

Volume 3

dt da

**INSIGHTS**  
the e-zine for dance team directors  
Fall 2005



**APRIL 26-29, 2006**  
**DTDA NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
[MARK THE DATE!](#)

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## Fall 2005 President’s Perspective Bright Lights on Broadway

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope all of you enjoyed the summer and were able to spend time with family and friends. I know everyone is busy with football season but I wanted to take the time to give you some valuable information.

The Executive Board – Melissa, Bryanna, Laura, Lynn, Nell, Debra, Dolores and I, met this summer to prepare for the 2006 convention. We looked over your evaluations, discussed the observations we made throughout the convention and shared conversations we had with some of you. We put all of these ideas, comments and suggestions together to start preparing for the 2006 convention. Now that we have begun the official planning of the convention, we need you to Save the Date for April 26-29 in Richardson, Texas at the beautiful Renaissance Hotel. Please note that the date has changed so please be sure to change your calendars! We do not want you to miss out on all the fun. We also want to encourage you to invite all of your drill team/dance friends and colleagues to join us for “Bright Lights on Broadway”.

Please know that the board is available to answer any questions that you may have regarding DTDA. Do not hesitate to ask. DTDA is a great organization for networking with other directors, area studio owners, and vendors. We also offer exciting workshops that you can apply to your job whether it is learning new or different dance skills, time management tricks or great fundraising ideas. We have all that and more. Please make sure to get on the website at [www.dtda.org](http://www.dtda.org). Register for convention or browse the several topics we have available, like our virtual notebook. Please remember that you must be an active member in order to use the many resources in the virtual notebook. If you have any interesting articles that you would like to contribute, please send them to us. We love to share them with the membership.

I hope you all have a wonderful and successful football season. Please be sure and stay in touch!

Michelle McGaughy  
President DTDA, Inc.

## Meet Exhibitor Flying Circle Bags

In April 2005, one of my first “jobs” as Flying Circle Bag Company’s new sales rep was to attend and exhibit at the DTDA National Convention in Richardson, Texas. Not knowing what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised to find out how great of an experience it was. The officers, directors, and fellow exhibitors were the nicest and most energetic group of people I have ever come across. They welcomed me from the moment I walked in, and continue to make Flying Circle Bag Co. feel like a close friend. It is because of them, we are able to share our company history, philosophy, and direction with you today.

[The History and Philosophy of Flying Circle Bag Company](#)

In 1988, Jim and Joy Chittim bought the remains of a local Boerne, TX sewing business that was on the verge of closing. It was with that equipment and personnel that Flying Circle Bag Co. was born. Throughout the years we have provided millions of bags to the US Military, public and private schools, numerous colleges, monogram and gift stores, and corporate organizations worldwide. Our diverse workforce of twenty five is still managed day to day by President and CEO; Joy Chittim. All our personnel are friendly, hard working, customer oriented individuals. Their relentless drive and motivation make Flying Circle Bags, a great place to do business with. We are still located in Boerne, Texas, twenty minutes northwest of San Antonio.

Due to increasing labor and material costs over the years, we made radical improvements in our production processes and product lines in the fall of 2004. The bags in all three of our distinct product lines are warehoused and in-stock. These improvements decreased delivery time, improved our quality, and made it possible to offer our customers great bags at tremendously lower prices.

Although our products and production methods have changed over the years, our philosophy has remained to produce durable and functional bags

at a reasonable price to satisfy our customers. We offer a lifetime guarantee on all of our products, we care about the quality of our bags and most of all; we want to make certain that our customers have the most attractive and durable bag on the market. To uphold this promise, beginning in September 2005, all of our large square duffel bags will come with attractive metal shoulder strap hardware, making the bag capable of holding 100+ pounds without the shoulder strap or bag breaking. In the near future all of our sport and spirit bags will contain this hardware.

[The Future](#)

The Sport & Spirit bag line currently overseen by myself, Robert Barnes, continues to serve college bookstores, businesses, numerous high schools, and most importantly, dance and drill teams all over the nation.

We currently offer five styles of bags, two multi-purpose square duffels, and three round duffels. All of our sport & spirit bags come in nine different colors. Our new Spirit Strip program is the direction the sport and spirit bag line is heading. Our Spirit Strip program is available on both styles of square duffels. The process consists of adding a customized two-tone strip of fabric, available in 16 different colors, and sewing it directly on the body of the bag. Instead of the traditional method of bag production which included different color straps and zippers, this program gives your bag a truly recognizable and unique “marquee” appearance. Examples can be seen at our website, <http://www.flyingcirclebags.com/sports.php>.

As a result of the convention in April, we were able to meet Keith and Debra Moravits from Danzgear. The great folks at Danzgear have recently began selling our bags, they provide a one stop shop for bags, poms, and any dance gear that your team may need, please visit their website at <http://www.danzgear.com>. We are continuously improving and developing new products, if you have any questions or ideas, we would love to hear from you. Thank you DTDA and its members for this opportunity to share our company history and future goals with you, and I hope to hear from you soon.

For questions, suggestions, or comments please feel free to contact Robert Barnes at 1-800-344-7242 ext. 40, or via email at [robert@flyingcirclebags.com](mailto:robert@flyingcirclebags.com).

## Recipes for the Busy Director Here are a couple of easy and delicious recipes for those times you just don’t feel like cooking!

### Chicken Tortilla Soup

14 ½ oz can diced tomatoes with green chiles  
14 ½ oz can black beans  
2 14 ½ oz cans chicken broth  
1 ¾ cup water  
2 chicken bouillon cubes  
1 to 2 T dried minced onion  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 t cumin  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed and cooked  
6 to 8 tortillas, cut into ¼ inch strips  
Garnish: shredded cheddar cheese  
Add all the ingredients except chicken, tortillas, and garnish to a heavy stockpot. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes. Add chicken; heat 10 minutes. Broil tortilla strips until toasted, stirring often. Ladle soup into bowls; sprinkle with tortilla strips and shredded cheese.

Makes 8 servings.

### Soda-Pop Chicken

6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
2 T oil  
12 oz can cola (coke or dr. pepper)  
18 oz bottle barbeque sauce  
Brown chicken in oil in a large skillet until no longer pink. Pour cola and barbeque sauce on top. Reduce heat; simmer 30 40 minutes.

Makes 6 servings.

## Introducing....

### Trudie Williams

Trudie Williams is currently in her seventh year as the Director of the Nationally Acclaimed Chevals of Creekview High School. During this time, the Chevals have traveled to New York City, Florida, and L.A. They have won many awards including Big Apple Champions, Novelty Champions at Contest of Champions, Best in Class at ADTS Alamo Classic, 1st place in all events at Showtime Nationals in 2004, and Grand Champions at Showtime’s Fort Worth Championship this past year. They have proudly performed in the Adolphus Children’s Parade for eight years and were asked to be the feature jazz group in the HTE opening production in 2004. However, Trudie is most proud of her team for the obstacles they have over come in order to achieve these goals.

Trudie’s drill team experience began as a member of the Arlington, Sam Houston H.S. Tex-Annes, directed by Connie Jo Holland. She received an Associates Degree from Trinity Valley Community College where she was the Captain of the TVCC Cardettes. Trudie obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Dance and English Education at Stephen F. Austin. While at SFA, she was honored to be a member of the National Championship Pom Squad in 1998. Trudie has had the privilege of working for Showtime International for ten years. She was also named one of the DTDA Top Ten Directors in 2003 and Wal-mart Teacher of the Year this past spring.

Trudie believes that competitive spirit organizations like drill team, cheer-leading, and pep squad provides students with valuable skills that will help them become responsible, dedicated, diligent, and successful in life. Her educational philosophy is to “Teach to Pass”. She believes that all students can learn what motivates them, utilize their individual talents, and find happiness and success while fulfilling God’s purpose in their life.

Trudie is married to a wonderful man, Mark. Together they value time with their family, their handsome and clever boxer, Festus Fletch, and their extended family of students and parents both past and present.

The top five things that Trudie values the most from her drill team director experience, has learned from her teachers, fellow team members, and her students:

1. Lifetime friendships – I have learned so much from the amazing women that I have worked with over the years, especially from Connie Jo Holland and Jennifer Morgan.
2. Learning to laugh through life – even at times when girls make prank calls which make you stop buses on the side of the road at Midnight after a long day of competition.
3. Power of prayer and positive thinking – I have seen prayer and positive thinking heal, rejuvenate, and empower young girls through brain cancer, severe birth defects, broken bones, and broken hearts.
4. Pride and integrity – even when you think you’ve won 1st place at Nationals, announce it to the world and then find out there was a mistake.
5. Always Smile – if Amy Roberts, who is eighteen, two and ½ feet tall and thirty five pounds, can smile and share joy with everyone she meets no matter what pain she may be dealing with, I know that I can make it through anything. Everyday is a gift, enjoy and share it.



## Dance Lesson Idea: Choreography for Dance I Students

Without any doubt the first of school at least one of my dance students ask “When do we get to make up our own dance?” It amazes me that they want to “make up dances: and don’t even know the term choreography. With that enthusiasm in mind I try to incorporate choreography activities from the 2nd six weeks of school in Dance I. The following activity is one of the first “choreography projects” my students complete. What is great about this lesson is that it can be adjusted to fit just about any unit, TEK or level you are trying to teach.

**Activity: Dance Cards**

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to give students the opportunity to choereograph a simple combination or dance and have experience performing and practicing.

Prerequisites: Students need to know what each of the listed dance steps are. For example, they would need to know how to do the jazz square or grapevine step if you were to put it on the cards.

Materials needed: Make dance cards by putting about 5-6 dance steps on each card. I use plain colored notecards and laminate them after I make them so they won’t tear. Suggested dance steps include: grapevine, simple jump steps turns leaps etc. What ever skill you are working on. Try to add at least one unusual step on each card, like karate chop or laying on the floor. Make each card a little different so that no two groups’ dances have identical steps or try using the same 5-6 moves just in a different orders. This is great for first time choreographers since choreography not free dance is brand new to them. You could also add “make up a move of your own” to give the students a chance to use their creativity.

Recommended Music: Any music with a clear, steady beat. The NOW cd’s are great for a variety of music with different beats and styles plus teenage girls usually like the music.

**Teaching Suggestions:**

- Have the students choose their own groups-usually of about 3-4, or assign groups.
- Each group receives one dance card.
- They are to decide the order in which to do the steps or you can assign the order of the steps. Every member of the group should know the order well.
- After the students are in groups, provide time for them cooperatively brainstorm their dance together. Give them time to practice and learn their dance. Depending on the length of the choreography will determine the amount of class time needed to work.
- Either allow time at the end of class or use the beginning part of the next class for the students to perform their dances. This is a wonderful practice opportunity to perform for a small group of their peers. It helps them not feel so shy dancing in front of their peers.
- Give students options for the kind of formation they may use when performing their dance. Ie facing away from each other, all facing the same direction, or you can encourage “drill team field formations”.
- Remind them that they can use forward, backward and sideways movements and that not all people do not need to be going in the same direction.
- Be sure to remind them to plan on what their arms will do.
- The music can be played several times during the creativity period. Depending on what the class needs. Sometimes playing the music over and over helps and sometimes it is confusing.

**Variations:**

- Tons of different dance steps, concepts or ideas you can use.
- Directions
- Elements of Dance
- Levels
- Try to make sure there is at least one unusual step on each card
- Length of activity maybe 6-8 counts the first time or 1 min of music
- This is a great lesson for a substitute to follow.

Assessment:

Use a checklist of the expected criteria. Have they:

- Included all the steps on the card
- Memorized the dance
- Performed in unison
- Is the performance on beat to the music
- Peer evaluation works well here.

Contributed by: Bryanna Currie

Please contact at DTDA if you have any questions regarding this dance activity.

## UIL – Booster Club Guidelines

While drill team is not UIL, these guidelines may prove useful when organizing a booster club.

Be they music, fine arts, academic, or athletic, booster clubs should exist to enrich students' involvement in extracurricular activities without endangering the eligibility.

### General Guidelines

#### Role of Booster Clubs

School patrons form booster clubs to help enrich the school's participation in extracurricular activities. The fund-raising role of booster clubs is particularly crucial in today's economic climate.

#### Written Policies

Booster clubs should develop and annually review policies to cover:

- how to obtain administrative approval before beginning projects;
- how to plan and publicize meetings;
- bookkeeping and fund administration including process to obtain superintendent's approval prior to raising funds.
- election of officers (suggestion: one president; one secretary; one treasurer; and three vice-presidents; one vice-president to oversee fall, winter, and spring sports;
- taking, distributing, and filing minutes;
- public communication;
- proper interaction with fine arts directors and academic and athletic coaches through the lines of authority as established by the school board;
- a sportsmanship code governing behavior of booster club members and fans at contests, treatment of officials, guests, judges, etc.; and
- plants to support the school regardless of success in competition, keeping the educational goals of competition at the forefront of all policies

#### Club Finances

##### Relationship with the school

- The superintendent or a designee who does not coach or direct a UIL contest has approval authority over booster clubs and should be invited to all meetings. All meetings should be open to the public.
- Booster clubs do not have authority to direct the duties of a school district employee. The schedule of contests, rules for participation, methods of earning letters and all other criteria dealing with inter-school programs are under the jurisdiction of the local school administration.
- Minutes should be taken at each meeting and kept on file at the school.
- School administration should apprise booster clubs of all school activities.
- Booster clubs should apprise school administrators of all club activities.
- Periodic financial statements itemizing all receipts and expenditures should be made to the general club membership and kept on file at the school

##### Fund-raising/Spending/Stipends/Gifts to Coaches

- Money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the school to use at its discretion.
- Fund-raising projects are subject to state law. Nonprofit or tax-exempt status may be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service.
- Community-wide sales campaigns should be coordinated through the school administration to minimize simultaneous sales campaigns.
- Sales campaigns should be planned carefully to insure that the projects provide dollar value for items sold, and that most of the money raised stays at home. Otherwise donations are often more rewarding than letting the major part of the money go to outside promoters.
- Fund raising activities should support the educational goals of the school and should not exploit students. Activities and projects should be investigated carefully before committing the school's support.
- Individuals who actively coach or direct a UIL activity should serve in an advisory capacity to the booster club and should not have control or signature authority over booster club funds, including petty cash or miscellaneous discretionary funds. Coaches' wish-lists should have received prior approval from school administration before submission to boosters.
- Coaches and directors of UIL academics, athletics, and fine arts may not accept more than \$300 in money, product, or service from any source in recognition of or appreciation for coaching, directing, or sponsoring UIL activities. The \$300 limit is cumulative for a calendar year and is not specific to any one particular gift.
- The district may pay a stipend, fixed at the beginning of the year, as part of the annual employment contract. The amount of the stipend can't depend on the success of a team or individual. In other words, a coach can't receive more money of a team or individual qualifies to region or state.
- Funds are to be used to support school activities. To provide such funding for non-school activities would violate UIL rules and the public trust through which funds are earned.

## The Geese

Taken From The Discovery Channel

Geese flying in a v-formation have always been a welcome sign of spring as well as a sign that heralds the coming of winter. Not only is this a marvelous sight, but there are some remarkable lessons that we can learn from the flight of the geese, because all that they do has significance—

1. As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for others behind it. There is 71 percent more flying range in v-formation than in flying alone.

**Lesson:** People who share a common direction and sense of purpose can get there more quickly.

2. Whenever a goose flies out of formation, it feels drag and tries to get back into position.

**Lesson:** It's harder to do something alone than together.

3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the head.

**Lesson:** Shared leadership and interdependence gives us each a chance to lead as well as an opportunity to rest.

4. The geese flying in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**Lesson:** Encouragement is motivating. We need to make sure our "honking" is encouraging and not discouraging.

5. When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out stay with it until it revives or dies. Then they catch up or join another flock.

**Lesson:** We may all need help from time to time. We should stand by our colleagues in difficult times.

-- Angeles Arrien

## Team Unity & Motivational Ideas

**Hug Tag** – Everyone gets a partner. Separate one pair of partners; one becomes "it", the other is the one who runs. "It" tries to tag her ex-partner before the partner can get a new one. In order to 'be safe,' the runner must "hug" another person. When she does, the person's partner must now run; and the game continues. Note: partnerships must be still, like base. They cannot run away from "it" or the runner unless abandoned by their partner.

**Blue Day Badge** – This can be a simple laminated paper that says "Blue day Badge," or whatever you want. A member can choose to wear the badge when they are having a bad day. That way, you know that there is something else going on in their life that is making them perform at less than their best, it is not just because they have a bad attitude about dance/drill team.

**Daily Quotes** – Place a different quote on the wall every week. Members can write about the meaning of the quote for merits. You can also choose a quote that applies to your objective for the week for your members to focus on and help motivate them.

**Block Talk** – Write an inspirational saying on wood block squares with one letter per square. It will look similar to a giant scrabble game. Throw the blocks on the floor. Have the team figure out what the saying is. You can also make this a competition between companies, and see which company can put their saying together first.

**Sing a Little Song** – Divide the team into small groups. Each group has to make up a song about drill team to the tune of any television show theme song. They should also create movements to go along with the song. Set a time limit of ten to fifteen minutes to complete the assignment. Have each group perform their song and dance. Obvious leaders will emerge as students participate in this activity. Creativity and teamwork will also be enhanced through this activity.

**M&M Game** – Team sits in a circle. Pass a bag of M&M's around and tell everyone to take as many as they want, but not to eat them yet. When all of the girls have candy, tell them to count the red ones. For each red M&M, she will share a positive quality about herself.

## T.E.A.M. Friends

A team is not a team without friends.

A good team are those who are friends till the end.

No matter what they think, feel or do,

If they are a friend they'll always be there for you.

To be a team that keeps going strong,

You have to have friends who can overlook your wrongs.

They are the ones who can talk out their live strifes,

And are willing to help out with each others lifes.

So be a strong team and please don't fight,

You have to admit you're not always right.