

## Director, Diane George earns high honors from the AAU!

*At the 2007 AAU National Convention, Diane George was awarded twice over by the AAU! Mrs. George serves the AAU in many capacities: AAU National Baton Twirling Vice-Chair, AAU Middle Atlantic District Lt. Governor, Scholarship/Grant Committee Chair, Baton Twirling and Dance Director and Cheerleading Co-Director. For her efforts this year Diane was awarded both the President's National Leadership Award for Outstanding Service 2007 and the Middle Atlantic District's 2007 District Volunteer of the Year. The members of Star Attraction and Premier Athletic Performances offer their hardest "Congratulations!" to Diane for receiving these well-deserved awards!*

## Announcing the Winners of the 2007 NBTA Pageant, Miss Valley Forge Majorette!

*At the 2007 Fiesta competition hosted by Star Attraction this past April, the annual NBTA pageant once again attracted some very beautiful and talented young ladies. To only one young lady in each age group and level went the title of Miss Valley Forge Majorette; complete with robe and scepter, a special crown and a royal march to the podium escorted by one of four Cadets from the Villanova University ROTC. This years winners are: Kylie Herb (Beginner 0-6), Katie Schilling (Beginner 7-9), Melanie Baker (Beginner 10-12), Samantha Colvin (Beginner 13-15), Kate Engler (Beginner 16+), Alexa Weber (Advanced 7-9), Jordan Foster (Advanced 10-12), Melissa Bodnar (Advanced 13-15) and Hillary Levin (Advanced 16+). Please check out the Photo Gallery for pictures of these girls and some of the other participants who placed in the competition. Congratulations to all of winners; and a great big Thank You to everyone who competed and helped to make this such a wonderful event!*

## STAR ATTRACTION & PREMIER ATHLETIC PERFORMANCES DIRECTOR INDUCTED INTO BATON TWIRLING HALL OF FAME

In the last week of July 2006, at the University of Notre Dame, the National Baton Twirling Hall of Fame welcomed ten new inductees including **Diane Gangi George** of Phoenixville. Diane George is the Founder and Director of Star Attraction- a group which performs locally and offers lessons in Baton Twirling, Cheer, Flag and related arts through several local Parks and Recreation Departments; and Premier Athletic Performances- the Baton Twirling Camp at Villanova University, which draws baton students from many parts of the country. In addition to directing, Mrs. George organizes and hosts three to four major competitions and coordinates several clinics in Baton Twirling, Dance and Cheer each year. Diane George is the Band Front Director at Villanova University, in charge of the Twirlers, Silks, Dance Team and Pep Team. Diane George is actively involved in several Baton Twirling organizations, including the National Baton Twirling Association (NBTA) and the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.). She is the A.A.U. National Baton Twirling Vice-Chair, Middle Atlantic District Baton and Dance Chairperson and Cheer Assistant Chairperson. No stranger to the art of Baton Twirling, Diane has many honors to her credit. In addition to her most recent induction into the NBTA National Baton Twirling Hall of Fame she has been inducted into the AAU National Baton Twirling Hall of Fame and has received numerous awards including Boston College Silver Girl, Senior Miss Massachusetts Majorette (N.B.T.A.) and Senior Miss Massachusetts of Baton Twirling (U.S.T.A.).

## TWIRLERS HELPING TWIRLERS

Baton twirling athletes attending the March is Mardi Gras and Fiesta Competitions raised over \$2000 for Katrina Kids, twirlers who were hit by Hurricane Katrina! At the March competition, twirling athletes donated used trophies to the THT program. These trophies were awarded to winners at the Fiesta / Miss Valley Forge Majorette competition held in April. Some officials also donated their fees and Star Attraction donated monies from their 50/50 raffle.

This program was fashioned after the annual fund-raiser run by Star Attraction's sister corps, the Gangi Bay State Strutters in Massachusetts, for the benefit of the Jimmy Fund. This program has raised thousands of dollars at their annual contest in November.

The director of the THT program, Diane Gangi George, is proud of the support by the baton twirling community in giving something of importance to them to this noble cause. From the young twirler who won a trophy at the March competition and immediately turned around and donated it to THT, to the coach who retired from competitive twirling herself and donated so many of her classic trophies, the unfortunate twirlers from the ravaged south will truly benefit.