

## JohnPeter Bekker



Hey folks, I'm JohnPeter. I've been dancing for about 3 years now, and over that time the Fed and the community around it has become monumentally important to me, and I would like to give back by serving on the board. My prior experience working in and for the swing dancing community is broad: I've been an organizer for the Texas Intercollegiate Swing Battle for three years now, served as an officer (as secretary then vice-president) and as a teacher for the UT swing club for two and a half years, and have volunteered at both ALX and Hot Rhythm for two years.

If elected, I have three initiatives I'd like to work on;

- Firstly, I'd work on increasing our presence at the collegiate level, not just at UT where I am an officer, but also at St. Edwards, Huston-Tillotson, and Texas State, where the lack of student-led swing clubs is heavily reflected in our student attendance.
- Secondly, I'd increase our utilization of social media to advertise, both on conventional mediums like Facebook and more unconventional areas such as WhenWhereWhat Austin.
- Thirdly, I'd initiate a dialogue between each of the swing dancing scenes in Texas. This would be utilized for discussing and getting input on issues from scenes that may have already worked through similar problems and/or for discussing initiatives that have seen success such as Puro Swing's usage of unconventional spaces in San Antonio.

I look forward to serving you all on the board!

## Colleen Cappellini



It started as just an ordinary Monday night several years ago when Colleen went to meet some friends at the restaurant, Quality Seafood. While they were grabbing their seats, the band (Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies) began to play and several people got up and began to dance. Colleen was mesmerized by how fun it looked, and signed up for dance lessons the next week. Since then, she has been excited to share the joy of swing dancing with others. Colleen has contributed to the community in the past by serving on the Austin Lindy Exchange Committee, and helping as a co-coordinator for a free dance practice group that met twice a month. Colleen has also helped local seniors re-experience their days of dancing by organizing a swing dance event with local musicians at an assisted living facility here in Austin. More recently, she has been the newest addition to the performance group, The Shag Hags, and just completed her first performance in February 2020. Colleen is eager to continue to become more involved in the community, foster a welcoming space to encourage new dancers to join, and increase the positive dynamic between the Austin Swing Syndicate and Austin's many talented musicians.

During the day, Colleen works as a medical speech-language pathologist in home health. When not on the dance floor, she also enjoys other creative endeavors in the form of painting and playing guitar.

## Caitlin McTaggart



In early 2017, Caitlin began her swing dancing journey after a friend told her about a place where “people dance like you dress.” She basically hasn’t left the Fed since then. Her involvement within the swing scene includes being the hospitality coordinator for the two major local weekend dance events—Austin Lindy Exchange and Hot Rhythm Holiday. As a board member for the last two years, serving as Vice President and Live Music Coordinator, Caitlin has executed many live band nights and Syndicate sponsored events. She would like to continue advocating for long-term planning as well as leadership and community development.

When she’s not dancing or baking large amounts of food, Caitlin lives a nocturnal life as an ICU nurse.

## Jennifer Reed



Jennifer Reed currently serves as an Austin Swing Syndicate coordinator, instructor, and DJ. Jennifer has been in service to the Austin Swing Syndicate as volunteer coordinator for 5 years and teacher coordinator for 3 years. She has served as the New Year's Eve event chair for 3 years and helps program the Syndicate's workshops. Jennifer works closely with the current board to identify sustaining and growth opportunities, and she wishes to join the Austin Swing Syndicate board to focus on:

Syndicate membership growth  
creating educational opportunities for our Syndicate community,  
growing dancers and teachers alike  
and overall scene growth initiatives

Jennifer is no stranger to serving on a non-profit board. She is the current president of the Hot Rhythm Foundation, the Austin non-profit that runs Hot Rhythm Holiday and Jazz Babies Island Riverboat Excursion. She runs BalAustin and

The Capitol City Chorus girls, organizing workshops and creating opportunities for Austin locals to explore dance.

Jennifer is active in the greater Swing dance community outside of Austin as well. She helps organize California Balboa Classic and volunteers and runs contests for various events. Jennifer has learned a lot through her years of volunteering and partnering with other communities and feels she is well-positioned to help The Syndicate identify, focus, and enact community growth efforts.

Jennifer brings a spirit of service to the community, and she hopes to see the Austin Swing scene thrive for many years to come. Please consider voting for Jennifer Reed for the Austin Swing Syndicate Board!



## **Deb Tindle**



My name is Deb Tindle. I've served as President of the Austin Swing Syndicate for the last three years. I'd love the opportunity to continue serving on the board as we enter our third decade as an organization.

Some of the things I'd like to continue working on include creating a written manual of all the administrative aspects of the Syndicate, building a stronger community and leadership and ensuring continued financial stability for the future of our organization.