



Northeast Ohio Dance, Inc.

Brenda & Christopher Stygar – Directors

124 College Street
Wadsworth, OH 44281
Phone: 330-336-6640
E-Mail: dance@neohdance.org

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Dear Northeast Ohio Dance, Inc. Families,

1987 was a memorable year! Mr. Stygar and I were married in April, we both retired from Ohio Ballet, and I was asked to teach a week of classes for the newly formed Northeast Ohio Dance Ensemble, a youth Ballet company in residence at a small dance studio in Wadsworth. The studio was a for-profit entity, and the Ensemble was a non-profit entity. That fall I began teaching weekly classes to the company dancers and younger students. Mr. Stygar began teaching a few years later. In the 1995-96 school year Mr. Stygar and I took over the Directorship of the Dance Ensemble.

In 1999 the owner of the ballet studio decided to significantly change the format of the studio. The Ensemble was not part of the new format. At that time the Board of Trustees of Northeast Ohio Dance Ensemble voted to continue the existence of the performing Ensemble. This decision necessitated that a new dance studio offer dance classes to provide training continuity for the Ensemble membership. Northeast Ohio Dance Academy, a non-profit dance studio, began offering classes to the community in June 1999. I was asked to be the Director and Business Manager and Mr. Stygar and I continued as Artistic Directors of the Ensemble. Two years later the two non-profits united and became Northeast Ohio Dance, Inc.

In April 2012 Northeast Ohio Dance moved into a former restaurant on College Street. We had three classrooms all in the same building, classrooms that were larger and better equipped than the prior studio, an office twice the size of the last one, three restrooms, AND a costume room! Our students no longer had to cross the street to go from a Jazz class to a Ballet class. Our costumes were no longer in the basement of a local dentist a mile away.

Here we are 25 years later! After a two-year search, the Board of Trustees, Mr. Stygar and I feel very comfortable handing the Ensemble Directorship over to Mrs. Megan Stuart as of July 1st. She will also become the Director and Business Manager of the school. Some of you have already met Mrs. Stuart or had her as a teacher. She taught classes for four days while we were out of the country and taught the lower-level classes on a Saturday. Mr. Stygar and I shall continue to teach classes at the dance studio as well as participate in some Nutcracker and other company related events. We look forward to many more years being part of the faculty and family of Northeast Ohio Dance.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love and generosity of the many Northeast Ohio Dance families! It has been a delight to be a part of your children's lives!

Most Sincerely,

Brenda Stygar