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United States Twirling Association

4023 Bernice Road Seaford, NY 11783 Phone: 321-206-3242 Fax: 509-275-3242 Website: www.ustwirling.com

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Communications/Anna Osborn Dolan
Judges/Kathy Butera-Fanney
Media & Technology/Monica Lee
Member Services/Keri Cooke
Professional Development/Dale White
Technical/Sandi Rios

Catch It! eZine Editor / Anna Osborn Dolan Catch It! Winners' Issue Editor / Krystal Mignone Graphic Designer / Steve Cross











PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WBTF 2021 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSTPONED

We deeply regret the need to inform you of the following announcement.

The World Baton Twirling Federation's 35th World Championship is once again being postponed. It will not be re-scheduled until late in the year 2022 at the earliest.



At the Annual WBTF Board Meeting on Saturday, January 30, the member country presidents voted to postpone the 2021 World Cup and to discuss rescheduling it at a later time/next year. Before the official vote, three thorough scientific/medical reports were presented to the board. Based on the data, the decision was overwhelmingly conclusive to postpone the World Championship.

Please note: This decision will have a domino affect on the IBTF World Championship and Nations Cup, currently scheduled for 2022. As a result, the IBTF Qualifier events will NOT be held at the 2021 U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida this July. A revised national schedule will be released shortly.

The United States Twirling Association continues to keep the health and safety of all our members at the forefront. This decision by the WBTF Board makes it now necessary for the U.S. Twirling Association's Board of Directors to continue its very serious considerations as to what its best practices, procedures and protocols are for the sport in this country. Our priority is, and always has been, the health and wellbeing of our athletes, coaches and members.

As a national sport federation, we are extremely disappointed for all the athletes and coaches who have been committed to vying for a spot on Team USA for the WBTF World Championship. We understand the significant impact this decision has on our sport and athletes. We are firm in our moral and ethical obligation to keep all of our members safe from harm to the extent within our control.

As decisions are made concerning the remainder of the 2021 season and the future events of the WBTF and IBTF, please check **www.ustwirling.com** regularly. U.S. Technical Advisor, Sandi Rios will also regularly communicate as to the status of the sport in the United States.

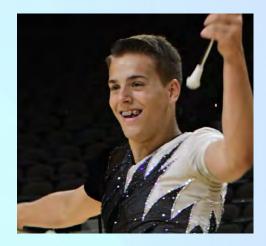
Kalle Caronel

Karen Cammer, President United States Twirling Association

We're so excited! USTA Department Updates







From USTA's Professional Development Department

AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR USTA PROFESSIONALS



My name is Dale White and I am USTA's Director of Professional Development, a new position that assists, enhances and provides continuing education for our Professional members. Being a USTA Professional for 50 years, I am very excited to bring my years of twirling experience to a format that will hopefully benefit our Professional members and those starting

to enter the professional ranks.

2020, being a very challenging year for all of us, did provide time for planning the future of our beloved USTA and great sport. In planning for 2021, our Professional members can look forward to:

- More FREE webinars to supplement professional education.
- ▶ Detailed subject matter for judges that will connect them more closely to coaches and athletes.
- Pertinent and topical videos on a wide variety of subjects for all coaches and judges.
- Proactive help for Professional members such as

mentoring formats and problem-solving plans.

- ► Methods to build twirling programs both in terms of quantity and quality.
- ► More "Inside Loop" tips for and from Professional members to our professional community.
- ► And MORE!

This is only a start and a sneak peek as to what is coming. In addition, YOU, our Professional members, will have the opportunity to seek and offer help, guidance and support! You're never alone in USTA and your leadership team has your back!

Happy Twirling... USTA ALL THE WAY!

Dale White

Director of Professional Development dale@ustwirling.com









From the USTA Judges Department Coping with COVID from a Judge's Perspective



We are all experiencing and making significant adjustments to our daily lives due to the impacts of COVID-19. Our sport, along with many other activities, has been severely disrupted since March 2020. However, through adversity comes innovation and creativity. Here's a quick look at what the Judges Department has been working on during the pandemic and for the future.

Wednesday Webinars

The Judges Department developed nine free, interactive webinars for judges and those interested in learning more about the judging process for specific Championship events. Webinars were conducted in 2-Baton, 3-Baton, Solo, Artistic Twirl, Pairs/Duet and Team. All webinars were tapped and can be found at link below for future educational use. Follow these steps:

- 1. Go to http://ustwirling.moodlecloud.com and click on "Log in as a guest"
- 2. Click on "Judges' Training" (under "Course Categories" on the right side of the page)
- 3. Click on "Judges' Webinar Series"

Judges Workshops

First time ever – Virtual Level I, II and III workshops were conducted in May, June and July. These workshops produced many newly certified judges as well as several judges who certified at the next highest level. After the virtual workshops, we surveyed the participants and received excellent feedback, which we will incorporate

into our future virtual workshops. In addition, we saw an increase in judges signing up for our Mentoring Program, which is flourishing during the pandemic.

Guest Presenters

Several members of the department have participated in UTwirl, Twirl Talks and WBTF webinars as translators and/or clinicians.

Current Projects

What's next and what is the Judges Department working on now:

- 1. Updating Level I, II and III Workshop practice and test examples. Projected to start workshops in the March/April 2021 timeframe.
- 2. Developing a Judges Welcome package/toolkit.
- **3.** Researching and updating new performance examples.
- **4.** Developing a proposed change in our certification and re-certification process. More to come as we work to ensure our judges are receiving continuous and just-in-time training and education.

We have had several judges volunteer to assist the department in these very important projects. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to any of the members below.

Kathy Butera:

Director, Judges Department,

kathy@ustwirling.com

Members: Krystal Mignone, Amanda Guidroz, Alyse Windsor, Abby Moore, Dawn Riley Shepetuk, Wendy Maul







From the USTA Communications Department

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED



Helping USTA members get the most out of their participation in the sport of baton twirling is one of the goals of USTA's Communications Department. We do that by keeping you informed about the benefits of your USTA membership, from educational programs for athletes, coaches and judges, to quality competitive events and fun activities, such as our 4th

of July Parade and Holiday Extravaganza, which kept us twirling – safely – during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Make sure you're getting important information

All USTA members receive USTA News & Views, a monthly enewsletter delivered to your email box during the first week of every month. USTA Professional members also receive USTA's Inside Loop, a monthly enewsletter with valuable information, tools and tips just for professionals, which is emailed on the 15th of every month.

If you're not receiving those important publications, please login to your USTA Members Only account and make sure we have your correct email address. Add pr@ustwirling.com to your address book or approved sender list to make sure our emails reach you.

Let's be social!

You've probably noticed USTA's increased presence on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **Twitter** and **TikTok** since Lindsay Pedersen joined our team as a social media special-

ist! Be sure to follow USTA on your favorite social media platform to get important updates and reminders and to participate in fun online activities.

USTA Member Portal

USTA is also working diligently to make it easier for you to interact with USTA and access all the advantages of your USTA membership. Board member Jason Lee is leading USTA Project 2021, which will bring an exciting new Member Portal to you this spring. The USTA Member Portal is an innovative and intuitive online tool that will make it so much easier for you to do things like:

- Renew USTA memberships
- · Register for educational webinars and workshops
- Enter USTA national competitions
- Check Competitive Achievement System (CAS) Compulsory and Movement technique records

Check out the article on page 9 for more detailed information about how the USTA Member Portal will make your twirling life better and when you'll be able to get a preview and learn how to use this new system.

Send us your story ideas!

We love to highlight you, and what you're doing both inside and outside of our twirling world! Send your story ideas to pr@ustwirling.com!

Anna Osborn Dolan Director of Communications anna@ustwirling.com

2021 U.S. NATIONAL BATON





Join us in beautiful Daytona Beach for the 2021 U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships! This prestigious event includes:

- The selection of the 2021 Grand National Champions in Solo, Men's Solo, 2-Baton, 3-Baton, Strut and Artistic Twirl, as well as the National Collegiate Champion and group champions,
- The Festival of the Future, an exciting, national competition for beginning and intermediate athletes,
- The inaugural Athlete of the Year competition, a new all-around event for beginner, intermediate and advanced athletes who compete in Solo, 2-Baton and Strut,
- And the U.S. PreTrials for athletes who aspire to compete in the U.S. Trials someday.

Due to the cancellation of the Qualifiers for the IBTF World Championship and Nations Cup, the national schedule is being adjusted and will be posted on the USTA website and social media channels soon.





TWIRLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entry forms will be available on the **USTA Member Portal** soon. See hotel info starting on page 17.

Visit the <u>Daytona Beach Convention and Visitor's Bureau</u> for more information on fun things to see and do while you're in Daytona, including the:

- 1. World Center of Racing
- 2. Festival Capital of Florida
- 3. Rich History and Art

- 4. Ponce Inlet
- 5. Daytona Beach Boardwalk and Pier
- 6. World's Most Famous Beach
- 7. Thrill Rides
- 8. Golfing
- 9. Scenic Cruising Opportunities



Coaches' Network Meeting

Current and prospective coaches! Mark your calendars now for the Coaches' Network Meeting on Tues., Feb. 9! Make new friends and get new ideas to take your coaching career to the next level! **Register now!**



Meet YOUR Department Directors

USTA has several departments designed to meet the needs of our various members: athletes and parents, coaches, judges, contest directors and other twirling supporters.

In the Fall Catch It! we introduced you to Sandi Rios, Director of Operations; Dale White, Director of Professional Development; Kathy Butera Fanney, Judges Department Director; Jackie Stewart, Coaches Department Director; and Anna Osborn Dolan, Director of Communications.

In this issue, we introduce you to Keri Cooke, Manager of Member Services, and Monica Lee, Media and Technology Director.

We thank them - and all of our department directors - for all they do to serve and support our members and our organization!

MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Keri CookeNew York
Manager of Member Services

How long have you held this position?

Three years.

What do you do in this position?

I process memberships, as well as insurance requests and sanction requests.

Why are you willing to serve USTA in this position?

Growing up, I loved spending my time with my twirling friends in the gym. I hope to give back to more athletes by providing them that same experience.

What do you do in "real life?"

I actually get to live my dream and do this in real life!



Brief twirling background:

I was a competitive twirler in New York growing up, however, coaching is my true passion. I have coached for multiple organizations including the Golden Showstoppers, OLM Magic and Brumidi Baton. My favorite age groups to coach are Tiny Tots and Primary athletes. There's just something about the genuine joy that radiates from athletes that age!



Tell us about your family:

I am a mother to two girls, Erin who is 6, and Tegan who is 4. They definitely keep me on my toes!

What other interests/passions do you have?

I love to cook, read and try anything crafty. I have been known to waste far too much time on Pinterest! *Anything else you want to add?*

I am incredibly grateful to work for USTA. We are in a very exciting time in our sports history and I love that I can be a part of it.

MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Monica Lee
California
Director of Media and
Technology

How long have you held this position?

Since 2016.

What do you do in this position?

I provide management and strategic consulting around USTA's social media initiatives and technological processes. I also manage USTA's Media and Technology department to provide service and support to all aspects of USTA's outreach and procedures.

Why are you willing to serve USTA in this position?

I am passionate about enabling our leaders to dream big and bring impactful value to our twirling community and the growth of our sport.

What do you do in "real life?"

I worked for over a decade in Information Technology and Information Security, but I recently pivoted my career, and now work as a project manager in Experience Management Research.



Brief twirling background:

I competed for about 20 years under the tutelage of Sandi Rios. I am a 10-time World medalist and am most known for competing in the Senior Pair event with my brother, Jason Lee. To date, we are the most decorated Pair in the world. Professionally, I am also a coach and a Master Judge.



Tell us about your family:

My brother, Jason Lee, is currently on USTA's Board of Directors.

What other interests/passions do you have?

I am passionate about public health, civic engagement and arts enrichment.

Anything else you want to add?

I love to cook and bake and am an avid Scrabble player.

USTA Project 2021: USTA Member Portal

USTA Board member Jason Lee is leading USTA Project 2021, which is part of USTA's ongoing efforts to better serve our members. One focus of Project 2021 is using technology more efficiently and effectively to make it easier for members to interact with USTA and access the many benefits of their USTA membership. A new USTA Member Portal, set to debut this spring, will do just that.

"I really think our members are going to love USTA's new Member Portal," Lee said. "Everything they need as USTA members will be available in one centralized place with one user-friendly system."

The USTA Member Portal is an innovative and intuitive online interface that will allow members to quickly and easily:

- Renew USTA memberships
- Register for educational webinars and workshops
- Enter USTA national competitions, such as PreTrials, Athlete of the Year and the U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships and Festival of the Future
- Check Competitive Achievement System (CAS) Compulsory and Movement Tech-

nique records

For example, parents will be able to renew their athlete's USTA membership, verify what levels of Compulsories and Movement Technique they have passed and enter them in USTA national competitions.

Coaches will be able to renew their own Professional membership or their group's Organization membership, check their athletes' CAS records and national contest entries, register for professional development workshops and webinars, purchase certificates of insurance and access valuable coaching tools and resources.

Judges will be able to renew their Professional membership, determine when they need seminar credit, register for judging workshops for credit or advancement and access judging tools and resources.

Contest directors will be able to pur-

chase contest sanctions and easily search USTA's new document library for any forms or handbooks they need.

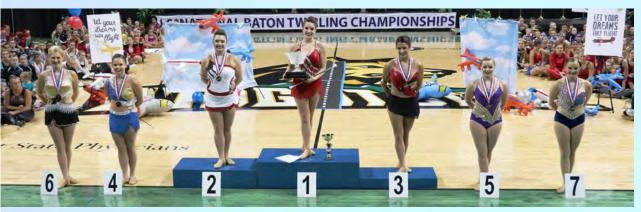
All USTA members will get a special preview of the new Member Portal and learn how easy it is to use, during upcoming inservice webinars.

▶ Parents, athletes and others interested in the new system are invited to an inservice webinar on Saturday, February 6 at 12 noon EST / 11 a.m. CST / 10 a.m. MST / and 9 a.m. PST.

Register for the in-service webinar **HERE**.



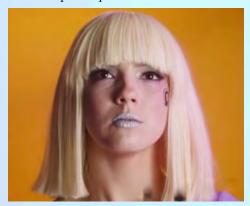
DID YOU





Did you know?

That **Emily Perkins**, University of Oklahoma Feature Twirler and 2019 National Collegiate Champion, was recently featured in a commercial for **Hatch Early Mood Food**, a diner in Oklahoma City? Perkins tells us how this unique experience came about.



"The producer, Beyond Theory in Oklahoma City, contacted me through my **Oklahoma Twirling Academy website** and asked if I had any twirlers interested in doing a commercial," Perkins explained. "I'm not really sure how they came up with the idea, but filming it was a lot of fun and a crazy experience! I would definitely love to do something like it again."

Perkins said she was originally going to use LED batons because she already had them and the producers couldn't find a fully lit-up baton that would work anywhere. But in the end, the producers created an amazing, fully-LED baton that was weighted well and

was about the right length for Perkins to twirl. As a bonus, she got to keep it after the filming.



Perkins said she didn't know exactly what to expect when it came to this unique performance.

"I didn't know it was possible for them to put it together in a way that worked really well, so my mom (USTA coach, judge and former Board member Lori Perkins) and I had to choreograph a routine that showed what I could do in a small amount of space while wearing a tight skirt to a music style that I had never done before," Perkins said. "We choreographed the routine the night before, so that night I probably rehearsed it a thousand times to prepare for recording the following morning."

The video shoot took about 14 hours, Perkins said.

"I also had to do takes that I wasn't extremely comfortable with, specifically one where I sprayed whipped cream from the can into my mouth. You can see me laughing in the shot when I was supposed to keep a straight face throughout the commercial, but it's so fast that I don't think it matters too much," she said. "We could only do that one once, because we only had so much time and so much whipped cream."

Perkins said it was interesting to see how each section of the commercial was filmed, and what the final product ended up looking like pieced together.



Many of her family, friends and twirling fans didn't recognize her at first, since she was wearing a blonde wig. "It was funny to hear that I was unrecognizable to some of my friends," laughed Perkins, who said the producers decided on the outfit, wig and make-up she wore.

But she said it was an incredible experience.

"I can't say enough how grateful I am for this opportunity from Beyond Theory! It was so much fun and an experience I'll never forget!"

KNOW?

Did you know?

That Colorado twirler **Emma Alexander** is as fast with crocheting hooks as she is with batons? The senior at Cherokee Trail High School, where she is the school's first-ever feature twirler, used her crocheting talent to bring joy to 24 residents of a local senior citizens community this holiday season.



Alexander started crocheting last September as the COVID-19 pandemic dragged on. She said it gave her a special connection with her grandma, who is also an avid crocheter. Alexander started making animals for her family and baton twirling teammates. After getting many requests for her creations, Alexander's mom, who is an entrepreneur, suggested that Alexander turn her hobby into a business and **Cuddle Bug by Emma** was born!



During the holidays, Alexander filled dozens of orders, many from grandparents who wanted a cuddly companion for their grandchildren, but also from clients who wanted a Cuddle Bug for



themselves or a loved one. Just a few days before Christmas, a family friend asked Alexander if she could make a Cuddle Bug for his mother and 23 other senior citizens who live in the memory care unit of a local seniors community.



"I was already fully booked on orders,

but I knew I needed to make time for such a special request," said Alexander, who went without much sleep to get the order filled in time. "Once I saw the pictures, I knew the sleep deprivation and wrist pain was all worth it! It brought tears to my eyes knowing that something I did brought so much joy to those who needed it most."

Alexander said her experience as a twirler has

helped with her budding business.

"Through the years, baton has taught me that time management is key in anything you do. It has also taught me that if you do something, you do it with passion and dedication."





Raise Your Baton

"Raise Your Baton" events offer fun, recognition for USTA Professional members

USTA is hosting occasional "Raise Your Baton" events to give Professional members an opportunity to enjoy online fun and games, good conversation and stay connected with other professionals despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. During these virtual events, organized by the USTA Coaches Department, outstanding Professional members are recognized by their peers. In November, Linda Ladakakos from Maine and Karen Ogden from Louisiana were honored. In December, Jeanne Chwalik from Florida and Linda Peters from New York were honored.



LINDA LADAKAKOS is a USTA Certified Coach and founder of the Saco Jets, based in Saco, Maine. She was recognized by friend, fellow Saco resident and former USTA Board member Susan Skaggs.



"Linda – we celebrate you!" Skaggs said. "You have inspired so many over your baton twirling career of 50+ years. The Saco Jets, your little rec program that you started in 1963, has touched the lives of thou-

sands of athletes who went on to become coaches, directors, judges and council members. Your inspiration reached beyond the athletes to parents, friends, family and the Saco community at large."



"Because we knew you, we have changed for good!"



KAREN OGDEN founded Karen Ogden Studios in Sulphur, Louisiana in 1968, where she trained generations of champion twirlers and dancers. She is a USTA Certified Coach, Master Judge and 2018 Hall of Fame inductee. She was recognized by friend, former student and former USTA Board member Lori Perkins.



"For me to agree to participate in any sort of a public speaking engagement

on your behalf, must mean that I RE-ALLY love you!" Perkins began. "So, Ms. Karen, I really love you!

"My coach and mentor is Ms. Karen Ogden. She took me in at age three and taught me so much more than just baton, dance and gymnastics. She took the time to teach me how to teach and has been one of my biggest promoters and supporters since I decided to follow in her footsteps. She taught me to love our sport and all of the people involved in it with us, and her most valuable piece of wisdom that she has shared so far, is that students will come and go, but our professional relationships will last much longer and need to be nurtured.



"Ms. Karen is still the first person that I call when I have news, good or bad. She is a part of every aspect of my life and is just as much a part of my family as all of my relatives. You have established an incredible legacy of champions, Ms. Karen, and I am so bonored to have been just one of the many. I really cannot thank you enough, for believing in me, sharing your wealth of knowledge, and investing your entire self into my well-being as your athlete, your staff member, your mentee, and most of all, your friend. I love you so much. THANK YOU!"



JEANNE CHWALIK is a USTA Certified Coach and founder of the South Florida Dynamics. When Chwalik retired, former students Lindsey Finkel and Jenni Rustan stepped up and the SF Dynamics evolved into Team Dynamite. Finkel recognized Chwalik during the December "*Raise Your Baton*" event.

"Hi Jeanne!" Finkel began. "Wow! Do you know that you have been in my life for 26 years? Crazy huh?



"Let me start off by saying that you are in all of my greatest achievements, my favorite trips around the world and my most memorable moments inside and out of twirling. You have guided me for years on how to not only be a good baton twirler and choreographer, but how to be a good person. Oh boy have you lectured me on many occasions, but it's so clear now. You saw something in me, ignited that spark and kept it going for all these years. I gave up so much growing up. I would whine to my mom, get mad, even cry. But looking back now, it was all worth it and it was because of you. There was no greater feeling then seeing you stand up in the bleachers after a routine

with your hands in the air. Jenni and I speak for the many of us who have been coached by you, strived for that.



"It's because of you that Jenni and I finally have an amazing team. You let me choreograph my first routine at 14 and I haven't stopped since. I miss being able to look over at you and ask your opinion on something. We didn't see eye to eye all the time but that's what made your opinion so valuable. You were always challenging me. I think the one thing I admire about you and find so inspiring is how people from years ago still remember you as their dance instructor or their teacher.



"You've made such an impact in so many people's lives and I hope I can say the same thing one day. You have inspired me to become a teacher and continue your legacy of South Florida Dynamics as Team Dynamite. You have made so many things possible for me and I am forever in your gratitude. I hope you know how much people love and respect you. You are a rock star, Jeanne Wiz!"



LINDA PETERS is the director of The Sparklers, a group founded by her parents, Mike and Pat Walsh, in 1974. Peters is a USTA Certified Coach and Level III Judge. She was recognized by fellow Sparklers coach Patti McKenna.



"2021 will be the 47" season for the Sparklers. There is no way I can think of baton twirling without thinking of the Sparklers and there is no way I can think Sparklers without thinking Linda Peters. You're truly an amazing person to me. Not just to me, but to our fabulous coaching staff, and our amazing Sparkler board. You inspire them so much, there's no member of the board who has an active athlete twirling right now. All the board members are parents of Sparkler alumni – all of them.

Just like your parents, you have such an impact on so many lives. We have alumni and parents, twirlers who continue to show up at contests, recitals, any event we have just because of Linda, just to help Linda out.



Maryla

I really don't know how you do it all... You make it look so easy and you do it all so well. You manage a family – husband, six children, two grandchildren. You work a full-time job. You coach. You're running one of the largest twirling organizations in USTA and you're also the vice-president of the New York Baton Council. You must have more than 24 hours in your day or seven days in your week!



I see so, so much of your parents in you, especially your mom. You always make the athletes and their needs the priority. You always have the right answer. You always know what to say or do in any situation and you always look out for the best for the Sparkler organization. And like your mom, you can walk into a practice, without saying a word, and everybody is bringing their "A game," practicing barder and just trying to impress you. You bring out the best in everybody. You just light up when you see the athletes get excited about doing a good job.

To me, Linda, you are our Yoda, our Obi-wan, our Capt. Kirk and Mr. Spock. You are the heart and soul of the Sparklers. You are the glue holding the Sparklers together during this pandemic and your drive to keep both the travel and rec program going is endless. You deserve this peer recognition for all you do and continue to do for the Sparklers. From me to you, I love you!!"

Maryland Baton Council rises to overcome obstacles presented by pandemic

"Twirling in the pandemic has been nothing short of HARD!"

Terry Stewart Althoff, president of the Maryland Baton Council, sums up what most twirlers have been feeling since the coronavirus pandemic hit the U.S. in March of 2020. But that just meant the Maryland council had to get creative, in order to continue serving more than 200 athletes in Maryland and surrounding areas.

The council typically hosts one or two compulsory clinics, a twirling clinic and five or six competitions per year, including the Maryland State Championships, which include championship events for athletes from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington D.C. Their contests often feature fun events, such as a "meet and greet" with WBTF Gold Medalist Laney Puhalla and different "challenges" for the athletes.

Early last year, the council realized 2020 wasn't going to be a "normal" season.

"We held our first contest early in March," Stewart Altoff said. "I encouraged entries to be sent for the second contest "just in case," but by the entry deadline, schools had already started shutting down."

It became clear that they wouldn't be able to hold the rest of their competitive events. Then COVID-19 took one of their own; Maryland resident and USTA Master Judge Melody Kokoszka.



"We created a "toss the baton" video when Melody was diagnosed with COVID," Stewart Altoff said. "Unfortunately, she passed before it was completed, and it became a tribute to her instead."

Kokoszka will always be remembered by the Maryland Baton Council. Her name will be added to the council's memorial recognition list, which includes Maryland twirling icons Bob Setera, Ann Bittenbender, Sandy Stewart, Janet Weaver and Katherine Bucks. The council awards a cash scholarship in their memory each year to a deserving athlete. Athletes are nominated by their coach with criteria including character and sportsmanship, academic achievement, dedication to twirling and community service. The scholarship recipient is chosen by the council.



and Baton Council



With the realization that nothing would return to "normal" in the near future, the Maryland Baton Council began holding Zoom meetings, which allowed more people to participate. "I hope that continues," Stewart Althoff said. "New faces equals new ideas!"

The council also started utilizing social media more, sharing USTA's online happenings and creating their own virtual events. The council recognized graduating seniors, held a "Ho Ho Holiday Parade" and showcased athletes sharing their New Year's twirling resolutions on the council's Facebook group page. The council has now its own Instagram account, mdtwirlers.

THE
HO HO
HOLIDAY
PARADE

"We decided to create an <u>Instagram</u> because <u>Facebook</u> now is perceived to be the social platform for "old people" (LOL!) and the athletes are on Instagram," Stewart Altoff explained. "Much of the same infor-

mation will be shared through both platforms, reaching a larger audience. We want our social platforms to focus on the participation side of Maryland twirling rather than the business side."

Maryland Baton Council members say the pandemic has afforded them opportunities to become more technologically knowledgeable, put that tech training into daily practice and become stronger with technology implementation. They expect to continue using those skills and tools.

"It was a LOT to learn very quickly, but once we've progressed with the implementation of technology, why would we step backward?" Stewart Altoff said. "Keeping our activities posted on social media and encouraging interactive responses can help promote our sport, even when we go back to regular competitions.

"I am so thankful to our coaches who have stepped up to zoom lessons and recording routines, helping to keep our athletes safe, still interested in baton and practicing hard," she said.



Maryland Baton Council, U.S.T.A.

♠ Private group · 368 members



ENTRY COMING SOON FOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR EVENT





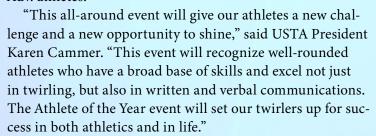






Athletes of all levels are invited to participate in an exciting new, allaround event starting in 2021!

The Athlete of the Year event will give Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced athletes the opportunity to compete in Solo, Strut and 2-Baton, as well as an essay question for Beg. and Int. athletes and an interview for Adv. athletes.



The Athlete of the Year competition will begin at the regional level. Athletes must compete in the region where they reside. An athlete's level in Solo determines which division (Beg., Int. or Adv.) they enter. At each of USTA's five regional



championships, there will be one round of competition in Solo, 2-Baton and Strut. Based on combined scores, the top three athletes in each division (Beg., Int. and Adv.) will qualify for the national Athlete of the Year competition, which will be held during the U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships in Daytona

Beach, Florida.

At the national level, qualifying athletes will again compete in Solo, 2-Baton and Strut. In addition, Beg. and Int. athletes will complete an essay question (which will be provided in advance), while Adv. athletes will compete in an in-person interview. The Beg., Int. and Adv. Athlete of the Year will receive a custom jacket and a trophy or medallion.

Entry forms for the Regional Athlete of the Year competition are online only and will be available on the USTA Member Portal soon. More information about this exciting new event is available in the Athlete of the Year Rules and Information Booklet **HERE**.









THE ROAD TO 2021 LEADS TO DAYTONA BEACH

After the 2020 COVID-19 cancellations, the 2021 U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships, including the U.S. PreTrials, the IBTF World and Nations Cup Qualifier and the

Festival of the Future, will be bigger and better than ever! Make plans now to join us in beautiful Daytona Beach, July 6-10, 2021!











Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort

100 N Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118 Phone: (386) 254-8200

Location: The Hilton is directly across the street from the Ocean Center Convention Complex.

The **Hilton Daytona Oceanfront Resort** is located in the heart of the 'World's Most Famous **Beach**', offering stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean and easy access to the entertainment and meetings district in **Daytona Beach**. Enjoy endless recreational facilities at our **Daytona Beach** hotel, featuring 744 guest rooms, seven onsite restaurants and bars, over 60,000 square feet of meeting space, fitness center, pools and whirlpools, full-service spa and D-Dawg's KidsZone. The hotel is connected to Ocean Walk Shoppes offering additional dining, entertainment and shopping.

SPECIAL USTA RATES OFFERED: RATES: \$152.00 Single, Double, Triple, Quad SUITES: \$252.00 Single, Double, Triple, Quad CABANA: \$352.00 Single, Double, Triple, Quad

Offering:

- Complimentary Guest Room Internet
- Discounted \$8.00 daily for Self-Parking
- No Resort fee charge

Guests can make reservations using booking code: **USTA21** via the following: **866-536-8477** or **1-800-HILTONS** (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); **386-254-8200** (Hotel direct, M-F, 9am-5pm) or **www.hilton.com**.

Link to Hilton's Personal Webpage to book:

https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/D/DABDHHF-US-TA21-20210705/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Each reservation must be guaranteed with first night's room, and tax, either with a major credit card, check or cash. This deposit is due at the time of reservation, and prior to cut-off date, and is subject to a "72 hour" cancellation policy to avoid forfeiture. Any reservation not canceled in accordance with reservation policies will be subject to a cancellation fee of one night's room and tax and will be charged against the individual's deposit.

Booking Cut-off date: June 14, 2021. At that time any unsold rooms will be released to the Hotel for general sale. Reservations received after the cut-off date will be on a space and rate available basis only.

Hilton Daytona Beach Resort / Ocean Walk Village will impose a one (1) night's room and tax early departure fee for all guests who register for a specified length of stay and check out early. Our front desk staff will make every effort to confirm the guest's departure date upon check-in to minimize any confusion





The Plaza Resort & Spa

600 N Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach, FL32118 Phone: (386) 255-4471

Located .5 mile from the Ocean Center

For more than 100 years, the Plaza Resort & Spa has proudly stood over the beaches and sparkling blue waters of Daytona Beach. Many of the guest rooms have a private balcony with stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean. Treat yourself during your stay at our world class Ocean Waters Spa where you can experience true relaxation and rejuvenation.

SPECIAL USTA RATES OFFERED:

\$149.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms with Sunset/Coastal View

\$159.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms with Oceanfront View

\$209.00 + tax Studios/Suites

12.5% Tax

Guests can make room reservations by calling

1-866-500-5630 and asking for the **US Twirling Association** room block, or book by using the following link:

https://reservations.travelclick.com/96954?groupID=2836561

Offering:

- Discounted \$8.00 daily for Self-Parking
- No Resort fee charge
- Room Rate includes Wi-Fi, Two((2) Bottles of premium water, daily in-room coffee,, a 10% spa discount, use of fitness center and business center, one hour per day of bike rental and non-motorized watersports, daily newspaper, pool chairs and towels.
- All special requests are taken under consideration but are not guaranteed.
- Roll-Away Beds are available at a "first come, first serve basis" at \$20.00 (+12.5% tax) per night. Cribs are also available.
- Discounted breakfast buffet of \$9.95 plus tax and service charge available in restaurant- Not included in rate. Menu is at the discretion of hotel chef and personnel.

Reservations: To guarantee a group or individual reservation, we require an advance deposit equal to the first night's room and tax, paid either by check or credit card. Alternatively, you may guarantee your attendees' arrival to the Group Master Account. If an individual cancels fewer than 48 hours prior to arrival or does not check in before 11:59 PM on the first day, the Group Master Account or the individual will be charged their first night's room and tax and their room will be released.





Daytona Beach on the Ocean

930 N Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118 Phone: (386) 255-5494

Located 1.0 mile from the Ocean Center

The *Holiday Inn® Daytona Beach* hotel's oceanfront location is just feet away from Daytona's 23 miles of coastline and legendary boardwalk, making your beachfront dreams a reality. Overlooking the Atlantic, the hotel's guests in Daytona Beach, Florida are within walking distance of Daytona's famous beaches. ACCOM-MODATIONS/AMENITIES: Hotel was renovated in 2017. Our spacious new rooms feature microwaves, small fridges, & coffeemakers. As our honored guest you will enjoy a large, oceanfront outdoor swimming pool, lush tropical courtyard, fitness center, and Oceanside pool bar and lounge. We also offer the Seaside Cafe, our full-service restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily.

SPECIAL
USTA
RATES
OFFERED:

\$129.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms with City View

\$144.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms with Oceanfront View

12.5% Tax

Offering:

- Rate is for Single/Quad Occupancy
- Breakfast is not included in the room rate
- Extra person charge over 4 guests in a room is \$10.00 per person daily plus tax
- Room rates subject to 12.5% tax
- Rollaway Beds are not available at this location
- Complimentary Self-Parking (one vehicle per room)
- Complimentary High-Speed Wireless Internet Service to all registered guests
- No Resort Fees

Guests can make room reservations by calling 1-386-255-5494 and asking for the US Baton Twirling Rate, or book by using the following link:

https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=Hl&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=DABFL&_PMID=99801505&GPC=NBT&cn=no&viewfullsite=true

Reservations: Individuals will call in to make their own reservations and will be asked for a credit card will be charged one night's room & tax when making reservation. Individuals must be told to ask for the "U.S. National Baton Twirling Championship" when booking their reservation to ensure they receive this reduced rate. Individuals can also book online with the special group link that the hotel will provide. Individuals wishing to cancel their reservation must do so 72 hours in advance of the arrival date to be refunded first night's room and tax.





Best Western Plus Daytona Inn Seabreeze Oceanfront

730 N Atlantic Ave Daytona Beach, FL 32118 Phone: (386) 255-5491

Located 1.0 mile from the Ocean Center

Make yourself at home in one of the 96 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and microwaves. Complimentary wireless Internet access keeps you connected, and cable programming is available for your entertainment. Private bathrooms with shower/ tub combinations feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers. Conveniences include safes and complimentary newspapers, and housekeeping is provided daily. Take advantage of recreation opportunities including an outdoor pool and a fitness center. Additional features at this hotel include complimentary wireless Internet access, concierge services, and barbecue grills. Grab a bite to eat at one of the hotel's 2 coffee shops/cafés. Featured amenities include a business center, express check-out, and complimentary newspapers in the lobby. Free self-parking is available onsite.

SPECIAL
USTA
RATES
OFFERED:

\$129.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms with City

\$144.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms with Oceanfront View

12.5% Tax

Offering:

- Rate is for Single/Quad Occupancy
- Breakfast is not included in the room rate
- Extra person charge over 4 guests in a room is \$10.00 per person daily plus tax
- Room rates subject to 12.5% tax
- Rollaway Beds are not available at this location
- Complimentary Self-Parking (one vehicle per room)
- Complimentary High-Speed Wireless Internet Service to all registered guests
- No Resort Fees

Guests can make room reservations by calling 1-386-255-5494 and asking for the US Baton Twirling Rate, or book by using the following link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.10404.html?groupId=6X5JC1G9

Reservations Cut-off Date: Individuals will call in to make their own reservations. Cutoff date is June 5, 2021, (at 5:00 P.M. EST.). At that time, rooms not booked will be released from your room block and the Hotel shall have the right to resell any such rooms so released. A deposit of one night's room & tax will be charged at time of reservation. Individuals wishing to cancel their reservation must do so 72 hours prior to arrival. Please note that from the moment this contract is accepted, we will be holding your contracted guest room block for the use of your attendees only. The hotel has no obligation to provide room nights beyond those contained in the room block unless approved by the General Manager.





Comfort Inn & Suites Daytona Beach Oceanfront

103 S Ocean Avenue Daytona Beach, FL32118 Phone: (386) 252-2378

Located 0.2 mile from the Ocean Center

The Choice-branded hotel's newly renovated property is located right next to the Boardwalk and the hotel is within walking distance to Ocean Center.

boardwark a	ind the noter is within warking distance to Ocean Center							
SPECIAL USTA	\$159.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms							
RATES	\$179.00 + tax Oceanfront Double Queen Efficiency Suites							
OFFERED:	12.5% Tax							
Offering:	Complimentary Hot Breakfast daily (7:00am-10:00am)							
	Complimentary Wi-Fi Internet access in all guest rooms and public areas							
	Complimentary self-parking (1 vehicle per guest room)							
	Complimentary reserved, bus parking (advance notice requested)							
	All standard guest rooms include microwave, mini-frig, coffee maker, flat screen TV, most with private balcony							
	Oceanfront efficiency suites include full kitchen with 4 burner stove, oven, microwave, full size refrigerator, dining table with seating for 4, flat screen TV, private balcony NO DESCREE FEEST NO DESCRE							
	NO RESORT FEES!							

RESERVATIONS PROCEDURES: Individual Call-in - Reservation cut-off date is **Thursday May 27, 2021.**

To ensure this rate your attendees should **call the Hotel directly at 386-252-.2378** and identify themselves as being with **U.S. National Baton Twirling Championship in order** to receive the special group rate. Following the reservation cut-off date, guest rooms are subject to availability and at the Hotel's prevailing room rates as the group rate may no longer apply.

CLICK HERE FOR BOOKING LINK: https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/LQ79P4





Hampton Inn Daytona Beach/Beachfront

1024 N Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach, FL32118 Phone: 386-275-8982

Located 1.5 mile from the Ocean Center

The **Hampton Inn Daytona Beach/Beachfront** is a modern eight story interior corridor facility centrally located directly on **Daytona Beach**. This contemporary **beachfront** hotel features guestrooms with private balconies overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Both double queens or king guest rooms are available. The hotel features a complimentary fitness and business center and a guest laundry. A convenience pantry is located in the lobby. Free high-speed wireless internet access is provided in all guest rooms and throughout the building. Free hot breakfast is offered daily. Our heated outdoor pool features a kid's splash park for year-round fun. Our pool deck features a whirlpool spa and fire pit.

SPECIAL
USTA
RATES
OFFERED:

\$139.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms from Sunday. Thursday.

day - Thursday

\$179.00 + tax Oceanfront Double Queen Efficiency Suites on Friday & Saturday

12.5% Tax

Offering:

- Rooms have private furnished balconies or patios.
- Complimentary wired and wireless Internet access
- Outdoor pool and a 24-hour fitness center. Bar/lounge.
- Complimentary buffet breakfast is served daily.
- 24-hour business center, complimentary newspapers in the lobby, and dry cleaning/laundry services.
- Free self-parking is available onsite.

Reservation Method: Individual Reserve and pay via call in or use the reservation link below.

https://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/D/DABBFHX-NAT-20210705/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Cut off 6/5/21. One-night's room and tax to be charged 30 days prior to arrival The balance to be charged at check in.

If calling in, use:

Group Name: U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships

Group Code: NAT

Phone Number: 386-275-8982





Daytona Beach

1820 Checkered Flag Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Phone: **386-254-4700**

Located 4.5 miles from the Ocean Center out by the Daytona 500 RaceTrack. Daytona's newest "Hot Spot" ONE DAYTONA! Our Fairfield Inn and Suites is surrounded by world class shopping, dining and entertainment. We are located within a shopping, dining, and entertainment complex known as ONE DAYTONA. We have restaurants such as 4Rivers BBQ, P.F. Chang's and Rock Bottom all within a 3-minute walk across the complex.

SPECIAL USTA RATES OFFERED:	\$119.00 + tax Standard Double Queens or King Rooms. 12.5% Tax
Offering:	 Complimentary Continental Breakfast, Free Wi-Fi, Free Parking. Guest Laundry Services, Outside Pool. Fitness Center, Business Center, Marriott Rewards and Outstanding Service

Reservation Method: Individual Reserve and pay via call in or by using this reservation **LINK**:

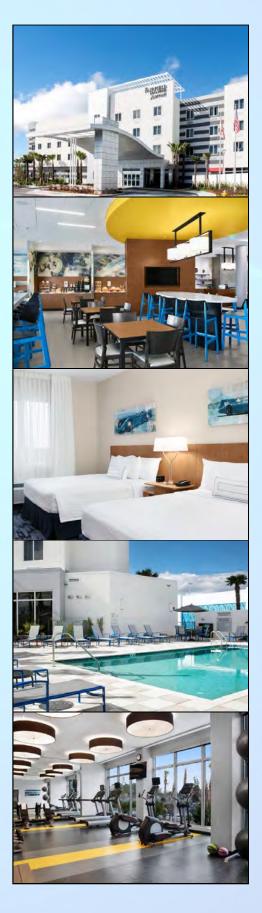
Cut off 6/5/21. One-night's room and tax to be charged 30 days prior to arrival The balance to be charged at check in.

If calling in use:

Group Name: U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships

Group Code: NAT

Phone Number: 386-254-4700





United States Twirling Association Individual Membership Application – 2020-2021 Season

Individual Membership Application – 2020-2021 Season (For Club/Organization Memberships, please use the Club/Organization Membership Form)

Apply online at www.ustwirling.com

All memberships include accident insurance and \$10,000 of medical / dental coverage. All memberships expire Aug. 31. Apply or renew by Sept. 1 to ensure you receive all USTA mailings.

		,	,				
Member Name		Gender □ M	ale Female				
Parent/Guardian Name(If athle	te is under 18)	Renewal □ Ye	es □ No				
Address			Athlete's Primary Coach				
City State		Zip		Birth date		USTA ID	
Member Email	1	,	Parent/Guardia	an Email		•	
Phone	☐ Check ☐ Credit Card	Card No		Expiration	Code		
Type: MC VISA Am. Ex.	Discover	Name on Card			Signature		
Billing Address	City			State	Zip		
INSTRUCTIONS: Find the m				All memberships expi nsure you receive all		when you apply. Apply or	
Proof of membership let Catch It! E-Zines Same benefits as First Uniform insignia (new m	Year Individual	□ \$35.00					
ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBE At least one person in the hous member must fill out a separate • Proof of membership let	ehold must hold a form.	□ \$25.00					
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP Same benefits as Athlete Coach and/or Judge patch – new certified members Certificate (for first-time certified members only) Access to Professional documents on the USTA website substituting insurance coverage (certified members only) Minimum age: 16 Minimum age to vote: 18					□ \$90.00		
Alumni Association This member type is for retired coaches & judges, former athletes and their parents/other relatives, or anyone interested in supporting twirling. This member type does NOT include the privilege of entering competitions, insurance coverage or Professional voting privileges. • Proof of membership letter • Catch It! E-Zines (if email address is provided) • Catch It! Winners' issue.					□ \$0.00		
Public Professional Listin	g - As a service t	o the public and ou	r Protessional Me	mbers, USTA provid	es a Public Professiona	I Listing on the USTA	

Public Professional Listing - As a service to the public and our Professional Members, USTA provides a Public Professional Listing on the USTA website to make it easy for people to find baton twirling coaches or classes in their area. In order to protect our members' privacy and personal information, USTA Professional Members must OPT IN to this listing and provide the information they want listed on the Public Professional Listing. Your professional membership must be <u>current</u> to appear on the listing. If you would like to be included in the Public Professional Listing, please do the following:

- * Go to www.ustwirling.com and login to Members Only using the User ID and Password you created when you set up your Members Only account.
- Click on Edit My Profile in the left hand menu.
- * Scroll down to "Professional Preferences" at the bottom of the page and check the box for "I want to be part of USTA's Public Professional Listing."

WAIVER/INDEMNITY OF LIABILITY: I agree to assume the risk of any injury that may happen to me (or my child) as a result of participation in a USTA sanctioned event. I further agree to indemnify and hold the United States Twirling Association, its agents or employees harmless from any loss they may sustain as a result of injury to me (or my child) as a result of my participation in USTA events. I have read the "Parents/Legal Guardians Responsibilities" in the current edition of the USTA Information, Procedures and Rules Book. As a condition for USTA's acceptance of my child's (or my) entry in a USTA event, I agree to abide by and perform each of the duties that are set forth in that statement. By participating in a USTA event, you give USTA permission to use photos and video of this athlete taken in conjunction with a USTA event.

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Signed			Date



United States Twirling Association

Club/Organization Membership Application — 2020-2021 Season (For Individual Memberships, please use the Individual Membership Form)

Apply online at www.ustwirling.com

All memberships include accident insurance and \$10,000 of medical / dental coverage. All memberships expire Sept. 1. Apply or

renew by Sept. 1 to ensure you receive all USTA mailings.								
Director Name	Gender □ Ma	ıle □ Female						
Team/Organization Name	Renewal Ye	s □ No						
Address	Director USTA ID							
City	City		Zip			Team/Org USTA ID		
Member Email								
Phone	☐ Check ☐ Credit Card	Card	Card No		Expiration		Code	
Type: MC VISA Am. Ex.	Discover	Nam	ne on Card		Signa	ature		
Billing Address					State		Zip	
INSTRUCTIONS: Please attach a team/organization roster to this application. See below for the information required for each athlete. There is no team or organizational fee. Please pay \$10.00 per athlete that you are registering. All memberships expire on Aug. 31 no matter when you apply. Apply or renew your membership by Sept. 1 each year to ensure you receive all USTA mailings. The team director will receive the Catch It! E-Zines and Winners' Issue mailed to the address above as well as a member letter for the team, and Accident insurance on each athlete listed on the roster.								
NUMBER OF ATHLETES			X \$10.00 PER ATHLETE			TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		
Public Professional Listing - As a service to the public and our Professional Members, USTA provides a Public Professional Listing on the USTA website to make it easy for people to find baton twirling coaches or classes in their area. In order to protect or members' privacy and personal information, USTA Professional Members must OPT IN to this listing and provide the information they want listed on the Public Professional Listing. Your professional membership must be current to appear on the listing. If you would like to be included in the Public Professional Listing, please do the following: * Go to www.ustwirling.com and login to Members Only using the User ID and Password you created when you set up your Members Only account. * Click on Edit My Profile in the left hand menu. * Scroll down to "Professional Preferences" at the bottom of the page and check the box for "I want to be part of USTA's Public Professional Listing."								
Please attach a team/organization roster to this application.								
For each athlete please provide the following:								
Athlete's Name								
Athlete's Date of Birth including Month/Day/Year								
Athlete's Address								
Athlete's City, State and Zip Code								
Athlete's Parent/Guardian Name								
Athlete or Parent/Guardian Email								
Athlete or Parent/Guardian Phone								
WAIVER/INDEMNITY OF LIABILIT agree to indemnify and hold the Ur result of my participation in USTA 6	nited States Twirlin	g Associ	iation, its agents or employe	es harmless from any lo	oss they	may sustain as a result of	injury to me (or my child) as a	

As a condition for USTA's acceptance of my child's (or my) entry in a USTA event, I agree to abide by and perform each of the dutie participating in a USTA event, you give USTA permission to use photos and video of this athlete taken in conjunction with a USTA event.

Signed Date	
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