

Professional dancer Jerry LeNoir, whose back injury in early winter caused organizers to push the dates for the annual competition from mid-March to early May, is healthy again and ready to defend the title he won last year.

Habitat for Humanity Executive Director and former broadcaster Jacl Niedbalski will open the show and share hosting duties with Ana Chacon, ABC's Miami Local Ten dance expert and former U.S. champion; Christy Allen, owner of Pilates in Paradise; and Marshall Walker, the owner of the Key Largo H&R Block. Joy Hillary and Colin Hillary, national dances experts, will judge the dance teams. A third judge will be announced later.

Since the first Dancing with Our Island Stars in 2007, the event has been standing room only. "In 2009 we added a second show on Friday nights to make sure everyone who wanted to see this spectacular community event could attend," said Susan Jankowski, organizer for the extremely popular ICE event. "Even so, the public should get tickets early to guarantee seats. And while the winners will be announced at the Saturday night event, the votes of those attending Friday's performance will be included in the tally for the People's Choice Award."

Tickets can be purchased from the dancers, at Chilly Willy's restaurant in Islamorada or by contacting Susan Jankowski at (305)304-6478. General admission tickets are \$30. A few premium front row seats for both shows are available at \$100 per ticket.

In the dance competition, each couple will perform two ballroom numbers. They will choose their own music, learn precise dance steps and select their costuming. They must maintain their focus, grace and composure during what has become high-pressured but good-natured competition. The People's Choice Award will go to the couple with the most audience votes, which are combined with the number of tickets that team, sold. The professional judges' scores only will determine the Outstanding Performance Award couple.

The dance professionals are: Virginia LeNoir(who will dance with two local stars) and Jerry LeNoir, twice National Theatrical Dance Champions, four-time Fred Astaire National Champions, and four-time British Exhibition Champions; Nancy Dunn, owner of On Your Toes Dance Studio in Tavernier, and her daughter dance professional Stephanie Dunn-Blockier; and Eric Algarushi, dance professional and instructor from Miami.

David Feder, president of ICE notes that "every year, the talents of our local stars are brought out by our fantastic dance professionals from the Keys and Miami. There is a reason that this is everyone's favorite event -- our local stars and professional dancers always put on an entertaining and memorable show."

ICE is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing quality entertainment and cultural events to Upper Keys residents and visitors. Proceeds from this event and all other ICE events fund musical and arts scholarships for local students.