



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Once again as conference approaches I realize my 2nd term as your President has been as exciting and fulfilling as the first. I can truly say it has been a pleasure to serve the B.A.T.D. and its members worldwide.

Many positive changes have taken place within the association. We are now progressing down the route of the C.D.E.T. for full accreditation as well playing a larger part in the T.D.C.I... Our committees are also diligently working towards improving our syllabus work and generating Cd's and DVD's to match.

This past year also brought some of our members into the limelight with the very prestigious Carl Alan Awards. This event was to be one of the highlights of my year; unfortunately 32" of snow the day of my departure dashed my hopes of attending. I am however very honoured and pleased to congratulate our members and award winners. Bonnie Barr: Competitive Coach Award for Freestyle, Elma Whyte: Teachers Award for Theatre Branches and Mrs. Jessie Stewart Haggarty MBE for Outstanding Services to dance for the Theatre Branches. I had the privilege to present this award to Mrs. Haggarty at the Scottish West Regional meeting in March. I am sure that the members present were as thrilled as I was in presenting this award to a truly outstanding dance educator. I was happy to meet with all of the members of Scottish West and listen to their thoughts and concerns and I do hope to visit once again in the future. Though the year is almost over I have several more Regional visits planned and I look forward to meeting with members in the Northern, Yorkshire and Scottish North & East areas.

The Sadie Simpson Highland Scholarships and the North American Stage and Ballet Scholarships and 2009 Congress were both held in Toronto this year. It was a pleasure to attend both. Trixie Hardy, Carol Brown, Janice Lynn, Beverly Segal, Joy Tolev, and Diane Krugh and all of the committee

members should all be commended on a job well done. It is without a doubt that your time and efforts make these events the success they are today. The talent of the young dancers at both of these events are a great tribute to the association and their teachers.

I do not overlook the Scholarships on this side of the ocean. Newcastle was the host for the Stage and Ballet and Glasgow for the Freestyle Scholarship events. At both of these events the energy and enthusiasm of our young students is overwhelming. I know that with their continued education and the dedication of B.A.T.D. teachers and members they will continue to carry our good name well into the future.

My last Regional visit will be to The English Championships in London the first week of May. Though I'm a Stage Teacher, I am always thrilled and excited by the Ballroom, Latin and Sequence members and their talents to command the floor. Of course the sequins, feathers and shoes will put a quickstep into any woman's heart.

As conference 2010 approaches I look forward to the hospitality of our Scottish members in Aberdeen. I also look forward to sharing my love of dance with friends and family. I sincerely hope to meet with new members and share our ideas and passion for dance.

I thank you for your continued support and I am honoured to serve as your President, Please take the time to attend the events in your area, support your association, educate and create. I hope to see you in Aberdeen.

*Shelagh Connolly*

PRESIDENT