

# PRESS RELEASE

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## BALLET VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Ballet Virginia International is pleased to announce that Wendy Watson Sanborn will serve the organization as its Managing Director, effective immediately. Ms. Sanborn currently serves as a Board Member and Executive Officer of BVI, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ballet academy and performing company, with studios located in the historic Ghent section of Norfolk. She will join President Hope C. Paryzek, and Artistic Directors Suzanne Lownsbury Long and Janina Michalski Bove, on the executive staff of the organization.

Ms. Sanborn is an attorney with Amy G. Pesesky, P.L.C. in Norfolk, Virginia. Previously, Ms. Sanborn has worked as an associate attorney for the law firms of Williams Mullen in Richmond, and LeClair Ryan, A Professional Corporation, in Norfolk. From 2002 through 2004, she served as an in-house attorney for Norfolk Southern Corporation. Ms. Sanborn also has worked in the nonprofit sector, serving for five years from 2002 through 2007 as a Board and Executive Committee member for the Chesapeake Regional Health Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the fundraising and endowment management board for what is now the Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, formerly Chesapeake General Hospital.

In addition to her business and legal expertise, Ms. Sanborn brings a lifelong love of dance to her new position as well. Ms. Sanborn danced as a junior and senior company member for the Tidewater Ballet Association from the late 1970s through the early 1980s. She performed in many musical theater productions with the Riverview Playhouse Players, an ODU based theater group, in the 1980s. She also worked as a tap instructor for the Hurrah Players Inc. during its first year.

“I am excited to be able to serve Ballet Virginia International in this new position,” said Ms. Sanborn, “I was part of the team that formed the organization in late 2008, and I am eager to help take the organization to the next level.” Paryzek added, “Ms. Sanborn will bring extensive corporate and legal experience to the organization. We anticipate that she will partner with us to begin a successful campaign to build our grant funding program.”

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