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National Governing Body of DanceSport, Member Organization of the US Olympic Committee, and the World DanceSport Federation

As Chapter Presidents, you recently received a letter from a Facebook Group naming itself DanceSport Governance Group, inviting you to join their group on Facebook, asked questions and what action to engage in with the letter. The letter as written, presents itself as an alternative source of information and a campaign letter for the USA Dance, Inc upcoming elections.

***Several of you have asked if this letter was from USA Dance? The simple answer is no.***

The DanceSport Governance Group consists of some USA Dance members, Professionals, and others. In their letter to you, they failed to identify themselves as persons, hiding behind a name. This group has no ties to and does not represent USA Dance on any level. The USA Dance members belonging to the “group” have chosen to posit themselves as representatives, to voice opinions, etc. on Facebook, ignoring the many avenues of discourse available to them within USA Dance.

***Are the “discussions” presented in the email accurate? The simple answer again, is no.***

The “group” has invented fabrications without input from the Governing Council or respective Councils, such as the Professional, Social or DanceSport representatives. Many of the discussions denigrate USA Dance as an organization, particular members and mock the work volunteers in USA Dance perform. Most of the discussions involve false and inflammatory language, half-truths, or unfounded, pointed criticism of one or more volunteers.

***What is the purpose of this “group”?***

The stated purpose is to ensure democracy. The letter states that a group of people (the originators of the letter) find the current administration’s approach to communications is not transparency, is inconsistent with USOC requirements, etc., but fail to live up to that claim themselves. The letter is a campaign letter as you can note when read.

***How were our emails accessed?***

There are several theories as to the email lists used by the “group”. The use of emails within USA Dance has always been limited to and accessed through USA Dance. The fact that this letter was mailed with no concern to your privacy, respect for the organization or individuals in USA Dance exposes the truth – a willingness to violate your rights and USA Dance’s right to it’s membership. We do not know, per their comments on transparency, if a vote was held to ensure all participants in the “group” agreed or were informed, both to content and the improper use of email addresses. We do not know at this time who unethically obtained the mailing list, nor when they chose



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to use it for purposes outside of USA Dance. It appears as though it would have been a prior Governing Council member or an employee.

***What should we do with it?***

It should be discarded. Should a member wish to publish a document within USA Dance the document can be submitted for review and accuracy to the Marketing Director. These submissions occur on a regular basis and are posted as required. Many submissions result in direct communication. Questions related to issues with USA Dance can be addressed to directors, Council VP's and any member of the Governing Council. In addition, the Marketing team developed the [membersvoice@usadance.org](mailto:membersvoice@usadance.org) available to all members for engagement and responses.

Thank you for questioning and engaging in a discussion with the USA Dance Governing Council.

Gary Stroick, USA Dance President on behalf of the Governing Council