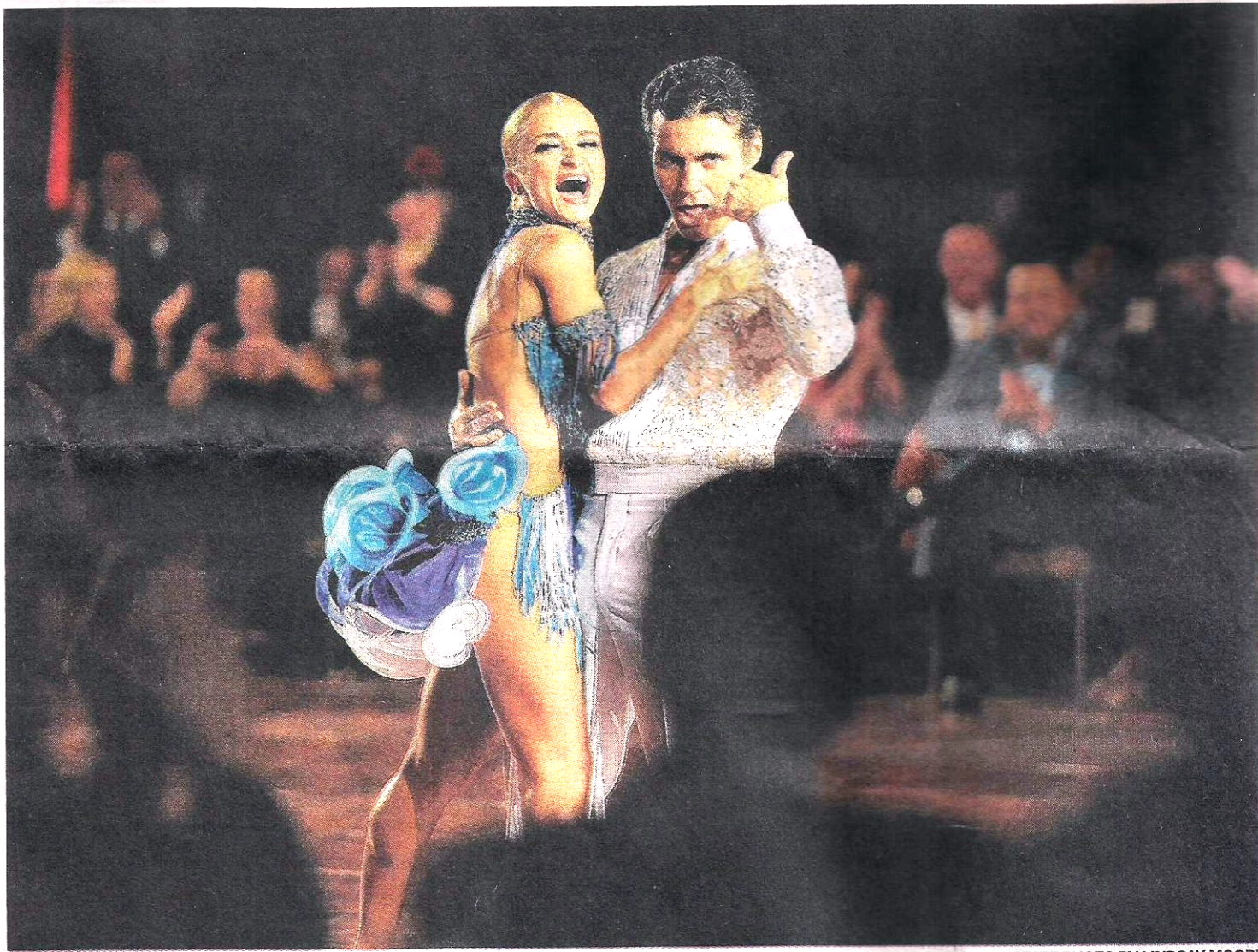


# Dancing contest helps a good cause



STAFF PHOTO BY LINDSAY MOORE

Rafael Cabrera performs the salsa with professional dancer Mariya-Khristina Shurupova during Boca Raton's Ballroom Battle at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

## Boca West president wins the annual Ballroom Battle

BY MARCI SHATZMAN  
Staff Writer

Boca West Country Club President, COO and General Manager Jay DiPietro had a 14-table cheering section, so when he won two trophies at Boca Raton's Ballroom Battle, the place erupted.

Supporters spilled out onto the dance floor at the Boca Raton Resort & Club to congratulate DiPietro, 74, for his dancing and raising \$36,000, the most money among the four male contestants. Breathless, all he could say was, "I'm thrilled."

Longtime community volunteer Patricia "Pat" Thomas told the crowd she was "in it to win it." She took the fundraising title for the women at \$49,000. Jackie Reeves, managing

director of Bell Rock Capital and president-elect of the Junior League of Boca Raton, won the female dance title for her rumba.

This was the fourth annual "Dancing With the Stars" knockoff to raise money for the George Snow Scholarship Fund, and President Tim Snow announced the dancers collectively raised \$211,000, a record. The reality show's Chelsie Hightower was one of the judges.

Since the event's inception, Snow has persuaded some of Boca Raton's most prominent business and community leaders to "step out of their comfort zone," as he told more than 700 people who attended the performance and after-party.

This year's crop also included businesswoman and philanthropist Yvonne Boice;

Realtor and Snow trustee Ingrid Fulmer; Ralph Mesa, executive manager of Mercedes of Delray; Waste Management executive and Beehive Fitness owner Bryan Tindall; and plastic surgeon Dr. Rafael Cabrera. Winners get a disco ball trophy and bragging rights to join the ranks of 24 winners, including May or Susan Wheelchel, who introduced Boice.

The foundation partners with the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Boca Raton for four months of lessons, and their teachers dance with the contestants and perform the opener. Pam Casanave, who owns the studio with her husband, Jean-Marc, danced with DiPietro.

Snow introduced Naekia Rowley, among the students already using a four-year Snow scholarship, and Jazmine Tolliver, one of this year's 63 recipients.