

# Just What Is The FDC ?

By  
**Danie Beck**

As the newly appointed Commissioner of the FDC, I have been asked this fundamental question quite a few times since my induction into office in August 08'. Hearing this query from professionals involved in all genres of dance, indicates to me that it is definitely time to clarify just what the FDC is and what we are all about.

The Federation of Dance Competitions, The FDC, is a non profit 501c6 organization started 2007. It began with a simple phone call from one competition owner to six of his colleagues. The group had already been conversing about scheduling and facilities so he proposed they meet to discuss ways to enhance the dance teacher's competition experience by working together. The initial goal was to streamline competition elements through normalization and to simplify the studio owner's workload. It was that uncomplicated and clear-cut. The FDC goal remains the same today.



From the original seven FDC founding members, in just 2 short years, the organization has grown to its current membership of 13 with The FDC Commissioner at the helm. Our members are listed on the cover of this book as well as on the Federation's website [www.thedancersfederation.com](http://www.thedancersfederation.com). After many hours of panel discussion, the FDC rules and policies were formulated and agreed upon. These initial FDC policies were then incorporated into all members' competition rules.

---

***"Our goal is to make competition participation an affirmative event for dance teachers throughout the country...nothing more and nothing less."***

---

Membership in the Federation is open to all dance competitions who meet specific requirements, which have evolved since inception, as set forth by The FDC. According to the FDC guideline, membership is open to competitions only and is currently not extended to any combination events that include a dance competition and workshop concurrently. There are no membership requirements or availability for studios or dance teachers...only opportunities.

The FDC is not a policing agency; therefore our policies are neither complicated nor involved. Our rules & regulations were designed to normalize and standardize competition requirements regarding Age; Time Limits; Divisions and Safety issues. The current FDC agenda includes issues such as Judging Education, Age/Costume & Choreographic Appropriateness and Scholarship Creation. Detailed information about The FDC Rules & Regulations can be found elsewhere in this book.

Although all FDC member competitions are mandated to adhere to Federation policies, each competition is encouraged to maintain its own individuality and personality, thus providing The FDC a diverse appeal. With the creativity and imagination of each director, FDC competitions are able to present various events for your choosing.

Throughout the regional competition season, studios that participate in FDC events will receive specific FDC points every time they rank amongst the Top 5 places in all divisions. With no additional work from any teacher, these points are submitted to the FDC office each week to be tallied. As the competition weeks progress, the Top 25 and then the Top 50 studios will be ranked and posted in alphabetical order on the FDC website. The new FDC Judge's Choice Award will be presented every week at all regional events and a Studio Excellence Award is presented at all FDC finals. With the exception of 30 Bonus Points awarded to the Excellence Winner, no additional points are awarded for attendance at any nationals.



In mid August, at the end of the 2009 competition season, The FDC will invite the top ranked studio owners and a guest to be their guests for a Gala Celebration event. In 2008, we were pleased to have the Top 25 studios as our Gala guests. But, in 2009 we are excited about inviting the Top 50 FDC studios as our guests for this fantastic event. We will be hosting a two night three day stay at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. Each studio director and guest, no students adults only, will be flown to Las Vegas where they'll be greeted and presented with an FDC thank you goody bag; once there, they will enjoy mingling with other teachers and peers in the evening over hors d'oeuvres and cocktails; have fun chatting with new friends at a refreshing continental breakfast and culminate a fabulous time while feasting at our elegant Pinnacle Cup awards banquet, all compliments of The FDC.

At the Pinnacle Cup banquet, all 50 studio owners will be introduced and acknowledged with a celebratory plaque; the Top 10 studios will be announced and presented with a commemorative award and monetary acknowledgement and the top ranked studio will receive The FDC Pinnacle Cup and a \$5000 cash award. A true celebration of achievement and gratitude, and YOU could be one of the invited guests. What a fantastic way to end one competitive season and start a new one!

With The FDC's 501c6 status, any and all monies collected through member's dues and other areas are applied to organizational expenses, individual scholarships and charitable donations. Our membership is currently looking into several ways to award individual scholarships for the upcoming year in addition to donating to other causes and charities. All charities and organizations being considered must be connected to dance and the arts. Although not required through FDC policies, many of our Federation member competitions individually give notable amounts to charities and thru individual scholarships. Through this charitable route The FDC is pleased to be supporting and giving back to those who support us as well as to those who promote and support all the performing arts.



As a federation we are still in our infancy stage. As with any new association, comprised of members with varied concepts and thoughts, The FDC has gone through some early growing pains which unfortunately brought on circulated untruths. As Commissioner, it is important to me that our mission

in the dance world be understood. The current FDC members, including me, their Commissioner, are resolved to continue taking positive steps in the right direction...thus this article.

The FDC is a new concept treading uncharted territory, so there is bound to be some uncertainty about its mission. Our goal is to make competition participation an affirmative event for dance teachers throughout the country...nothing more and nothing less. Although we know change is not easy, we are looking to make some progressive changes as we go...but only in a positive and constructive way. A primary focus this year is to have symbiotic online registration where one form could be used for all comp organizations while maintaining their individual pricing and identity. Once accomplished, we feel confident that this will be a welcome new addition for all teachers.



A simple phone call...meet and discuss...formulate ideas...create a federation to normalize some competition rules, that is how and why The FDC was conceived. The Federation was not designed to be complex. It was a straightforward approach conceived by seven competition owners, who although competing with each other, had some universal thoughts, considerations and goals in mind to improve the world of dance competitions.

By putting their rivalry aside and being able to work together, The FDC was formed. The Federation is here to help not to hinder; we are here to encourage not encroach and ultimately we are here to aid and assist YOU the dance teacher. If you were one of those who asked the question, "Just What Is The FDC?" I hope your question has been answered. If not, feel free to contact me for additional information at [dbeck@thedancersfederation.com](mailto:dbeck@thedancersfederation.com) and I'll be glad to respond.

## ***Happy Dancing!***

### **The FDC 2008 Top 5 Studios**

#### **The Element Dance Center**

*La Mesa CA  
Erika Leedy, Director*

#### **Dance Precisions**

*Placentia CA  
Edith Montoya, Director*

#### **Temecula Dance Company**

*Temecula CA  
Lani Morel, Director*

#### **Dancetown**

*Doral FL  
Manny & Lory Castro, Directors*

#### **The Dance Spot**

*Fullerton CA  
Deidre Madrigal, Director*