

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BY JUDY WILLIAMS
DANCESPORT WEST AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 5 NOVEMBER 2017

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, our valued Dancesport Members, to the Dancesport WA Annual General Meeting for 2017.

For 19 years the DSWA Board has represented our members, pursuing the pathway set out in our Constitution to gain recognition and identity as a governing sporting body. We strive to provide a fair and safe environment for all Dancesport members and participants.

Our sincere thanks must be given to the Government of Western Australia, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for their financial support and ongoing assistance. Earlier this year our new Consultant Louise Haywood was appointed. Louise has been a wonderful support and has always made herself available to us for assistance and advice on meeting our KPIs and new services available to our industry. We have completed all requirements to date and look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the Department.

I would also like to thank Lorraine Campbell from the WA Sports Federation for her ongoing support and advice in the very important area of Working With Children legislation.

Last year you elected your DSWA Board for the 2016-2018 period. Your Board is made up of very talented people with diverse backgrounds and knowledge bases. Your Board Members are volunteers who have worked tirelessly to improve the status of our sport, support its members in the areas of accreditation pathways, on-going education, and financial support to our State Team and WA couples representing Australia at official World championships. Some of the key roles and responsibilities that I would like to acknowledge are:

- Executive Officer, Branch Registration Officer and Minute Taker – Jan Hunt
- Treasurer and Rules Committee – Derek Gatley OAM
- Accreditation Officer – Linda Brown
- Working with Children Legislation and Rules Committee – Jan Reilly
- Website, Social Media and Dancescene – Anna Di Vincenzo
- Monthly Newsletter – Jan Hunt and Jack Johnson
- WA Open Representatives – Karen Ho & Jan Hunt

- Fundraising Sausage Sizzles – Anna Di Vincenzo and Jan Reilly together with Richard Morrissey and their willing helpers and supporters
- DSA National Councilor for 2017-2019 – Barry White
- Congress and Junior Development Day – Jan Hunt, Barry White and Linda Brown

The relevant Officers will deliver their reports to you shortly and expand on the progress and good work achieved by the Board during the year. I thank them all for their hard work and I am sincerely grateful for their ongoing support. These are the people who make DSWA great.

DSWA also recognizes the incredible work of the three associations, AID, DMIA and ADS, their Executive Members and Secretaries who work tirelessly to promote and produce first class events for our Recreational and Amateur competitors. We recognize the work of the many volunteers on the day of the events and two special ladies, without whom an event would not run; Maureen Perry our Scrutineer at all events, and Lauren Chisholm for maintaining and operating our Dancescore system. To you all please accept our thanks and gratitude.

In conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, DSWA is constantly seeking new initiatives and opportunities for our coaches and participants to expand their knowledge and skills. Earlier this year DSWA was approached by Rebound WA (previously Wheelchair Sports) to offer Para-dance to its members. Following discussions with Rebound WA it is planned to have a “come and try” day on Saturday 3rd February 2018. Following this, a pilot program will be run. To establish Para-dance in WA would be a win-win for all concerned. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Inclusion Department fully support us pursuing this avenue and have helped us in writing a submission for funding to pay for the “come and try” day and pilot program. For DSWA and event promoters para-dance opens up funding pathways, and a new audience at our events if we can encourage participants into the competitive arena. 32 countries are involved with the World Para Dance Organisation with a world championship being held in Malle, Belgium on 22nd October. We envisage this will also help coaches and studio proprietors with prospective new business. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries are eager for this to be a success in WA then roll out the program across Australia. DSWA was successful in obtaining grant for \$4,000 from the Department for the roll out of this program. We look forward to the support of the Dancesport community in bringing this venture to fruition.

In closing, I thank you for your attendance today. Following this meeting we will hold a Forum for questions and answers. We welcome feedback and new suggestions from our members. I believe we have major challenges ahead. We are facing declining numbers and tough economic conditions.

We all need to promote and develop our sport. Your Board will continue to work hard to ensure the survival and growth of Dancesport in WA.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.

Judy Williams
Chairman DSWA

5th November 2017