Renewals are credited from the month your previous membership expired. For example, if you were due to renew on August 30, but didn't send in your renewal until November, the new renewal date still will be August 30 of the next year. If you're really late in renewing, expect to get another reminder before a full year has passed. Your membership runs through the last day of the month in which you joined or renewed. I'm working on streamlining the email process, since renewal reminders go out in groups. You can help by renewing promptly when you receive a reminder. The renewal forms are available on our membership web page (nvcwda.org/membership.html), which will be referenced in the reminder email. If I send you a reminder through regular mail, I will attach a form. You can mail the forms to NVCWDA's P.O. box or turn them in at any dance. Please be sure to fill out the form fully so that we have accurate contact information for you. Thanks and have fun dancing!

Treasurer's Report

by Karen Johnson

Thank you to everyone who has responded so generously to our requests for donations! We have gone from a low of \$1,314.60 in the main checking account back in April this year to the current balance of \$5,898.65 as of December 18, 2012. A portion of that is from New Year's Eve ticket sales, which will go toward expenses for the NYE dance. However, a substantial portion is the direct result of your generous donations, and we appreciate every penny of it! This will go a long way toward helping us through the upcoming year. We will talk more about this at our general membership meeting on January 19.

In order to help you put this into perspective, the table shows the profit and loss figures for the current fiscal year

from June 1, 2012 through December 18, 2012.

Having net income of almost \$4,000 is wonderful! But the Board Members put in an incredible amount of effort to get us to this point. We now need your support and input to come up with more efficient and less time consuming ways to keep us in the black. There must be easier ways to keep this wonderful and unique Association going, and we need your advice and help! Please join us on January 19 with any ideas and suggestions that you might have. And, as always, keep on dancing!

Profit and Loss for June 1 through December 18, 2012

INCOME

DANCE ADMISSIONS	6,105.00
DONATIONS RECEIVED	3,933.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	594.00
NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKET SALES	1,230.00
T-SHIRT SALES	212.94
MISC RECEIPTS & REFUNDS	552.00
INTEREST	0.13
TOTAL YTD INCOME	12,627.07

EXPENSES

DJS	3,250.00
SPACE RENTAL	4,491.00
TELEPHONE & TELECOM	279.45
INSURANCE	348.00
DONATIONS TO OTHERS	150.00
OTHER EXPENSES	149.06
TOTAL YTD EXPENSES	8,667.51

NET INCOME

3,959.56

Line Dances taught recently at NVCWDA dances:

Kalimba	Shake It For Me
Baby Doll Waltz	Straight to Memphis
Zatchu	Midnight Waltz
Pontoon	Stuck Like Glue

Couples Specialty Dances taught recently at NVCWDA dances:

Desperado Wrap	Bop the Bs
Palamino Stroll	Redneck Girl
Denny Walk	Lover Please Come Back
Swing Switch Mixer	Montgomery Cha Cha

GROUP RATES

Groups of five or more can qualify for a group rate (admission for member price of \$10 per person). Please have a representative of your group get in touch with us ahead of time to let us know how many people to expect, to provide a contact person for your group, and to confirm that we can accommodate the group on the date you want. (Group rates don't apply to special admission dances such as New Year's Eve Dance and Benefit Dance.) Bring some friends!

Planning Director Report

by Steve Kinnett

We were planning to hold our dances at Luther Jackson Middle School through the remainder of 2012 and the beginning of 2013. However, Fairfax County Schools unexpectedly increased our fees beyond what we can afford. We are fortunate to have Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC) available as a backup venue for some of our dances. We are scheduled at AUUC on January 19 starting at 7:30 p.m.

At the Board's request, I have booked AUUC through July. However, AUUC is not available February 2, May 4, April 20, and May 4.

Tony Gallo, one of our members, suggested Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria, Virginia, as a possible dance location. The Center has a 4,000-plus square foot dancing space, clean bathrooms, and ample, well-lit parking. It is convenient to Little River Turnpike (Rt. 236) and I-395. However, if we use this location, we would need to adjust the time of our dances to start and finish one hour earlier. (Lessons would begin at 6:30 p.m. with open dancing from 7:30–10:00 p.m.) We are required to vacate the building at 10 p.m. As of the time of this article, we have applied for dates at the Senior Center, but they have not confirmed with us yet.

With our dance locations up in the air at the moment, please check the NVCWDA web page, Facebook page or hotline to verify the location and time of future dances as we firm up the specifics.

We invite all NVCWDA dancers to assist with finding venues that fit the following criteria:

- Minimum 3,000 sq. ft. dance space with either tile or wood floor
- Facility will permit us to charge admission
- Rental fee \$225.00 or less
- Location preferably around Fairfax City or Annandale
- Available first and third Saturdays of the month preferably from 6:30–11:30 p.m.
- Facility has water and ice available
- Plenty of parking spaces

At our membership meeting on January 19, we would like to hear fresh ideas for dance locations from you. You also can send suggestions to info@nvcwda.org.

Happy New Year!

Steppers Report

by Susan Scott

Email: steppers@nvcwda.org

I look back at the year in review and reflect on our changes in 2012. Jeanne Bostick left the team in June. Bobby Orndorff, a long time partner for Luella Montgomery, retired and moved to Winchester, Virginia. Gigi Castle injured her foot/ankle from a ladder fall. She plans to return to our team when she has healed from surgery. We have two new women who are interested in coming on board in 2013. Patty Stang will join after she recuperates from shoulder surgery, and Mayrie Whaley will start newbie practice and learning routines in January.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining our team, please contact us or feel free to watch us at one of our practices on Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Little River United Methodist Church of Christ. The address is 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia.

We ended 2012 on somewhat of a surprise. Our performance at the National Christmas tree on Sunday, December 16 was cancelled an hour or so before we were scheduled to perform. We had rain during our time slot. None of the seasoned Steppers could remember ever having a cancellation during the Pageant of Peace.

The Country Steppers will practice on Saturdays in January, but we have no performances scheduled for that month. Our first show for 2013 will be February 4 at Paul Springs Retirement Center in Alexandria. Please look up the address and directions on the [dance team's calendar](#) if you would like to attend and cheer us on at our first performance or at events later in the year.

This year, we are planning the NVCWDA Anniversary dance jointly with our Country Steppers reunion. "Save the date for September 21, 2013." (Nope, this isn't a wedding...) We would love to see those of you who live outside the area! I hope you can make plans to come back to Northern Virginia for the weekend. If you know of an email address or other contact information of a former Stepper, please contact me through the NVCWDA hotline or send a note to steppers@nvcwda.org. I would like to notify as many former Steppers as possible about the reunion. If you have any ideas for the reunion, we are always open to suggestions to make this a fun and memorable event.

I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Preview of 2013 Special Events

Date	Event
January 19	General Membership Meeting
February 16.....	Valentine's Dance
March 16.....	St. Patrick's Dance
April 20	Benefit Dance
May 4.....	Election of Officers
June 1	Installation of Officers
July 6	Independence Day Dance
September 21	Anniversary Dance/Steppers Reunion
November 2	Halloween Dance
December 7	Toys for Tots Dance
December 21	Christmas Dance
December 31	New Year's Eve Dance



NVCWDA

Inclement Weather Policy



Dances are cancelled whenever Saturday activities in the Fairfax County Public Schools are cancelled. The news media will announce any school closing. If we find out early enough, we will put the information on our website and hotline. You can also check for emergency announcements on the Fairfax County Public Schools website at: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/emerg.shtml>



**April 5-7, 2013
Herndon, VA**

UCWDC-qualifying Dance Competitions - All Divisions/All Levels
WSDC Swing Points Competition
Strictly Swing & Strictly Hustle Competitions
FABULOUS Professional Show w/Dinner
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NEW Event Location

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2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon VA 20171
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Ask for special MidAtlantic Dance Classic event rate of \$119
(includes Hot Breakfast Buffet)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January Birthdays

01/01 William Garrison
01/04 Ruth Swart
01/05 Deborah Barclay
01/05 Dave Shrader
01/10 Teri Henry
01/16 Susan Scott
01/16 Ann West
01/17 Susan Hesser
01/17 Cathy Kennedy
01/19 Ann Marlin
01/21 Patricia Kelley
01/27 William Wong
01/30 Pat McNees

February Birthdays

02/06 James Birnbaum
02/08 James Raney
02/14 Rosa Marino
02/17 Diana Davis
02/18 Robert Smith
02/22 Beverly Card
02/24 Peter Trelogan
02/27 Bill Markland
02/29 Anita Grove

March Birthdays

03/08 Matt Goodman
03/09 Peter Barclay
03/11 Kurt Andersen
03/17 Steve Martin
03/22 Linda Zerden
03/25 Sheila Woods
03/26 Larry Gray
03/29 Shirley Rayner

Welcome New Member!

Mayrie Whaley

Summary of Recent Board Meetings

by Kerie Hitt

December 5, 2012: The Treasurer reported that although attendance has not covered expenses for the past few dances, we have cleared money because people have been donating to NVCWDA and buying tickets for the New Year's Eve Dance. The balance in our account will be approximately \$5,300 once the deposits are made. Fairfax County owes us a refund for Luther Jackson MS, but we have about \$1,600 in expenses (ASCAP, P.O. Box, insurance, balance for Pender Church) coming up. After these known expenses are paid, our balance will be about \$3,700.

All of our current DJs are interested in continuing for 2013, and the DJ contracts need to go out in time for the first dance of 2013. The Dance Director is working with some of the DJs to help improve their sound systems. Membership is holding steady at about 188. We discussed the logistics for the New Year's Eve Dance.

To date, we have booked only one location for next year, January 19 at AUUC. We need to find locations for the rest of the dances in 2013, and we continue the never-ending search for affordable places. Several members have suggested locations. We decided to form a committee to investigate the suggestions. We will distribute criteria for people to use when searching for dance venues.

We decided to hold a general membership meeting at the dance on January 19. We will develop the agenda and a membership survey to try to get some input from dancers ahead of the meeting.

October 10, 2012: The Treasurer reported a balance of about \$3,200. People have been responding to our request for donations, but attendance is not covering dance expenses. If the balance drops below \$2,000, then we will need to take action. Last year, we lost about \$2,200 overall. This year so far we are \$1,000 ahead. The Steppers' bank balance is low (about \$300) as well, but they already have paid for their practice space until the end of the year, and they should bring in some donations at upcoming performances.

Membership is 187. We plan to book Luther Jackson MS for the next 9 months. [Note, this was before they jacked up the fees, and we had to move back to AUUC.] The Steppers are having trouble getting enough team members together to put on their shows. They need at least three couples to perform. We discussed the price structure for the New Year's Eve Dance. We clarified our policy for group admission to our dances and agreed to let members of now-closed Potomac Swing Dance Club into our dances at our member rate until April 2013.

Newsletter Deadline

March 15 for articles, reports, ads and news items

Email to: communications@nvcwda.org

Send Microsoft Word or Text Files. Ads may also be sent as press-ready pdf files (if able, make them high resolution with fonts embedded)

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

NVCWDA Anniversary Dance/Steppers Reunion Planned for September 21, 2013

by Kerie Hitt

The Country Steppers will hold their second reunion at NVCWDA's 27th Anniversary Dance on September 21, 2013. About 50 current and former Steppers attended their first reunion on September 27, 2008 in Fairfax. Everyone enjoyed meeting each other and sharing memories of the team, which was formed in 1986 when NVCWDA was getting started. The first Steppers auditioned to join the team, which promotes country-western dancing in the community. At its heyday, the team had more than 40 members! The team performs throughout the year at various locations, including churches, fairs, retirement centers, community events, and the Pageant of Peace at the Ellipse. Their shows include choreographed routines and line dances, and they also teach upon request. The Steppers get a lot of satisfaction by brightening the days of people in the audience.

Combining the Steppers Reunion with our Anniversary Dance will be a great way to celebrate the founding and history of NVCWDA. All Charter Members and former Steppers: Please make sure we have your current contact information so that we can keep you informed about the event.

Dance Lessons in Arlington

by Carolyn Bainer

We often hear about couples and line dancing classes offered through the adult recreation programs in the various counties in Virginia, but there is an oft overlooked source of dancing that is very often free or offered at a nominal cost—Senior Programs. Each county has a senior program that offers a variety of classes during the day. For instance, Arlington County has the 55+ program that offers line dancing four days a week at various senior/recreation centers throughout the county (at no cost, once you join the 55+ program). Several NVCWDA dancers (Carolyn Bainer, Janey Brauningner, and Kathy Fanelli) teach classes through this program. If you google "Arlington County 55+ program," you can find further information on the 55+ program as well as access the bimonthly guide describing all the upcoming classes. Fairfax County has a multitude of senior centers that have many line dancing classes as well. The various senior centers are listed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/senior_ctr/. You can contact each center for their specific schedule and class details.

The class taught by Carolyn Bainer is Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.–noon at Walter Reed Senior Center, 2902 S. 16th St., Arlington. From 9:30–10:00: New dance lesson (Advanced beginner to easy intermediate); 10:00–11:00: Beginners line dancing (co-taught with Janey Brauningner); 11:00–noon: Advanced beginner to easy intermediate line dancing. Note: This is modern line dancing, that is, all genres of music are used. Classic country line dances are taught to current popular music.

Janey Brauningner teaches Beginning line dancing on Mondays, 11:00 a.m.–noon, at Thomas Jefferson Community

Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Kathy Fanelli has a class called Lee Line Dance Team on Wednesdays, noon–1 p.m., at Lee Community Center, 5722 Lee Hwy.

You can attend any of these Arlington classes once as a trial before committing to joining the 55+ program. (You don't have to live in Arlington to join the program.)

Line dancing is well represented in the senior centers, and the classes serve as excellent venues to promote NVCWDA dances. What is not represented in the senior centers is country-western couples dancing. This might be an opportunity for someone to start couples classes and thereby further promote NVCWDA dances.



Send Us Your Email Address

Email is going to be our primary means of communicating with members. Our database is missing a lot of email addresses, and we need to fill in the missing information. Please let us know your address so that you don't miss any important messages from us. Your email address will be used only for official NVCWDA notifications, including membership renewals and announcements. Please send your information to membership@nvcwda.org.

STORES

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Annandale, VA 22003
*10% discount with
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W. J. Colt & Company

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2832 Dorr Ave. #B
Fairfax, VA 22031
*20% discount on boots with
NVCWDA membership card*

NVCWDA HOTLINE
703-860-4941

NVCWDA WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.nvcwda.org

NVCWDA EMAIL ADDRESS
info@nvcwda.org

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Scan this code
with your
smartphone
to open our
website.

One form for you and one for a friend!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CHANGE FORM

Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association

P.O. Box 384

Merrifield, VA 22116-0384

06/2012



Individual Members Only

Name _____ NEW ADDRESS
check here ☐

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ (Must be 18 years of age)

Phone: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Email _____

Membership Category

New _____ Renewal _____

_____ 1 year . . . \$18.00

_____ 2 years . . \$36.00

Membership # _____

Make check payable to NVCWDA

Cash ☐ Check # _____

Your email address will be used only for official NVCWDA notifications, including membership renewals and announcements.

Please check your preferences on the following questions:

Would you be willing to help with some of our activities during the year? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like your birthday listed in our newsletter on your birthday month? Yes _____ No _____

Today's date _____



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CHANGE FORM

Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association

P.O. Box 384

Merrifield, VA 22116-0384

06/2012



Individual Members Only

Name _____ NEW ADDRESS
check here ☐

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ (Must be 18 years of age)

Phone: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Email _____

Membership Category

New _____ Renewal _____

_____ 1 year . . . \$18.00

_____ 2 years . . \$36.00

Membership # _____

Make check payable to NVCWDA

Cash ☐ Check # _____

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Today's date _____