



NATIONAL CONGRESS & TRADE SHOW

"Gymnastics Excellence Through Education"

Philadelphia • 2008



2008 USA GYMNASTICS National Congress and Trade Show



The 2008 National Congress and Trade Show took place in historic Philadelphia, Pa., at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The Congress was held in conjunction with the U.S. Olympic Team Trials-Gymnastics, which took place at the Wachovia Center. The attendance for both events this year was one of the highest in the history of the event.

With the Congress attendees, presenters, exhibitors, vendors and exhibit hall traffic, more than 2,700 individuals attended this year's annual Congress and Trade Show. More than 190 sessions took place over the three-day period covering all aspects of the sport from all five programs to sports science to business to preschool to cheerleading. In the exhibit hall, there were more than 70 vendors displaying their products and services in 185 booths—definitely something for everyone! The Mega Raffle was also a huge success, awarding more than \$68,000 in products and services to lucky winners. A huge thank you goes out to the United States Suppliers Association for the contributions for the raffle as well as their sponsor support of the trade show.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the Class of 2008 took place on Sunday, June 22, at a luncheon with 435 attendees. Congratulations to the Class of 2008 which included the 2003 Gold Medal Women's Team of Annia Hatch, Terin Humphrey, Courtney Kupets, Chellsie Memmel, Carly Patterson, Ashley Postell, Tasha Schwikert and Hollie Vise. Also inducted were Jessica Davis, Wendy

Hilliard, Marie Walther Bilski Kuhlman, Stuart Ransom, Brent Simmons, Mary Lee Tracy, Wayne Young and Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Ken Allen.

A special thanks to John Macready who served as the master of ceremonies for the Hall of Fame Induction. Also, thanks to the Hall of Fame Sponsors: Gold level, Sport Graphics; and A-1 Awards, Inc.; Bronze level, Women's Region 7, Region 5, Region 8, and Region 6, Massachusetts Women's Program, New Hampshire Women's Program, Rhode Island Women's Program, National Travel Systems, United States Suppliers Association. Other donation levels: Ohio Women's Program, Septima Green, Tom Koll and Margit Treiber.

The National Congress and Trade Show Dance Party took place on Saturday night. The "Seventies" dance theme was great fun with costume and dance contests. Great prizes were given to the first through third place winners. What a spectacular weekend of Congress Sessions, Business Conference, Exhibit Hall, Hall of Fame Reception, Fan Fest, and of course, great gymnastics performances at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials-Gymnastics.

Please watch for information on the 2009 National Congress and Trade Show which will be conducted with the Visa Championships. The events will take place August 12–15, 2009. The city will be announced soon. Watch for information in the Member Services E-Newsletter, *Technique* magazine and online at www.usa-gymnastics.org. ✕