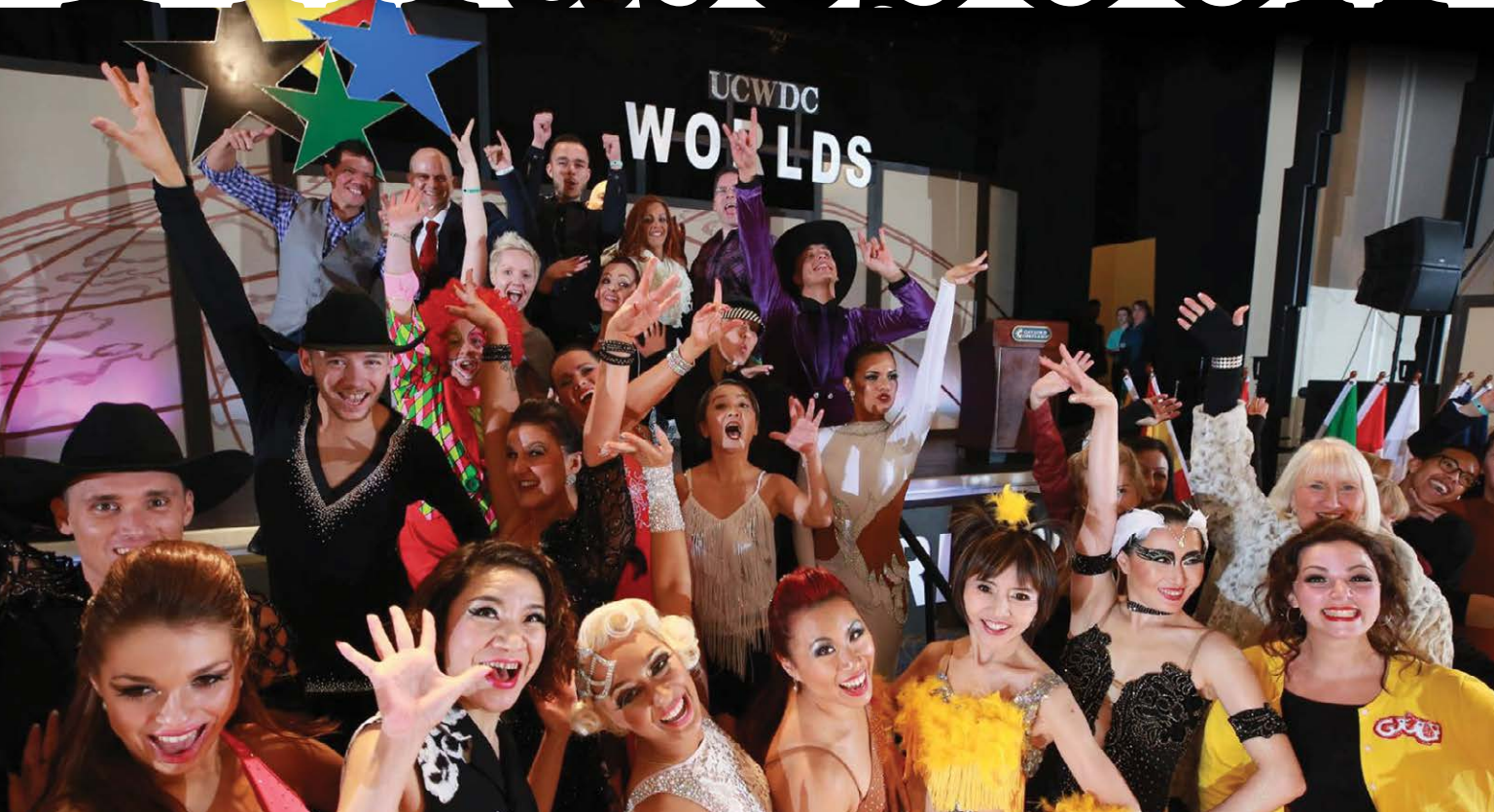




Phrasebook





Welcome to the United Country Western Dance Council®! Since 1989, UCWDC® has provided the most unique competitive dance experience in the world.

We are inspired by the vision of a thriving global country dance community featuring a world-class competition circuit and a Championship event on every continent. Our mission is to provide Member Events and Associate Members with the structure, tools, education, and support they need to thrive in our circuit.

Today, we are scaling our capacity to offer three continental Championships by 2033. As we pursue our future, we value our history. Born in the country dance halls of 1980s America, UCWDC is inspired by country music and its artists. We embrace everyone with a warm welcome and celebrate competitive and social dancing, partner and line dancing, a diverse membership, and the unique regional flavors reflected in each of our Member Events.

We love to put on a big show and express our brand most fully at UCWDC-sanctioned events around the world known for their exceptional quality, friendliness, and fun.

We invite you to share the experience—come dance with us!

Our Vision

The UCWDC is inspired by the vision of a thriving global country dance community featuring a world-class competition circuit and a Championship event on every continent.

Our Mission

UCWDC oversees the largest competition circuit for country dance in the world, including partner and line dance styles. Our mission is to provide our members with the structure, tools, education, and support they need to thrive in our circuit.

This includes:

- Creating and maintaining world-class systems and processes including competition rules, judging standards, scorekeeping excellence, standardized music lists, and trustworthy data management
- Providing education, training, and certification
- Providing Member Event Directors with a constellation of professional support
- Ensuring Associate Members have a consistent and transparent competition experience

We are currently pursuing a goal to offer three continental Championships by 2033. That means increasing our capacity to deliver new Championship events in addition to the long-standing UCWDC Country Dance World Championships®.





UCWDC
WORLDS
Country Dance World Championships



Our Members

UCWDC members include Member Event Directors and Associate Members. Together, we comprise a vibrant global country dance competition circuit for both partner and line dance styles.

Member Event Directors

UCWDC Member Event Directors are Directors of UCWDC-sanctioned events. They undergo a rigorous review process and are held to UCWDC standards for the delivery of competition events.

Member Event Directors have a seat at the General Council, where they may contribute on the Board of Directors, Committees, and by voting.

In turn, they leverage UCWDC's brand, its robust systems and processes, and a constellation of professional support.

Associate Members

UCWDC Associate Members are individuals who participate in UCWDC dance competitions, as well as those who wish to support the community even if they do not compete.

Membership provides the opportunity to compete at UCWDC-sanctioned events, qualify for the UCWDC Country Dance World Championships, ascend through competition divisions, and receive timely email communications about rule changes and other pertinent UCWDC business.





Born in the country dance halls of 1970s America, UCWDC is inspired by country music and its artists. We value our history as we pursue our future, and welcome everyone who shares our passion.

What Makes Us Unique

UCWDC provides the most unique competitive dance experience in the world. Our organization is distinguished by:

EXCELLENCE

Established in 1989, UCWDC is the largest, most established organization representing the competitive country dance community worldwide, including Event Directors, competitors, and supporters. Our Member Events around the globe leverage and uphold UCWDC's robust standards, systems, and processes.

WORLD-CLASS CIRCUIT

The UCWDC competition circuit is known worldwide for its exceptional quality. Associate Members enjoy a consistent, high-quality competition experience for both partner and line dance styles, and the chance to compete in the Country Dance World Championships.

COUNTRY DANCE TRADITION

Born in the country dance halls of 1980s America, we are inspired by country music and its artists. UCWDC embraces everyone with a warm welcome. We celebrate competitive and social dancing, a diverse membership, and the unique regional flavors reflected in each of our Member Events.



Our Leadership Values

These values shape UCWDC leadership—the decisions we make and how we relate to teach other, our members, and our community:

MOTIVATED

We are not satisfied with the status quo and always strive to learn and grow as individuals, as community members, and as an organization.

INCLUSIVE

Our roots inform our desire to be friendly, accessible, and welcoming to a diverse range of participants, regions, dance styles, and music.

COLLABORATIVE

We work together as colleagues, share ideas, and recognize each others' contributions.

CARING

We care for each other, our members, their families, our communities, and the global country dance family.

GENUINE

We are welcoming, accessible, honest, ethical, and treat others with fairness, dignity, and respect.

TRANSPARENT

We are clear about our intentions and communicate openly. We are governed by our bylaws as a 501(c)(3) organization registered in the state of Pennsylvania, USA.

ACCOUNTABLE

We make the best decisions in support of our vision and mission, take personal ownership of tasks, are responsible for our actions, and deliver on our commitments.

Our Leadership Voice

Members of the UCWDC leadership team strive to embody the organization's vision, mission, and values. When communicating on behalf of the UCWDC, leadership does so with:

CLARITY

We strive to keep members informed without overloading them with operational minutiae.

CONSIDERATION

We strive to communicate in ways that will best serve our members.

ENCOURAGEMENT

We use positive language to help our members feel welcomed and supported.

ENTHUSIASM

We speak passionately about our community and the music, dances, events, and values we share.

RESPECT

Even through challenges, we choose our language with consideration and strive to acknowledge all viewpoints.

TRANSPARENCY

We are honest and open about our decisions and the deliberations through which we arrive at them.

From Dance Halls to the World Stage

Country dancing in America has its roots in the 1920s, a time when a variety of music, dance, and culture was entering the USA with immigrants from many other places. Over time, solo and partnered country dancing and country music developed into a unique culture celebrated in dance halls, clubs, and bars all over the nation. In the 1980s, as country music diversified and flourished in urban centers, country dance lessons and competition events emerged across the country.

In November 1989, twenty-one independent country dance event directors met in Grantville, Pennsylvania, USA to form the United Country Western Dance Council® (UCWDC®). They shared a desire to unite competitive country dance events under one set of competition rules and dance standards. At the Grantville meeting, the directors took the North American Rules, developed by many of the same people in a meeting in Las Vegas in 1988, and granted full sanction to the twenty-three events that used these rules in their entirety in 1989. That historic one-day meeting ran for almost twenty-four hours because no one wanted to leave until the job was done.

The founders of the UCWDC selected dances that came from the social arena—such as Schottische, Pony Swing, Polka, and Two Step—and added popular dances from the Ballroom genre, including Waltz, Cha-Cha, and East Coast Swing. As other social dances grew in popularity, Triple Two Step, Night Club Two Step, and West Coast Swing were added to the list of called dances, which opened doors for line dance and team dancing.

Since 1989, the competition format has been refined and organized in a way that elevates the country dance sport on par with other genres. While the UCWDC is committed to advancing country dance as a competitive sport, we are also committed to making dance accessible to as many people as possible.





ucwdc.org

United Country Western Dance Council®, UCWDC®, and Country Dance World Championships® are registered trademarks of the United Country Western Dance Council.

UCWDC is registered in the state of Pennsylvania, USA as a 501(c)(3) organization and is governed by relevant federal and state laws, and the organization's bylaws. Our bylaws, rules, policies and procedures are available on our website.

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