

# **PRESIDENTS' GAVEL AWARD (For Outstanding Service)**

## **NATIONAL SMOOTH DANCERS "HALL OF FAME"**

1975	LA	*BETTY MACK - Queen Mother, Reporter, Whispers Circulation
1976	LA	*VIRGINIA CRAWFORD - Home Office Secretary
1977	VIS	*GINO De MILO - Host of Half Way House
1978	LA	*FRED HORN - Troubled Times
1979	LA	*LIZ BRADFORD - Catalina, Whispers Editor, 1st Lady of N.S.D. Award
1980	GG	*JACK KESSLER - Charity work in the name of N.S.D.
1981	GG	*BOB FRAGOMENI - State Gourmet Chef *ROSALIE WOLF - State Gourmet Chef
1982	PAL	*GEORGE OLIVER - Ambassador at Large
1983	SD	*BILL HAGGARTY - Over the Hill contest & Charity work
1984	LA	*GORDON CRAWFORD - Constitution and Advisor
1985	BAK	JIM HARRIS - Gifts and Artistic creations for N.S.D.
1986	VIS	*PHYLLIS De MILO - Hostess of Half Way House
1987	LA	*RAY BRADFORD - Constitution, Taxes and Catalina
1988	LA	*RAY JEWETT - Creator of: Gavel Club, Foot in Mouth, Half Way House, 1st Lady of N.S.D. Award, North/South Team Matches
1989	BAK	ELROY LISENBEE - Chairman Board of Directors, Contest Chair Bakersfield
1990	LA	*BEA GASPAR - Editor of Whispers, Catalina, LA Coronations
1991	SFV	*OPAL NANCE - Goodwill Ambassador, Board Secretary, Constitution
1992	SFV	DICK PHIPPS - Delegate Chair, Board President, Gavel Club Chair
1993	PAL	*OLIVER ATKINS - Board Chairman, Chairman and co-Chair Conventions
1994	FRE	*FLOYD QUALLS - Founder Fresno Chapter, State Board President
1995	BAK	*ELSIE SORENSEN - State Delegate, State Board, Chair of Delegates

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1996	LA	*TINA VAN ZANDT - Home Office Secretary, Secretary of State Board
1997	SD	*WANDALEE DIMOND - Ambassador, Convention Chair, Hospitality AL FOLKMAN - Ambassador, Convention Chair, Dance Rules, Hospitality
1998	GG	*JIM CHRISTIE - State Dance Rules Chairman, Goodwill Ambassador
1999	FRE	KATHY SACHSE - Compassion, State Queen, Enthusiasm
2000	VIS	LOTTI CARR - Ballroom Dance Promotion
2001	FRE	*KEVIN MC CREADY - Ambassador, Gavel Club Chair, Convention Chair, Home Office Secretary
2002	BAK	*DON STIKES - State Board Music Tapes, Music Preparation
2003	BAK	CHARLENE MILLER - Board of Directors Meeting Chair, Dance Rules
2004	CC	*DOROTHY WEBSTER - Ambassador, Wine & Roses Benefit, Multi-officer of Central Coast, Dedication to organization
2005		No Nominees in 2005
2006	VIS	HARTUNE NEFFIAN - 2003/04 President Board of Directors, Multi-officer of Visalia, Entertainer
2007	SD	CHUCK DiSESSA – Delegates’ Committee Vice Chair, Delegates Chair, Board of Directors President, Ambassador
2008		No Nominees in 2008
2009	GG	HERB CHOW - Treasurer, Vice-president, President, Editor. An enthusiastic promoter and supporter of NSD at chapter and state levels.
2010	GG	JOE MALTA – A 30-year chapter member dedicated and supportive of NSD. Numerous years served as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, “Music Man.”
2011	SD	PATRICIA DiSESSA – Current Home Office Secretary. State Vice-Chair of Delegates for two years. Registrar for two Fresno Conventions and holder of multiple chapter offices
2012	PAL	PETER HANSON – A 27-year NSD member and a past and current President. An innovative, inspiring leader and a tireless worker for the Palomar chapter and the entire NSD organization. An enthusiastic supporter of ballroom dancing.
2013	SFV	BARBARA GREENLAW – A 23-year chapter member, multi-officer of SFV chapter; 7 year president of Gavel Club; 4-time International category champion. An unfailingly upbeat and friendly individual, always encouraging and positive and generous.

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- 2014 SFV JOAN ROBINSON – Joined SFV Chapter in 2007, Joan has continuously held positions in the chapter, including Recording Secretary, Social Chair, President, and Board Member, as well as taking on the job of SFV Whispers Newsletter Editor, and she served as Chapter Queen for three years. One of Joan's fortes is marketing and outreach. She attends many area dances and constantly promotes our chapter's first Saturday dance as well as upcoming conventions and spring weekends by making enthusiastic announcements at these dances. She is also very good at making personal connections and encouraging individuals. Her enthusiasm for NSD is always unwavering.
- 2015 SFV BILL STEEBER – A member of the SFV Chapter since 1990, Bill has served in many chapter positions, including Vice President for three years, President for two years, and currently in his fifth year as Treasurer. In addition he has served as a Board of Directors member and Chairman of the NSD Dance Rules Committee for four years. In the offices he has held, Bill has always carried out the duties of each in a highly exemplary manner. With his dance and life partner, Barbara Greenlaw, Bill has reached the highest level in NSD competitions, winning the 4-Star International Standard competition four times. Bill is a true gentleman, who gets along with everyone and always has the best interests of the chapter and NSD in mind. His ongoing efforts contribute greatly to the smooth functioning of both, for which he has provided outstanding service.
- 2016 LA TOM WELLS – The current Editor in Chief of the Dance Whispers, Tom has done a yeoman's job of creating a very exciting and colorful magazine worthy of the National Smooth Dancers. Tom has streamlined the jobs of Chapter Editors by providing detailed lessons on how to successfully submit photos and articles electronically, which he then compiles into a finished product in both email and printable versions. When it comes to competitions, Tom has made sure every winner is credited with a picture in Dance Whispers. He has taken Dance Whispers to a higher level!
- 2017 FRE CARLA HARTUNIAN – There are not many members in National Smooth Dancers that have the credentials of Carla. Some excel at the local level and some excel at the national level. She has excelled at both. On the local level Carla has served as her Chapter's: President, Vice President, Social Chair, Chapter and State Queen, and Coronation Hospitality Chair. On the statewide level, Carla has served as President and Vice President of the State delegates and has attended 15 out of the last 16 State Conventions and Board of Directors meetings. Carla is a natural born teacher and supportive leader, with a full heart that never stops giving and a willingness to go the extra mile. She is also considered the "Queen Mum" and has been a source of friendship and helpfulness to all Queens past and present.
- 2018 VIS LINDA GUTTIERREZ – Linda has been highly involved in both State and Visalia Chapter services. Her contributions include serving as Chairperson of State Dance Rules Committee, Dance Rule Committee member (current, ongoing role), Delegate Committee and Visalia Chapter Convention Chair (2007 and 2020). Due to her experience, Linda has also graciously helped other chapters organize dance rules and convention competitions. She is highly active within our own local chapter, participating and helping with numerous activities. Her involvement and willingness to help everyone makes her a valuable asset to both her chapter and to NSD.

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- 2019 PAL MARSHA HANSON – Marsha has made significant contributions in supporting the needs of all our chapters during her 33 years of membership. And, she has done so with much grace and humility. She has competed at and won awards at all levels of ballroom dance up to 4 star and State Championships. Her dedicated support of National Smooth Dancers has been demonstrated over the decades that she has faithfully attended the coronations of our sister chapters. Her leadership has been instrumental in the consistently high attendance of Palomar Chapter members at all National Smooth Dancer coronations and conventions. Her selfless dedication to voluntarily teach ballroom every Monday night continues to promote ballroom dancing the general public and has resulted in a doubling of our club membership, a significant contribution to both Palomar and National Smooth Dancers. Her service exemplifies the best of what National Smooth Dancers represent with her consistent and unflagging support of both National Smooth Dancers and her home chapter of Palomar Smooth Dancers.
- 2022 BAK STEVE PETERSON – As a longtime member of the Bakersfield Chapter, Steve has been a leader, serving his Chapter as President, Vice President and Board Member. Over the past 8 years, Steve has been the Chairmen of the Board of Directors Weekend, one of the two annual dance events that brings all NSD Chapters together. Steve's service exemplifies the best of what the National Smooth Dancers represents, with his consistent and hard-working support at both the state level of our organization and within his local Chapter.
- 2023 BAK BEN WILSON – As a seasoned member of the Bakersfield Chapter, Ben has served multiple leadership positions, including President, Vice President, and Board Member. For 6 years Ben has served NSD as the President of the Board of Directors, and during that time he led the committee tasked with clarifying and revising the NSD Constitution, with these revisions since accepted by all NSD Chapters. During meetings, Ben creates an environment that encourages Board Members to share their Chapter's information, for the benefit of all NSD and during his years of service Ben has exhibited professional leadership, running meetings efficiently, with an on-target focus that achieves the business at hand.

(\* IN MEMORIAM)