

USTA – The Democratic Association of Firsts

For the past 50 years, USTA has been the leader in the sport of baton twirling, always creating and developing new and innovative ideas to promote this sport. We rarely stop to realize the immensity of the progress that has been made in baton twirling and especially through the United States Twirling Association. This 50th Anniversary Celebration is a tribute to the organization, its dedicated leaders and its loyal members. Congratulations, USTA on fifty years of growth, progress and success – and many more years to come in the future!

USTA was FIRST:

- to design and implement the set system for competitions
 - to create and use the Olympic Scoring System of judging
 - to use Qualifying Rounds for state, regional and national competitions
 - to begin the new and exciting events of Dance Twirl and Three Baton in 1976
 - to open its competition doors to athletes of all ages since 1974
 - to always use more than one judge on state, regional and national events
 - to use the place point system of tabulating
 - to appoint a system of Commissioners to involve more people in the decision-making process
 - to develop comprehensive professional training programs for coaches and judges
 - to offer a complete system with logical, progressive skill development for coaches to train and educate athletes - the "Competitive/ Achievement System"
 - to offer U. S. Trials competition for selection into the World Championships
 - to send a team of competitors to the World Championships since 1980
 - to record and distribute its own competition music
- designed specifically for USTA competitions
 - to create the exciting, fun-filled newspaper for its members in 1984 called "CATCH IT!"
 - to design and retail official USTA baton twirling sportswear
 - to provide over \$1,000,000 in insurance liability coverage for its contest directors
 - to provide insurance coverage for its members
 - to offer National competition for beginner and intermediate athletes through its Festival of the Future held each year with the U. S. Nationals
 - to offer a Junior and Senior Grand National Championship since 1998 & Juvenile category since 1996
 - to offer yearly conventions for its professional and athlete members, alternating between national conventions (*even numbered years*) and regional conventions (*odd numbered years*).
 - to create a computer tabulation system for its competitions
 - to create a comprehensive website for its members: on line membership & entry registration capabilities; a shopping cart for merchandise and training materials
- T** These firsts make **USTA** the leader in the field of baton twirling. Not only are all of the above accomplishments **FIRSTS**- but most also represent **ONLYS**, too!
- B** Being the **FIRST AND ONLY** sets **USTA** apart in the sport of baton twirling. Recognized as the governing body for the sport of baton twirling in the United States by the World Baton Twirling Federation, the **USTA** is proud to claim this significant list of **FIRSTS**.
- USTA** has been growing and building for over 50 years -
- a** a continuous climb to excellence . Dedicated leaders, friendly competitors, fair and objective judges and a democratic constitution set **USTA** apart. **USTA** cares about the future of baton twirling.
- B BIGGER, BETTER AND FAIRER!** Lend your support by being a part of **USTA**- the democratic organization for the fairest competitions offered for the sport of baton twirling in the United States.

50 Years of USTA Presidents

Fred J. Miller	1958-1960	Tudy Smith	1965-1968	Tom Veenendall	1976-1986
John Large	1960-1962	John Hale	1968-1971	Joyce Dalton	1986-1996
Merl Smith	1962-1963	Dick Patesel	1971-1972	Sandi Wiemers	1996-2008
Fred J. Miller	1963-1965	Jack Crum	1972-1976		