

*Newsletter to Members
Town & Gown Dance Club
Summer 2008*

The Good News: Town & Gown has been doing quite well the last several years with about 25 new couples joining our ranks. Even better is the fact that many of our new members are enthusiastic dancers. We owe thanks for our success in recruiting new members to those in our club who are teaching ballroom dancing and encouraging their students to join. They are:

Carter and Ruby Ackerman
Carol and Jerry Goss
Carol Ferranti
Frank and Sandy Hartzel

In addition, Kevin Fee (who is not a member) is also teaching ballroom dance in Pleasant Gap. Some of Kevin's students are also in our club. We hope we haven't missed any of our teachers and thank them all for their efforts.

The Bad News: The costs of the club activities rose significantly in the last year. As a result, the club was about \$1270 in the red for the 2007-2008 dance year. The cost of providing snacks for the four non-dinner dances went up by \$1750 last year. Much of this was because the Executive Committee voted to increase the number of trays of snacks last year since some members commented that the amount of food was insufficient. In addition, however, the costs for snack trays has been going up year after year. We might also mention that the Elks banquet manager has already informed us that the costs will go up again in 2009.

The second big cost increase was that we paid \$500 more for bands in 2007-2008 than in the year before. Generally, our bands cost in the \$400 to \$600 range. Last year, however, the Big Band Sound was added to the program at a cost of about \$1000. Let us know what you think about the Big Band Sound and their rate.

Our membership dues have not gone up the last four years. However, costs have risen significantly and we're sorry to report that the membership dues will be going up to \$120/couple for the 2008-2009 dance year if paid by September 1 and \$130 if paid after September 1. We have very little control over the costs of the food except to reduce the snacks. It appears to us though that our members wish to have a more plentiful supply. We should mention, however, that the snacks are just that --- snacks. They are not intended to be a substitute for dinner. We will pay attention to members' comments, but we may be limited as to how much we can do to control costs with gas and food costs rising significantly.

Just So You Know: The contract we have with the Elks requires that we get the numbers of members who will be having dinner about a week before the dinner-dance. Once the numbers are turned into the banquet manager, we cannot easily add couples to the dinner list. The co-treasurers can add up to 5% additional dinners of any one meal selection, but that is not very helpful because only a single couple can normally be added.

Once the numbers are turned into the Elks, Town & Gown must pay for the dinners whether you come or not. If you find that you cannot come, you may sell your tickets to another couple or you can ask the co-treasurers if they know someone who called in late who might buy your tickets. However, we cannot refund the dinner ticket costs because our contract requires payment whether you show up or not.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you at our first dance, which will be a dinner-dance on October 3.

Jan and Diane Mutmansky
Co-Presidents