

# CHI-TOWN SHAKEDOWN 2010 LOWDOWN

ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2010

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SEE YOU IN ATLANTA NEXT YEAR

## We're wrapping up the details....

...of a very successful Square Dance convention. We had 1014 paid registrations and the finances look good. Now we'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to a few people. (indulge us please ....I promise the music will start playing when they get too long.)

### John Glover - President

*Flooring, Hospitality Suites, Sound and Video. Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Meetings, Memorial Room*

At the banquet, I recognized and thanked so many individuals that made CHI-TOWN SHAKEDOWN such a success – namely the core committee, the function managers and our terrific volunteers– but I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank ALL OF YOU...Without you, the attendees, there would be no annual convention, and obviously, it's for you that we throw this extravaganza each year. I hope you enjoyed your time in the Windy City, got a chance to experience some of the exciting thrills our city has to offer, made new friends, renewed old acquaintances and of course, danced, danced, danced!!! I consider it both a pleasure and an honor to be able to host this wonderful party, and I look forward to seeing you all next year in Atlanta (where I can finally relax)!!!

### Rich "Fester" Hugunine - Secretary

*Callers, Scheduling, GCA Caller School, Grand March, Entertainment, Specialty Tips and Dances*

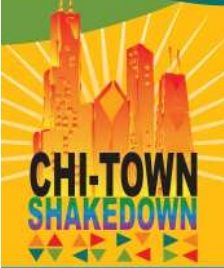
Thank you to all attendees of Chi-Town Shakedown. I had a great time helping to plan this three day party and it was gratifying to see you all having a great time dancing and partying. My heartfelt and sincere thanks to all who perused the schedules that were posted online and who pointed out various timing or venue conflicts. Many thanks to Stewie G. without who's diligence and admirable work ethic the callers would not have gotten their f\*\*\*ing lettuce! And thank you, Pat Korauski, for taking ownership of, planning and beautifully executing the caller ground transportation project. Special thanks to Sandie Bryant for creating and allowing me to administer and coordinate a brilliant caller schedule!

### Rob Sierzega - VP

*Fun Badge Tour, Pre-Convention Tours, Volunteer Coordination, Fundraising*

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make Chi-Town Shakedown 2010 a great convention! It worked because of so many dedicated folks who helped with fundraising, put down dance floors, took up dance floors, hauled stuff from one corner of the hotel to another and back, soothed any ruffled feathers of our guests, assembled & set out beautiful centerpieces for our meals, brought our callers to and from the airport, created and handed out registration packets, made sure there was enough water in the dance halls, etc., etc., etc. In other words, you did what was necessary to create a wonderful welcoming experience to everyone attending the convention. What an effort! We have had nothing but praise from our attendees on what a fun Convention it was for them. We could not have done it without you!

CAN YOU SHAKEDOWN?



IAGSDC  
Annual Convention  
July 1-4, 2010  
Hilton Chicago

## With the Good comes the Bad ...



As many of you may know by now, Mike Blizzard, 54, suffered a heart attack as a result of failing health and passed away at his Munster, Ind., home July 16. Mike was a long standing member of the Chi-Town Squares and a highly recognizable face in the Chicagoland area. For years, his unique brand of humor, honesty and biting wit spread smiles to the many people he had touched in his life. At the wishes of his relatives, a memorial service was held in Chicago on July 31 for family, work associates, fellow Chi-Town members and the Chicago Community at large. Mike's good friend Dana Mee along with the family and close friends who had been helping Mike for the past few months put together a remarkable event at Ebenezer Lutheran Church auditorium to honor our dear friend, now gone. Mike's sister Lisa and his Uncle Gary attended along with Mike's Winston and Strawn associates where Mike was a legal secretary for 13 years.

In a related turn of events, it was discovered that prominent She-Devil and former HTQ Lois Carmen D'Nominator – not being one to share the spotlight – passed away several hours later in the same town where Mr. Blizzard had taken up residence. Still under investigation, Munster police are baffled by the colorful and disorderly state of the room Ms. D'Nominator sublet from Mr. Blizzard. An odd assortment of lipsticks, powders and paints were found along side several half empty bottles of glitter fixative and flesh-colored liquid latex adhesive. Strong Final Net fumes were also detected. Mounds of cheap jewelry, garish sunglasses, Lane Bryant close-out garments, empty candy dishes and multi-colored crinolines were strewn about the room. A flag pole was found in the absolute center of the room – apparently nothing had been rotated around it. After interviewing friends in the square dance community, Munster officials learned that Ms. D'Nominator and Mr. Blizzard were well acquainted with each other.

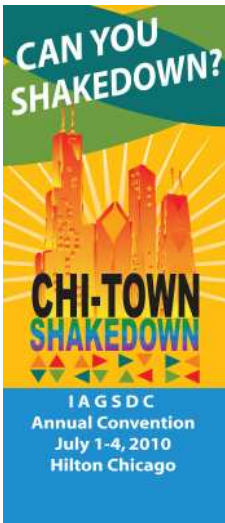


The She-Devils and other colorful characters from the IAGSDC family are planning an additional celebration gathering to remember both of these larger than life individuals. Friends from around the US and Canada who were unable to attend the family memorial are invited to share personal stories of Mike and Lois on Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church auditorium starting around 4:30 PM. Wear something pretty.

If you aren't able to travel that weekend, messages to be read during the celebration may be sent to [tipthecow@comcast.net](mailto:tipthecow@comcast.net)

### HOW DID WE DO?

Look for an email in the next week or two with a link to an online survey. Please take the time to respond to this survey. It will help the planners of future conventions and improve the convention for all of us.



### **Michael Pemberton - Treasurer**

### **NEW Treasurer of the IAGSDC**

*Honky Tonk Queen Contest, Photography, Registration, Vendors, Finances*

First of all, thank you from the hermit in the convention office. While I didn't get a chance to see many of you, or dance with even fewer of you, I'm so glad that all our volunteers who staffed the registration desk were able to help you all with registration and the myriad other informational questions that were posed to them. I also want to thank everyone who worked with the photographer and his staff and our volunteers to allow for some pretty nifty pictures to be taken. Your patience and their professionalism really showed in the photos (I got to see every one of them!). And finally, my thanks to the hotel staff and to the volunteers/Queens Past/Present/Future who helped plan and execute the Honky Tonk Queen contest(?). With the recent passing of HRHOQ Lois Carmen D'Nominator, the HTQ contest, while not my most stressful area of responsibility, was and has become even more so the highlight of the weekend.

I look forward to actually DANCING with you in Atlanta. Oh, and clubs, when I send out the dues notices for the IAGSDC next year, pay your dues on time. I've had enough stress for a decade with this convention. Don't add to it leading up to Atlanta! Love you all, mean it!

### **Gary Lange - VP**

*Banners, Meal Functions, Meal Decorations, Newsletters, Merchandise, Programs, Signage, Advertising*

I left myself last....as I want to share my happy moments. I know each of us on the planning board had one...that moment when you remember why we volunteered for this. Why we agreed to do all of this work for 6 years, to add the stress to our lives and relationships.

On the last day, due to the lack of sleep and work load, I started to get sick. I still had a myriad of details to attend to for my final event, the banquet and I was so stressed. Yet no sooner than I coughed, my entire team was there, picking up what I could not complete. I realized how lucky I was to work with 4 of the finest people I know, I will treasure their friendship for years to come.

As we finished dinner (which I had planned for months) I was distracted by something...I don't even remember what it was now. The lights dimmed, the music started, and the parade of ice cream cakes began. Someone nudged me to attention. I looked up and saw 1000 people waving their napkins in the air....caught up in that spectacular moment. As the tears started it was there I had my happy moment...why I did this. I did it for you.

I know the music is starting to play, my time is almost up and this is my last newsletter....Rather than thank people that have been thanked already, I'd like to recognize a few other special people. Every convention planning board and volunteer for the years of conventions past. The planning boards of the convention yet to come. Finally...each one of you that attend, enjoy and celebrate this special event each and every year. May your squares always find home.

## **PHOTOS FROM CHI-TOWN SHAKEDOWN NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER ONLINE**

You can now order group photos from Chi-Town Shakedown 2010 online. Just go to the web site at [www.thepeoplephotographer.com](http://www.thepeoplephotographer.com), and click on "order prints". Click on your gallery, and enter the password "square" when prompted

If your club wishes to use the image in your newsletter or online, please feel free, provided that you give proper photo credit to G. Thomas Ward Photographer and/or a link to [www.thepeoplephotographer.com](http://www.thepeoplephotographer.com)

Finally, I just want to say how much fun I had shooting your photos and working with all of you at the Chi-town Shakedown. It was an unforgettable weekend and I met such nice people and made new friends. Thank you! If you have the occasion, please feel free to refer me to your friends or business associates. I shoot corporate and personal events, headshots, products, and much, much more.

Gary Ward

G. Thomas Ward Photography

[www.thepeoplephotographer.com](http://www.thepeoplephotographer.com)



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