



Date: August 26, 2008

Subject: State of the Club Address:

My Fellow Americans and Starlighter Dance Club Members,

I address you today, as your president, to discuss serious issues and pressing problems with the current state of the club regarding membership and attendance. We collectively stand on a precipice. On one side a chasm yawns, which mesmerizes and draws us to its depths, where apathy, club failure and disbandment await us. The other side offers growth, opportunity, hope, and a future of fun, friends and many more evenings of social engagement and dancing. What are you willing to do to ensure that we avoid the chasm and instead build a future? Are you willing to join the board? Are you willing to make an effort to attend more dances? Are you willing to invite more friends as guests? My fellow Starlighters, survival demands that you do all of these things!

To paraphrase a previous noble address: Fourscore and many years ago, our forefathers brought forth to this county a dance group, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all people should have the inalienable right to enjoy themselves with a fine dinner, excellent company and a spacious dance floor. These things are self-evident and have become the cornerstone of the group called Starlighters. We are now engaged in a great conflict, testing whether this club or any club so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. In order to maintain a free and independent dance club, there must be leadership from within or the club cannot stand. The future of Starlighters is upon us. Each of us must accept the principle that a club cannot exist without the participation of all of those who call themselves members. This is a shared responsibility, and no single person or persons can do it alone. It is altogether fitting and proper that new leadership must come forth so that this club of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the dance floor.

In my own humble words, we need a minimum of 3 couples to volunteer to participate for the next year as board members. Without your participation, the club will not continue to exist. To take your turn and serve your club, contact a board member and help us preserve and build the future of Starlighters.

We, your leaders, are also furiously engaged in defending the club from attacks from another quarter, that being lackluster attendance. The July 2008 dance stands in the annals of club history as being the least attended dance since January 2001. Only 32 couples were present and as a result our treasury lost \$2400, regrettably, the largest single dance loss in club history. At the risk of repetition, without greater partici-

pation, we cannot continue to favor excellent venues like the Sheraton Anaheim and Mesa Verde Country Club. Yes, it is a grim conundrum we face that without quality venues attendance wanes, and without the higher attendance we are obligated to select less expensive venues. There is one other unacceptable solution; raise prices, but I do not think that anyone, board and membership alike view that as a positive move.

Despite the poor attendance, the Sheraton Anaheim proved to be one of those quality venues for the July dance. The hors d'oeuvres and entrees were truly five-star, the dance floor was the largest we have had outside of the Phoenix Club, and everyone enjoyed the excellent fireworks display, graciously provided by Disneyland. The board would like to consider this venue for a formal next year but frankly is gun shy, because without favorable attendance of at least 45 couples, we will suffer another significant loss to our treasury which can ill afford continued red ink.

On a more enthusiastic note, our upcoming semi-formal dance on September 20th will be held at the Foxfire Restaurant in Anaheim Hills, a promising new venue. The mouth-watering menu includes a choice of Filet Mignon in Diane Sauce or Oven Roasted Sea Bass, topped off with a delicious tiramisu for dessert. Music will be provided by a favorite of many, Don Peterson and cost is a mere \$100 per couple. We look forward to receiving your reservation and seeing each and everyone of you at the dance.

Hear ye, hear ye, we would like to introduce you to the new Starlighter's web site, www.thestarlighters.or. Please visit the web site and check out the photos and fun. This is a great way to promote the club to your friends and encourage them to attend as your guests. If you want to login to the members only area the user name is **member**, and the password is **only** (id & password are case sensitive so please use lower case). Keep this to yourselves, since this area is intended for members only. Please join me in giving many thanks to Paul and Sue Liles for their dedication and effort to bring the Starlighters Dance Club into the new millennium and for many of the wonderful photos that appear on the site. Kudos Paul and Sue!!

I really do hope to see all of you at the September dance and talk to some of you about board participation for next year. Our survival depends on it. On that note I leave you with my

Best Regards,

Paul A. Morin

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Your President