

# BOP BEAT

<http://www.derbycitybop.com>



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LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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**After back to back dances where the dominate color was RED, it was nice to see some other color take center stage.**



**DCBA Club Officers**

**BILL WALLACE.....502-797-0607**  
**BRENDA MEREDITH.....502-459-9790**  
**LARRY JOHNSON.....502-245-3198**  
**BETH STENBERG.....502-643-0757**  
**DAN HUDSON.....812-725-1238**  
**MARTHA RINGO.....502-749-1977**

**WEB EDITOR**

**Jim Brown Home.....502-499-7873**  
**Work.....502-587-0721**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Nicholas Coleff .....502-338-7856**  
**Email: N.coleff@derbycitybop.com**  
**Web: http://www.derbycitybop.com**

**Email Addresses**

B.wallace@derbycitybop.com  
 B.stenberg@derbycitybop.com  
 L.Johnson@derbycitybop.com  
 m.ringo@derbycitybop.com  
 D.hudson@derbycitybop.com  
 B.meredith@derbycitybop.com

**CLUB ADDRESS:**

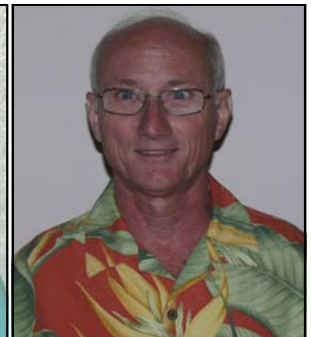
**DCBA**  
**PO BOX 43363,**



**Beth Stenberg**  
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**Brenda Meredith**  
**Vice-President**



**Dan Hudson**  
**Secretary**



**Larry Johnson**  
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**DANCE INSTRUCTION**

Larry Carroll

Okay...Okay...We get the message !! Some of our members have been asking the DCBA to teach intermediate dance lessons in disciplines other than those we normally teach at Porter's every other month...AND to teach the lessons for more than the half hour time frame done at Porter's. So, we're going to do that !! However, we are going to do this in a very different manner. Because we can't occupy the dance floor at Porter's for any longer than the allocated 30 minutes on Tuesday nights, we are going to have to change venues for these lessons. We're going to teach these lessons at the Moose Lodge #5 on Fegenbush Lane. And, we're changing the day to Sunday evenings, beginning at 6:00 PM and ending at 7:00. Also, here is something else that's new....we must charge each student \$5 per lesson, and ask you to pay for the full month of 4 progressive lessons in advance...that's \$20 for the entire month of lessons. What a deal, huh !!! You will also be able to take advantage of the extremely reasonable meal and beverage prices that the Moose Lodge offers its members. We encourage you to arrive early...say about 5:00 o'clock...and take advantage of the special meals that the Moose Lodge's "Women of the Moose" prepare each Sunday.

These group, progressive lessons will begin on March 6th with Larry Carroll and Donna Habig teaching West Coast Swing. Then, in April, Tom and Teresa Goff will teach Carolina Shag. Beyond that, we're still working on future months, so stay tuned.

Now, this is VERY important, so pay attention.....Students MUST sign up prior to the first lesson !! No one will be allowed to join the lessons after the first lesson starts, as the lessons are progressive and instructors will not be able to detract from their scheduled instruction to bring a newcomer "up to speed". So, those of you who are interested need to contact Rodney Murphy or Larry Carroll on Tuesday nights at Porter's or see us at the Moose Lodge on the date of the first lesson to sign up and pay the instruction fee. Last, but not least, on the months with five Sundays, there will be no lessons taught on the fifth Sunday. That's all for now...but, wait a minute...do I hear Cha-Cha music in the distance?? Hmm

# DCBA President's Letter



There are two other great dance opportunities surrounding the Derby. Try to squeeze both of them in your Derby Planning. The first is the fundraiser for the Louisville Deaf Oral School to be held on Derby Eve. This is not a DCBA event, but you will find DCBA members at the registration table, at the drink table, at the DJ table, selling raffle tickets, serving food and helping with the raffles and silent auction. And, oh yes, on the dance floor! Ada Lee Kane, a long time DCBA member, has planned, organized and hosted this event for MANY years earning money for the school where she teaches tap dancing. Tickets are \$20 before the event and \$25 at the door. You can buy your tickets Tuesday night from Ada Lee, Austin or me. Ron Wallace is donating his time to DJ this great event and has purchased 5 extra tickets. This Tuesday night he is donating them to be drawn with the 50/50. So, this is the night to buy your 50/50 tickets and maybe win either the money or 1 of the 5 tickets donated by Ron. Thanks Ron! If you cannot attend this great dinner/dance, consider making a donation to the school.

The second opportunity is at Porter's on Derby Day. DCBA has partnered with Porter's and they are opening early that day. Starting at 5:00 PM, Eric and Tom will be DJing until 9:00. There is free admission from 5 until 9. At 9:00 a band will play and anyone in the building at 9:00 will hear the band for free. We will have the big screens down and the races live. So, come on out and dance while we wait for the big race. Have you bet on your horse yet?

The Board met on Monday and most of the business surrounded BIB. There were discussions surrounding vendors, DJ schedules, dance instructors, and activities for Friday and Saturday. We are keeping all the good stuff and adding more to make it even better than last year so make your plans to attend this year.

As President I have many people come to me with compliments and complaints. I love the compliments and I listen to the complaints. The only time the complaints are hard to deal with is when they contradict with compliments. I was with a group of DCBA friends Wednesday who questioned why I had not written about a member's medical condition I knew about. They all stated they would like to see that continue in the weekly newsletter. The Board has discussed this the last few months and had decided (based on some complaints) to stop writing about member illnesses in detail and only sending out a death notice if the death was of the member or a member's family and the funeral was local. With facebook and all the other methods of communication, those associated with members will know of their suffering. But there are some we know from club, but are not friends on facebook or other social media sites. So, I will compromise and just remind you of those "sitting one out" in the weekly column if requested by the member and you can follow up with cards or phone calls. We can never forget we are a dance club preserving the bop music and dance, but we also can never forget the social vein runs very deep in this organization. DCBA members are seen with each other many times outside the weekly and monthly dances. So, sitting one out for some time now and in the near future is Ronnie Braden.

See you on the dance floor Tuesday at Porter's! And dance like no one is watching! Let me know what is going on with you and if you have anything to share with the members!

Beth

At most dances a central color theme seems to dominate, at the Holiday Ball and Valentine dance it was red, at the St. Patrick's dance it was green but at the Derby dance this year it was bright colored flower prints for the ladies.




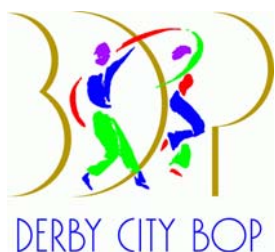
M a y		J u n e	
Dance Lessons Intermediate 6:30pm. Beginners 7pm.	Tues. 3rd. Jim Porters DJ Tom Goff	Dance Lessons Intermediate None Beginners 7pm.	Tues. 7th. Jim Porters DJ Mike Hall
Membership Meeting Monday 9th. 6:30pm. Ramada Inn Hurstbourne Parkway	Tues. 10th. Jim Porters DJ Mike Hall	Membership Meeting Monday 13th. 6:30pm. Ramada Inn Hurstbourne Parkway	Tues. 14th. Jim Porters DJ Jim Brown
Beginner Instructors Murray & Leslie	Tues. 17th. Jim Porters DJ Jim Brown	Beginner Instructors Ron & Bonnie Wallace	Tues. 21st. Jim Porters DJ Eric Evans
Intermediate Instructors Tamara & Cary Perkins	Tues. 24th Jim Porters DJ Eric Evans		Tues. 28th. Jim Porters DJ Tom Goff
	Tues. 31st. Jim Porters DJ Tom Goff		

**Happy Birthday!**  
**Members Having Birthdays.**



Welcome to the members who joined the DCBA in March and April

<b>May Birthdays</b> 03 Jacqueline Bates 04 Debra Pearman 05 Carol A. Spalding 05 Tom Jenkins 06 Pamela Scott 06 Jo Ann Miller 07 Ron Grobmeier 11 Melanie Gunn 11 Teresa Goff 12 Donald Higdon 12 George Tolhurst 13 Wilma Clevenger 13 Tom Corder 14 Kenneth Forcht 14 Patrick Weber 19 Marvin Elkins 21 Donald Keller 21 Vicki Brzezinski 23 David Hughes 24 J.T. Bradshaw 25 Karen Ramage 26 Greta Trusty	26 Karen Ware 28 Eric Evans 28 Cindy Sightler 29 Connie O'Connell 29 Susan Sharp 30 David Brown	<b>June Birthdays</b> 06 Harold Hall 08 Linda Sparkman 11 Vickie Talley 11 Giny Wallace 11 Lynne Marshall 12 Rodney Murphy 13 Lezli Stormes 18 John Balchunas 18 R.C. Williams 20 Jim Flautt 24 Debbie Christensen 24 Beverly Bayers 24 Jason Mudd 25 Mike Edwards 25 Wayne Fulton 25 Mary Jane Miller 27 Michael Guidry 28 Ed Gunn 29 Ken Schneider 30 Ceil Janson 30 W. Cary Perkins	Mike Stevens Barbara Larson Tom Jenkins David Finley Dan Reed Vicki Ferren Gregg Ferren Jim Turner Anne Alexandra  
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# Attention dancers

**DCBA non-themed dance.**  
**Saturday May, 14th. & June 11th.**  
**Moose Lodge, Feganbush Ln.**  
**Dance Lessons 6:30**  
**Dancing 7pm. until 11pm.**  
**Members \$5 Non-members \$10**

## Dance Floor Dos and Don'ts

**THIS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE — ONLY SOME OF US.**



### Rules for Gentlemen -

1. When you dance, a lady is trusting you in a very intimate space. Respect that trust and you will never have any problems filling your dance card.
2. Do not try flamboyant moves with a new dancer. Frustration is probably the #2 reason for women leaving dance. See Rule 1 for the top reason.
3. Never give unsolicited dance lessons during a social dance. If she asks, you can show her a move. But if she doesn't ask, don't tell. Do not correct your partner on the dance floor.
4. If you mess up, it's your fault. If she messes up, it's your fault. Get used to it.

### Rules for Ladies

1. The old rule-of-thumb is to never turn down a dance unless you are too tired or have promised the next dance to someone else. But you are certainly not obliged to dance with someone who has broken Rule #1 for the Gentlemen. If you are too tired or you promised the dance to someone else, it is nice for the gentleman to hear, "please ask me again later." If the man has not acted like a gentleman, then you owe them nothing. A simple, "no" will do.
  2. Don't apologize. Gentlemen should be honored to dance with you.
  3. Be patient with new dancers. They may only know a couple of moves. Dance what he knows how to lead and do not (a) back-lead or (b) do an unsolicited lesson, during a social dance.
  4. Don't hijack the dance.
- Some men give you opportunities to "play." Some don't. Wait for him to give you that time and space.

### Rules for BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

1. Less is more. Keep your steps small, stay up on the balls of your feet and keep your elbows close to your body, especially in crowds.
2. No matter how new your partner is, be encouraging and say, "thank you." We need to do all we can to keep new dancers coming back. Make them feel good about the dances they do with you!
3. If you have been with the same dancer for more than 2 dances, you're monopolizing that partner; let someone else dance with that partner.

**Every dance is ladies choice !**

## Chris DeMaree receives *James Carson Lifetime Achievement Award*



**How it all started.** In the fall of 1979, while working in Boston, I found myself watching my son play soccer. As usual, my wife Linda had moved away to another seat, far away from me while watching the game because as always, I was loud, critical and sometimes abusive to the calls made by the referees. When this particular game was over, the referee walked over to me and said something to me like; He was very impressed with my knowledge of the game, and why didn't I come join him? He then handed me a business card and his name was "Vinnie Mauro, National Referee". With that invitation, my 30+ year career as a USSF referee, instructor & assessor began.

- Spring 1980 – Licensed Grade 8 referee.
- 1981 Upgraded to a Grade 7 referee.
- 1982 Licensed as a High School referee in Massachusetts.
- 1983 Upgraded to a Grade 6 State referee.
- While in Boston, the name Vinnie Mauro became a household word because Vinnie became my assignor and mentor. As you may know, Vinnie became a FIFA referee and worked games in the World cup. He also became USSF director of referees and came to Indiana for many ISRC events.
- My last game in Boston was to referee the Girls High School final.
- 1985 moved to Fort Wayne IN.
- While living in Fort Wayne I refereed 2 State Amateur finals.
- 1986 became a licensed Instructor for USSF.
- 1986 became a licensed assessor for USSF.
- 1987 appointed by Jimmie Carson to become SDA for the State Referee Committee.
- 1988 became a licensed State Instructor after spending 7 days in Colorado Springs, CO.
- 1988 was asked by Jimmy Carson to become the SRA.
- 1989 became a licensed State assessor for USSF.
- 1993 became SDI until 2001.

In 2001, I retired as an active referee having worked in over 2000+ games, with the youth, HS, and amateur divisions. Since that time I have continued to work as a State instructor, State assessor and recently as a National assessor for NISOA. **It's been fun and I hope to be able to continue as long as I have good health.**



*Derby City Bop Association*  
*2011 ABA Hall of Fame*  
*Nominee*  
**Larry Johnson**



The second Saturday of every month, Larry Johnson cashes a \$200 check and heads for the Derby City Bop's dance. He is the first one to arrive and settles into his self-proclaimed place – the front door. Tuesday nights he also has his checkbook under his arm entering Porters where approximately 200 people will be dancing and listening to Bop music.

Having served as the Treasurer for the last five years, Larry is protective of the fiscal position of the club. During his term as Treasurer, he led the challenge to stop the downward spiral of increased expenses and low bank balances. His efforts have resulted in an average bank balance today of \$30,000. What is Larry's motivation to serve DCBA? It is the music and the love of dance!

Larry's passion for Bop music stretches back 21 years when a group of new found friends formed a dance club that would grow to over 400 members and be known as Derby City Bop Association (DCBA). Larry wanted the club so badly; he opened the club's first bank account with \$100 of his own money and funded the first dance with Bill Wallace.

He says today that was one of the best \$100 he has ever spent. DCBA still owes him that money, but with the time he has given us over the last 21 years, we could never repay him. So, we are keeping the \$100.

Four months ago a faulty knee put Larry on crutches and his dancing came to a screeching halt. Knowing how important dancing is to Larry, DCBA recently honored Larry with a "chair dance" by many of the women of the club. The chair swayed to the tune of *Nine Times a Man*, one of Larry's favorites. In those few minutes, Larry twirled the women and pretended he was dancing. The smile remained pasted on his face long after the dance was over. In just a few weeks, Larry will have the knee replaced and a new dance life will start.

Like the other founders of DCBA, Larry's love of dancing started at home. His Mom and Dad both had rhythm and were not shy to show it around the house. In 1958, he experienced his first "sock hop". He approached a "cute little thing" and asked her to dance. It only took a few minutes to realize he could not dance! He felt the music, but his feet did not respond appropriately. His older brother, Glenn, was fabulous on the dance floor and took his little brother under his wing and taught him the "secret" of a great dancer. That night, Glenn took off his belt, wrapped it around a door knob and handed the ends to Larry. "Keep your feet on the ground, feel the music and don't let go of the belt," Glenn instructed. Hours were spent tethered to that doorknob. Every day his confidence grew and by the time he was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, he danced as smooth as Glenn. He never missed another school dance and the music had captured his soul. Shortly thereafter, Pat captured his heart and they danced the night away many times before they married.

After marriage in 1963, "life" took over. Larry attended Western Kentucky University then promptly joined the Jefferson County, Kentucky Police Department where he served our community for 20 years until retirement. During the early years of their marriage, Larry juggled 3 or 4 jobs to make ends meet.

They soon did not have time to dance. It was at that time Larry began his music collection and is still adding to it today. The lack of quality time at home and the stress of being a police officer engulfed them and a divorce in the mid-1980s landed Larry back in the dating world. Music drew him to a place called Studebakers. Three other couples had found each other around the same time at the same place for the same reason – craving to dance to “their music.”

Larry’s new friends heard of Boogie on the Riverwalk and two of the couples headed for Florida to experience it firsthand. They all got the fever and returned to Louisville committed to one day host a dance like that in Louisville. On the way back to Louisville Ron Wallace, Bonnie Creech (now Mrs. Ron Wallace), Herky Meredith and Brenda Meredith decided to make a club happen. They received good advice from Doug and Sandy Brown who had recently formed the Music City Boppers as well as Butch and Betty Berry of the Jacksonville Beach Boppers.

With research completed and the desire to make it happen, sitting around Brenda’s kitchen table one night, the four of them called Bill and Giny Wallace, Larry Johnson, and Liz DeSpain and asked if they would join them in being the first officers and co-founders of the DCBA. Larry hung up the phone dancing across the floor anticipating how his life was about to change. DCBA was born soon thereafter at the first real meeting of the club in Ron Wallace’s apartment. The original mission of maintaining the blues/rock music is still the mission today. Who would have thought that dream would still be so vibrant?

Liz DeSpain moved to Florida after a few years but never lost contact. Two weeks ago, she announced her pending return to Louisville. This will mean all the original founders are now active again in DCBA. Their passion is electrifying and causes people to want to be a part of the club. Watch out if *You’re So Fine* fills the air – Larry will be taking someone’s hand and leading them to the floor to perform his 27 smooth steps. Bill and Giny Wallace smile at each other and join Larry. Brenda pulls away from a conversation with a friend to enjoy the music from the floor. Soon Ron and Bonnie are shagging like the song will never end and Herky has jumped up motioning Bird to come dance. Watching the founders dance is a delight to all the members watching. They hold this club together, but smile as new ideas are incorporated to make it better.

Over the 21 years DCBA has been attracting dancers from Louisville and surrounding cities, Larry has been a steady icon. For a few years, personal reasons took him from the club but he could not stay away. Today Larry’s gruff police trained voice is heard over the noise at Porter’s barking at someone. But what some don’t know, Larry silently helps members who need to borrow money “for a few days.” He discretely buys dance tickets and has them given away. He has also purchased t-shirts and jackets and given them away. Larry is also the resident “guy” friend of most of the women in the club. He does not date women in the club, but checks on many members every few days, listens to them, tells them where to get their car fixed, drives them to appointments, gives advice concerning “men” or whatever else they need. Larry is also one of the first at a DCBA member’s hospital room (male or female). He always has a CD labeled “Larry’s Driving Music” with him to hand to someone and urges them to listen. He may not want to teach a dance lesson, but he truly takes care of the members in many ways.

He considers his Bop friends family and part of his daily joy is in watching the club grow. People come and go and age is catching some of the members, but Larry is very optimistic the club will still be growing after he is planning sock hops in the nursing home. The new “kids” dance different, but they feel the music, smile and soon are part of the Bop culture.

. The original founders were in their 40s when the club was birthed and probably looked just like these new kids. Today the founders are teaching their grandchildren to dance and enjoy the music.

Larry believes DCBA has been successful because they have kept their desire to maintain the Bop music and dance. And Larry believes the \$35 annual membership fee is the best deal in town. Larry proudly tells potential members the \$35 breaks down to only 44 cents an hour if they take advantage of all the DCBA offerings.

Today DCBA is a permanent part of his Larry's life. It is a safe place to go every Tuesday and be with his long time friends. He looks forward to every weekly and monthly dance. He tirelessly counts the money at the end of the night and sends an email report to all the Board members before he sleeps. Every day he goes to the post office box, gathers the DCBA mail, deposits checks and takes care of any other business in those envelopes.

Larry has been seen around the country at other dances as well. He has attended the dances at Panama City three times, Gatlinburg three times, Nashville twice and Barren River twice as well as an SOS! He loves getting to know others at their club events and just dancing. When asked to describe his dance style, he says, "Blues Rock." He beams when you describe his dancing as "smooth" and fondly remembers the days of dancing with a belt and a door. Larry, like others from his generation has never had a formal dance lesson. He watches people dance. When he sees something he likes, he incorporates it in his "routine." His initial goal was to dance like Glenn and thinks he has achieved that goal. His current goal is to dance another 20 years. His advice to a male beginner? "Keep your feet on the floor, give good hand commands and make the woman look good!"

Larry has been an active working member of DCBA since the planning stages of the club. In all the years with the club he has served as Treasurer, been a good will ambassador, promoted DCBA throughout the community and served on planning committees for our annual dance, Boogie in the Bluegrass. Larry is currently serving on the Board of Director as our Treasurer and serves as the Chairman of the Ticket Sales, Registration and Public Relations Committee for the 2010 *Boogie in the Bluegrass*.

Larry has missed very few dance nights or special dances, and he's usually working the door or being of service somewhere. Larry has been an asset to our club since day one. He's one of those guys who is in the background and gets little recognition but has been an important part of the whole machine. DCBA is very lucky to have Larry on their team.

When asked what DCBA has meant to him, Larry replied, "My life has forever been changed by the friends I have made while in the BOP club and for that, I'm forever grateful. Just a great bunch people I enjoy being around - one of my life's treasures."

*The Board of Derby  
City Bop Association  
Believes  
Larry Johnson has been  
a Valuable Asset to our  
Club Since Day One  
and We Encourage Your  
Support as You Con-  
sider Larry for Induc-  
tion into the ABA Hall  
of Fame*

**As I've mentioned in a previous newsletter, Whenever Murray "Ralph" notices me pointing the camera in his direction he likes to pose his dance partner by dipping her, below left, at the st. Patrick's dance, middle at the derby dance, but when he tried with the dcba president, Beth was having none of his shenanigans. Way to show him who's the boss.**



## **Derby City Bop Feedback and Suggestion Form**

**Derby City Bop Association Current Members Only Please**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City, St. Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone with Area Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments or suggestions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Please give this form to a Derby City Bop Association Board Member or mail to:**

**Derby City Bop Association, PO Box 43363, Louisville, KY 40253-0363.**

**You may also use our "Feedback" page on our web site at: <http://www.derbycitybop.com>**