Partnership

Looking for a new partner? Where do you start to find the right person, or more importantly, to be the right person? The technical requirements for partnership I leave to those with the credentials of dance education, training and experience. What I address in this article are aspects of personal and social concern. I use the word “P A R T N E R,” to break down seven elements of interest.

**P**erseverance – willing to push through unexpected difficulties to achieve long range goals; flexible to adjust to any challenge.

**A**ttitude – consistently projecting a positive attitude; eager to see the best in any person or circumstance; willing to forgive and move forward.

**R**ealistic – ability to maintain clarity in communication and decision making; examines the “big picture” of a situation, holding on to hopes and dreams while addressing immediate needs; least likely to become defensive and promotes honesty.

**T**eachable – continuously eager to learn and grow; listens to suggestions and explores new options; actively sharpens their skills daily to strengthen the partnership.

**N**eutral – equalizes emotions when faced with a different opinion; may have a strong personality or convictions yet their self-image is not threatened by an alternative viewpoint; practices self-control and sincerely respects the input of others.

**E**nergetic – presents a daily upbeat demeanor (though not overpowering); enjoys fun and laughter in the process of practice, performance and competition; has a continuous desire to contribute whatever is required to fine tune the partnership.

**R**esponsible – both personally and professionally dependable; able to invest in the areas of communication, preparation, finances and disciplines of health.

Whatever your standard or expectation, ballroom dancing takes two; your partner also has standards and expectations. This is where synergy comes in. Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines it as: a mutually advantageous conjunction or compatibility of distinct business participants or elements (as resources or efforts). My instructor/partner consistently reminds me of two things: 1) we each need the energy input of the other, and 2) our combined efforts develop a creative and commanding performance in dance. Please consider how you fit with another and remember **P**erseverance, **A**ttitude, **R**eality, **T**eachable, **N**eutral, **E**nergetic, and **R**esponsible. None of us are perfect, but the balance of two is a powerful unit!