

FROM CONCERNED MEMBERS OF MECDA

Dear MECDA member,

MECDA was formed as an all-volunteer organization to improve conditions and wages for the Belly Dancer. Instead it had declined into a seriously problematic association and financial disaster. We desperately need new leadership in our organization! We hope to appeal to all members to take a stand. Please don't allow these current MECDA atrocities to happen in the future.

- 1) **Shortages of \$41,588 in financial statements with no explanation.**
- 2) **Paying IRS penalties and fines for careless and questionable "mistakes" in taxes.**
- 3) **Bonus and wages totaling around \$27,000 were paid last year. As a non-profit organization they say they can only keep \$25,000 in bank acct. (not true) so they take monies left over and give it to themselves. They deny this, but records show otherwise.**
- 4) **Changes made for officer qualifications without informing members, until this year.**
- 5) **Compensation paid to unqualified board members.**
- 6) **Refusal by MECDA board to hire and pay a "non-member" professional accountant. (which is seriously needed).**
- 7) **When board members vote on a subject, then they do the unthinkable. By the next meeting the subject that was voted on they say is no longer valid.**
- 8) **Unequal treatment of members.**

Perhaps you are wondering what's happening to your money? Have you questioned why your dues are so high? Do you wonder who these people are that are running the Central Board and if some of them are running MECDA for their own personal financial gains?

Many members do ask these questions and are ready to inquire why the board is not giving the membership a detailed annual financial statement. What are they hiding?

After 27 years of keeping financial statements concealed from the membership and after a lot of pressure from members, the board finally posted a financial statement which is suspiciously and embarrassingly short of critical details. What are they covering up?

We concerned members would like to return the original spirit and purpose that was intended at the beginning of the organization. If you agree and don't want to see MECDA deteriorate anymore than it has, please help us.

It is this simple. When election time arrives and you receive your ballot, send it with the enclosed MECDA addressed envelope and a note giving us your proxy to vote for you. An addressed envelope is provided.

Thank you,

Committee of Concerned MECDA Members

Feiruz Aram - One of the founding mothers of MECDA • Doyne Allen - One of the original members
Tamara Fletcher-Springfield - A member • Shannon Griffiths, "Shahira" - A member
Anniitra Ravenmoon - A member • Harry Saroyan - A lifetime member