

# THE WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY



**Spring - 2002**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

For my first official notice I want to thank the W.A.S. Board of Directors for their confidence in selecting me to fill the un-expired term of former president, Don Leas. He plans to remain active in W.A.S. for many years to come but unfortunately, other obligations and some unexpected circumstances now prevent Don from continuing in this very important office.. He remains as a member of the Board of Directors. Let me give a special big thanks to Don and his wife Carol for their many fine contributions over the years for all of us and our organization.

Next, as this is the last newsletter before our annual reunion, April 19-20, in Las Vegas, I want to invite you personally to join us. This year will again feature the induction of some of history's foremost gymnast, divers and acrobatic performers into the W.A.S. Gallery of Honor. If last year was any indication, the 2002 reunion will be another memorable event.

Those who attended in 2001 experienced a unique gathering of Greats all in the same room at the same time. Old rivalries and even some animosities disappeared in the magic of meeting so many legendary performers and coaches at once One saw diving legends Sammy Lee and Pat McCormick sitting near gymnastics' greats Hal Frey and Abie Grossfeld. Trapeze immortal Tito Gaona chatting with trampoline champions Dan Millman and Alexandra Nicholson while five decades of champion tumblers, including 1932 Olympic winner, Rowland Wolfe, met each other for the first time. Anecdotes abounded and there were moving, poignant moments such as when the entire family of the late unmatched trampolinist and diver Larry Griswold stood up and came forward to receive their father's award.

April Reunion will again be memorable but I plan for the following year to hold even more promise with the approval of my plans for a new international web site. The site will contain picture and bios of our Gallery of Honor Inductees and many other exciting things hitherto unavailable (perhaps including some mpeg video) and links to related websites. Come hear about this at the April membership meeting.

Also, in 2003, the W.A.S. will reach out to younger potential members by formally recognizing certain outstanding performers who are currently active in the various acrobatics discipline in addition to our Gallery of Honor Members.

To date, the World Acrobatics Society has been a relatively limited gathering of world-class performers and legends of the sport. Through the medium of the inter-net and a policy to reach out to the younger generation we will have an opportunity to expand that will be unlimited. I truly believe that the eyes of the vast acrobatics world will soon be opened to what we have to offer. (W.A.S.) will soon become even more of a true International Society (I.S.).

As your new President, I look forward to bringing you many exciting things for the growth of our organization and for your enjoyment. I am open to your suggestions. Please send them to me.

See you in April in Vegas.

Bil Copp, President

World Acrobatics Society



**"Smile your on Instamatic"**

Scenes from the Bill Meade "Testimonial Dinner" in mid-December in Las Vegas. Upper left: Glenn & Sue Wilson, Bill & Joan Meade, Glenn Vaughn, Linda & Frank Bare, Sam & Topsy Bailie, Don & Carol Leas, Mike Jacki & Bruno Klaus



**" WAS" MEETINGS**

Above: January WAS Board of directors meeting in Venice, FL. Gary Hutchinson, Bob Bollinger, Paula Boelsems, Dick Albersharot Tito Gaona, Dick Gutting, Joe Schabacker & Bil Copp

L: Past WAS President, Don Leas.

At right: Lunch in Scottsdale AZ for visitors after the Executive Committee Meeting in Oct 2001. Helen & Dick Smith, Paula, Joe & Jerilyn Schabacker, Audrey & Don Robinson.





# Thoughts on the World Acrobatics Society

By Dan Millman

First I would like to congratulate Bil Copp in his position as President of the *World Acrobatic Society*.

Second, I'd like to send a few initial thoughts - a sample Mission Statement, as it were, balancing between the real and the ideal - - who we are and what we might become. I hope you of all kinds have a rich and proud history find at least a few stimulating thoughts herein:

Within the context of our larger society, and within the subculture of sport and physical challenge and celebration, acrobatics of all kinds have a rich and proud history. We appreciate, aspire to, and have demonstrated levels of acrobatic artistry stand on the shoulders of those who have come before, who have inspired us, and who have passed the torch so that we many inspire and ignite future generations who seek even greater heights.

The *World Acrobatic Society* aims to serve several overlapping purposes. First, as a source of historical information; second, as a social organization; third, as central clearing-house of information and connection, to help members from various acrobatic disciplines to get in touch, stay in touch, and network- to share techniques and philosophies, to engage in friendly debate over the future of our sport, and to support one another in our collaborative pursuits... "because nobody is smarter than all of us".

Whether we claim expertise in tumbling, trampoline, diving, circus arts, cheerleading, or other acrobatic endeavors, we are a unique kind of family- - brothers and sisters in pursuit of spirit, sport and art. Our differences are small compared to our common heritage and passion: the

somersault, the beautiful balance, the challenge met the skill done well.

We do not administrate any sport, nor do we seek political power to shape international policy. Our goal are modest, but they are real:

- To meet once each year at the Annual Reunion to share stories (no mater how outrageous), see films, and meet more members of this family who in the past have only been living legends: To acknowledge and appreciate on another's accomplishments, and to enjoy instructive and inspiring presentations of technique and philosophy.
- To create a website so we have a worldwide presence, and to publicize that website, the purpose of which of which would be to allow members to contact one another.
- To fund-raise (through membership dues and an annual fund-raising effort) in order to support such a website and projects as are undertaken with approval of the majority of our membership.
- To seek volunteers who will contribute a modest amount of their time in support of his society.

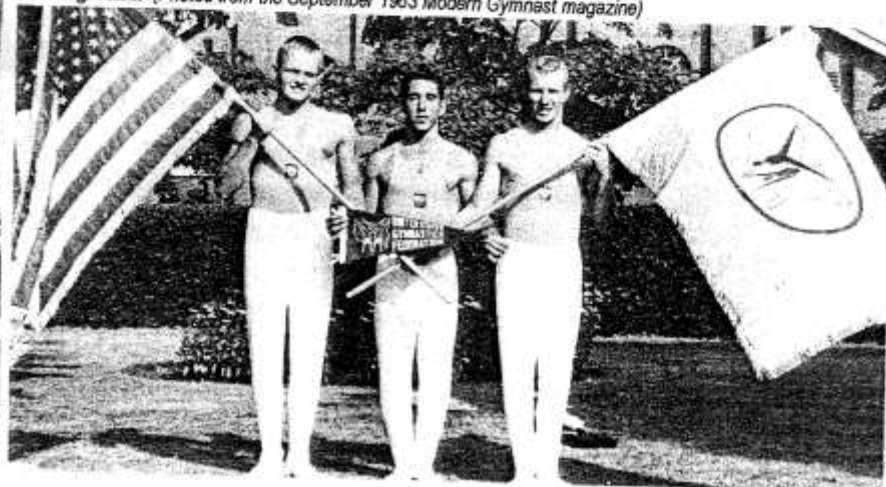
Acrobatics have always marched (and soared) to a different drummer. We have, among us, extraordinary and exceptional people and resources-not merely for the skills we've accomplished of victories gained, but for what we have also gone on to accomplish in the public sector. Meeting together, face to face and having the chance trade stories and ideas, enriches us all.

Let's celebrate the glories not only of days past, but our hard-earned wisdom, the lessons we've learned, and our future as mentors for generations to come.

Dan Millman... [wpwdanmillman.com](http://wpwdanmillman.com) or [www.peacefulwarrior.com](http://www.peacefulwarrior.com)



**A BIT OF HISTORY:** Here are scenes from the 1963 USGF Trampoline Tour of Europe. Team members Fred Saunders, Danny Millman and George Hery hold the American and the USGF flag they carried when they marched in the International Turnfest parade in Essen Germany. They also did Trampoline performances outside the Exhibition Hall to an amazed Turner audience (They weren't officially a part of the Turn-fest). They toured Sports Schools in Germany and England. At left: Danny thrills the youngsters at Swaylands School, Kent, England with a double back somi on the ground. (Photos from the September 1963 *Modern Gymnast* magazine)



# World Acrobatics Society

Sixth Annual Re-union  
Hampton Inn-Tropicana

Las Vegas, Nevada  
April 19 - 20, 2002

## A PROGRAM DEDICATED TO HONOR TWENTY FIVE (25) LEGENDS IN ACROBATICS

THURSDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

4:00 PM Board of directors Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM Registration and Social Greetings  
(\$50. fee at Hotel - \$40 in advance\*\*)  
9:15 AM What Acrobatics Has Taught Me About Life  
*Dan Millman*  
10:00 AM Catch The Winning Spirit  
*Pat McCormick*  
10:45 AM Gallery of Honor Awards  
12:00 PM Break for Lunch (on your own)  
2:00 PM Gallery of Honor Awards  
5:00 PM Social Get-Together  
7:00 PM Dinner and Show Time (on your own)

SATURDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

9:00 AM Heroes Live Forever  
*Bil Copp*  
9:45 AM Gymnastics Memories and Anecdotes  
*Abie Grossfeld*  
10:30 AM Membership Meeting - and Elections  
12:00 PM Break for Lunch (on your own)  
2:00 PM Risk, Originality and Virtuosity -  
The keys to a Perfect Ten  
*Peter Vidmar*  
2:45 PM The Wind Beneath My Wings -  
A Tribute to Coaches and the Honorees  
*Bil Copp*  
4:00 PM New Board Meeting (open)  
5:00 PM Adjourn



Dan Millman



Pat McCormick



Bil Copp



Abie Grossfeld



Peter Vidmar

## The Gallery of Honorees For 2002 (ph)=Posthumous

Jack Beckner  
Phil Boggs (ph)  
Bob Bollinger  
Ted Blake (ph)  
Terry Cabaretta

Nard Cazel (ph)  
Vickie Draves  
Margie Gestring  
Muriel Grossfeld  
Jay Grobes

Mickey King  
Bruno Klaus  
Bud Marquette (ph)  
Ron Froehlich  
Bill Meade

Charlie Pond  
Cathy Rigby  
Bill Roetzheim  
Joe Schabacker  
Tony Steele

Kurt Thomas  
Christine VanLoo  
Juan & Miguel Vazquez  
Peter Vidmar  
Herb Vogel (ph)

## Hampton Inn - Tropicana

4975 South Industrial road, Las Vegas, NV (702) 948-8100 - Toll Free 1(877) 584-6835

- Free Limo service from and to the McCarran Airport
- Room rates include a first class Continental breakfast
- Management is holding 25 rooms for our meeting. Until March 29<sup>th</sup>
- So... Phone in your reservations right away!
- As well as free trips to and from the Strip hotels.
- Reduced Rates per room which they have provided:
- Mandy Eich and Jessie Quinn will be our hosts.
- Our meeting Rooms will be... Friday,-Mediterranean A & B
- Thursday Night \$64. Friday & Saturday Nights \$89
- Saturday -Seville

\*\* Send in advance Registration Fee (\$40. per person) to: Pamela Pond -Registration Chair  
12200 East State Route 69 (690) Dewey, AZ 86327

Note: Gallery of Honorees and speakers do not pay Registration fee.