

York Chapter History

In the summer of 1990, Bob Black had a meeting of people that lived in the York area. At this meeting, he encouraged Sam Fiorenza, Don Leik, Lynette Runyan (now Lynette Baker), and Will & Wanda Harman to form a USABDA Chapter in York, PA.

These brave souls started with only 32 members. Later the membership grew to over 100. Finding places to dance and music for our dances was the job of the officers which were Sam Fiorenza, President; Norman Silverdale, Vice President; Don Leik, Treasurer; and Will Harman, Secretary. Hospitality was taken care of by Linda Heilman (now Linda Leik). Yes, Don and Linda were married this year. Other officers that have served over the years were Mike Eaton, Nancy Sarca, Phyllis Zeller/Koller, Brenda Cuffley, Jean Baldwin, Helen Shultz, Warren Hoffman, and Wanda Harman -who served as President for ten years.

Our original Chapter Banner was done by Sam Fiorenza and redesigned by Kathy Diehl. In the mid nineties, the York Chapter adopted the name of York White Rose Chapter. The White Rose became part of our banner. Sam also made the Combined Chapter Dance Banner which was redesigned by Al Freistak of Harrisburg .

The newsletter was another big job, which was started in late 1991. At a meeting of all chapters, Bob Black suggested the three chapters combine their information into one newsletter, which would work as a clearing house for dances dates. Don Leik called the newsletter Dancing Times. He had this job for 12 years. In the beginning, Don Leik and Wanda Harman had to lick the stamps (wet washcloth), used a hand stapler, and round white Bic pens (white did not leave a mark on the newsletter), to fold and crease them. Now they were ready to meet the guidelines of the Post Office for mailing newsletters at the bulk mailing rate. At the time, they were doing over 350 newsletters. Over the years his staff consisted of: Wanda Harman, Helen Shultz, Nancy Sacra, and Jean Baumgardner.

Will Harman was our music man for 10 years. He played music at dances, during break time, and occasionally taught the dance lesson for the York Chapter. In later years, Doug Whitehill also volunteered his time and music for the chapter.

Through the years, there have been many people, who loved to dance, that have given many volunteer hours to the success of York White Rose Chapter of USABDA.