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FOR THE BUSY EXECUTIVE

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October 23, 1998

Mr. Rick Hawes
PO Box 6731
Portland, OR 97228

Re: **Medallion Dancer Project**

Dear Rick,

Thank you for agreeing to take over the administration and maintenance of the Medallion Dancer project on behalf of the IAGSDC™. This project was originally referred to as the 10 Year Veterans medallions. I now consider the official name to be Medallion Dancer¹. It does not take ten years to earn a medallion. It can be earned in nine years because they are counted from the beginning of the year, not the end (as is true when counting anniversaries). Additionally, since the conventions do not have to be consecutive, some dancers take longer than 10 years to earn a medallion. It is important to remember that conventions are being counted, not years.

Rick, my experience with you over all these years indicates that you are an ideal person to watch over this project. You are detailed and responsive. You cannot have remained in the square dance activity and weathered all the storms (some of which you have created) without having a deep concern for the activity and the people involved. As you know, the 1998 Portland convention was the 10th convention of the brainchild of this project. I have loved creating the project, persisting in promoting it in the beginning, and watching the public accept and respect it for its significant, personal meaning to each dancer.

This letter is my official release of all my rights to the Medallion Dancer project². I have never taken any steps to legally protect the name of the project. This will be your decision.

¹ Actually, Mac MacCarthy from Times Squares was the first person to use this phrase in his thank you note to me after having received his medallion for 10 conventions.

² A die does exist for the production of the medallions with "10" on the front. When my friend who has arranged the physical production of the medallions and I first discussed the project, it was agreed that I would own the molds. I do not have physical possession of the molds, but in due course I will arrange to get those to you. As you know, the company that was casting the medals is no longer in existence. While there are enough medallions with "10" on the front in stock to take you through approximately the next 5 years, it would be wise to begin to research how to produce them in the future. Remember that you will need a medallion with "20" on the front for the convention in 2003--assuming you retain the original recognition years of 10, 20, and 30.

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By releasing my rights to this project, I am also releasing the right to review or control the future form and substance of the program. You are at liberty to administer it in whatever way you wish. While I have personally funded all related expenses of administering the project in the past, I do not believe that is the only way to underwrite the project. I do believe the project has achieved my goals:

- giving the individual dancer a simple, attainable goal that is judged by nothing other than participation
- giving the individual dancer control over attaining the goal so that alternatives can be woven into the process of achievement
- providing a goal that is realistic, but requires extraordinary effort
- providing a reward that is tangible and visually satisfying
- providing a spirit of great joy and a feeling of personal human worth in having achieved the goal
- creating a feeling of community and equality among those who have reached and are seeking to reach the same goal
- extending the convention attendance life of the dancer in order to provide significant convention attendees so that newer dancers feel the excitement of the mass

I have never asked the IAGSDC™ for permission to create the medallions. However, all host conventions have been very cooperative in providing a means to publicize and present them. Until there is an official link to the Association and the hosting conventions, you will be well served to always request the permission. In all likelihood, the conventions will come to you to inquire about your needs. A spirit of appreciation, rather than expectation, is very effective and in keeping with the spirit of cooperation that gives the medallions their great power.

There are two major decisions that I have had to make that you may wish to perpetuate or modify--your choice. Vendors are eligible for medallions under the name of the business--not the individual employees who work the booths or equipment such as sound. I think it is wise to have one representative from the business to receive the medallion, but I made an exception this year with the Fials because they are such extraordinary friends of the gay square dancers. However, the business received only one medallion even though I personally requested they both appear on the stage to receive it.

The other major decision concerns the sharing of information in the database for purposes other than that for which it is collected--that is, the administration of the medallion project. Because I have never requested permission to collect the data in the first place and because I have never requested from the individual dancers permission to share their information as a collective mass, I have refused to provide access to anyone wishing to use it for mailings. I have, however, agreed to allow the Baltimore convention to have a set of labels selected according to a specific criteria. This request may or may not materialize in the future.

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I do think this database is ripe for creating a central database for future conventions for registration purposes. You might want to pursue ways to create a master record which would allow efficient integration between convention attendance and assimilation into this database.

Rick, I am always available to answer questions and offer advice. Best wishes for the future of the program. It is my belief that, if the medallions are significant to the lives of the dancers, the program will continue under leadership other than me. It is not the administrator of the project giving reward; it is the dancer's satisfaction in having achieved the goal that is the reward.

Best regards,

COPY

Charles F. Stamper

cc: Mr. Karl Jaeckel
Administrator
International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs™

Messrs. David Bowers & Walter Lopez
Angels Unaware Extraordinaire