

2022 “Prime Time Atascadero: Season 11” A Stellar Success!

Submitted by Jeannie Malik, DWOS Producer Atascadero’s Dancing with Our Stars

Thanks to all who collaborated in making our 11th annual *Atascadero's Dancing with Our Stars*, “**Prime Time Atascadero: Season 11**” an enormous success. Artistic Show Director Molly Comin and Assistant Director Christina Troxel knocked it out of the park again this year! The four-night event raised over \$240,000 benefitting Atascadero Library plus five local non-profits. In June of 2019, the additional non-profits were invited to raise funds for their own causes from the highly successful DWOS fundraising platform. It was a wonderful effort making a positive difference in our community. Due to the pandemic and 4 ensuing postponements, we were finally able to host the dinner shows April 14, 15, 16, and 17th!

The participating non-profits for this year's event were- Atascadero Library, Atascadero Performing Arts Center Committee, Friends of the Charles Paddock Zoo, North County Economic Foundation/Leadership North County, Sheriff’s Advisory Board/Atascadero K9 Foundation, and Templeton Community Library Association.

Community Star Melinda Reed and her partner pro-dancer Charlie Bradley won the championship and coveted mirrored ball trophy by raising \$65,579 for the Templeton Community Library Association. Their dance was choreographed by Judie Magonacelaya. The new Templeton Library is scheduled to open soon! Melinda and Charlie also won “People’s Choice” for the first two shows!

Second place was awarded to Community Star Steve Robinson and his partner/choreographer Christina Troxel who raised \$51,847 for Friends of the Charles Paddock Zoo. Steve and Christina also won “People’s Choice” for the final two shows!

Third place went to Community Star Kate Auslen and her partner pro-dancer Justin McMillan, raising \$31,240 for Atascadero Performing Arts Center Committee. Their dance was choreographed by Frank Sanchez.

"Good Sport" trophy was awarded to Sharon Rademacher for her dedicated efforts, first as a Community Star in 2011, followed by participating in several vignettes over the years, and this year dancing her role as the back end of “Mr. Ed!” Sharon possesses a kind spirit, positive attitude, and she consistently rolls up her sleeves to help get the job done.

Rounding out the all-star cast were Michelle Harms (Atascadero Library), Shay Angles (Sheriff’s Advisory Board/Atascadero K9 Foundation) and Dianna Vonderheide dancing with pro-choreographer Kara Sanders (North County Economic Foundation/Leadership North County) raising several thousand dollars for their organizations!

Show Director Molly Comin incorporated entertaining commercials with clever props and dancers promoting each participating non-profit organization, encouraging active voting. Molly also weaved in vignettes of popular TV show themes past and present. Numerous pro dancers, choreographers, and past community star dancers participated in the vignettes providing a high level of energy and professionalism to the show.

Master of Ceremonies Paso Robles Mayor Steve Martin fulfilled his duties seamlessly with class, charm, and unmatched wit. Steve has been our official “irreplaceable” Emcee since 2012!

The DWOS committee is 100% volunteer based. This event is made possible with the dedicated support of these individuals. Special thanks to Grenda Ernst for her insight and wisdom as my

assistant, also for her scripting of all the community star dancer articles, creating over 800 voting ballots, and recording meeting minutes in 2022. Thank you to FOAL President Leigh Livick for managing Eventbrite ticket sales, guest registration at the event, and DWOS event finances and website. Jeanne Neely and Sharon Turner for organizing a group of 60+ community volunteers to assist with each morning set-up and evening performance. A huge dose of gratitude to Jeanne Robbins and Vy Pierce who revived our 2020 Silent Auction donations and created the most lucrative auction in DWOS history resulting in \$12,000 in sales!! Dyann Shepard - managing vote recording. Special kudos to Dianne Coppenger and Brenda May who have created and coordinated several dancer costumes worn for the vignettes. Thanks to Brian Reeves for his many hours professionally editing music for the show. Kudos to technical lighting coordinator Ryan Flores, professional lighting operator Scott Sebby, stage managers Sandra Woods and Koby Wescom and our fabulous DJ Joy Bonner!! A big smile and thank you to Laura Dienzo for her professional photography. The photos shared on this site are compliments of Laura. Also, many thanks to Christina Bearce, owner of Highlight Media. Christina is creating a professional DVD and Flash Drive of the show as a memorable keepsake. DVDs and Flash Drives are \$20. Please contact Jeannie Malik: jeannie@gregmalikregroup.com to place your order and make checks payable to F.O.A.L.

We continue to receive praise on the addition of the raised stage and theatre drapes. Special thanks to Jim Patterson and Atascadero Kiwanis crew who transported/assembled the stage, built the wood dance floor, and disassembled the stage after the final show. And Jodi Bloom, owner of Bloom n' Grow, and a Kiwanian, who hung the sheers and ceiling lights. The transformation of the Pavilion on the Lake into a live theatre is beyond amazing. Kiwanis Rocks!!

We are grateful to our event sponsors, who have grown in number from 3 in 2013 to a record number of 88 this year!! Special thanks to Opolo Vineyards for providing all the wine at every show. And, thanks to George Peterson, we had plenty of beer every evening from Central Coast Brewing!

Special thanks to my husband Greg for his unwavering support as I performed as a Community Star in 2011 and 2012, followed by leading the event from April 2012-October 2022, I can say it's been one of the most personally rewarding experiences of my life. Thanks for the memories!

We have raised our funds, built our library, and generated a nest egg and now we are ready to share this wonderful event with another non-profit, who needs this source of funds to provide services for its clients. I am delighted to announce that Lumina Alliance is taking the reins of this event after this year. Lumina's CEO, Jennifer Adams, has been a community star and a participant in vignettes in numerous shows and we know that she and her group will give *Dancing with Our Stars* the good care that it deserves.

Please mark your calendars for Lumina Alliance upcoming event, March 18th, 2023, at Rava Winery. They will provide a sneak peek of *Dancing with Our Stars!* Their first full production of this much-loved event will be held March 14-16, 2024, at the Pavilion on the Lake in Atascadero!

Kind Regards,

Jeannie Malik
DWOS Producer with Friends of the Atascadero Library
VP Friends of the Atascadero Library Board