

NASSPDA Annual Meeting  
January 15, 2012, Sacramento CA  
Meeting Agenda and Notes

ATTENDING:

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AGENDA

**1. What NASSPDA has been doing**

- a. Created and published competition rules
- b. NDCA interactions around their new policy
- c. Creation of International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations (IFSSDA)
- d. Planning Gay Games 2014 in Cleveland
- e. Dance camp committee
  - i. What would you like to see? Possible Palm Springs venue.
  - ii. Would you be willing to work on this?
- f. Youth outreach
  - i. What our committee has been doing.
  - ii. How to coordinate with Robbie's project

**2. Social Dancing**

- a. What ideas do you have for what NASSPDA can do for social dancers? How might you be willing to help?
- b. USA Dance (amateur organization for the mainstream dance community) has both a social dance and a competitive dance department. USA Dance's chapters have 4 social dances a year that rotate around different

dance studios by asking studios to donate their studio for a dance event.

### **3. What else would you like to see NASSPDA do for the North American same-sex partner dance community?**

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#### NOTES

##### Competition Rule and Procedures

MC should acknowledge:

- Where people are from
- How long people have been dancing
- Older dancers/younger dancers
- Families and friends who've come to watch
- All the dancers

A little written history or explanation of the rules for amateur spectators was requested: e.g. what is grading, how are judges selected, why are men and women judged separately. These were all questions heard from audience members.

Medals and titles should be given to winners of lower grades as well. They don't care so much about the details written on the ribbons—Gay Games medals are generic. We could figure out a way to provide stickers for the back of the medals (or something to attach to the ribbon) that would indicate what event they placed in, and this would save us from “wasting” medals without having to replace the ribbons each time (assuming we can do so).

The role of Pro-Am was discussed at some length. I don't recall any resolution. Sonja and I talked about NASSPDA's position on this. One of the participants regularly enters as Pro-Am and doesn't understand why they can't compete against Pro-Pro couples. We explained the rule excluding couples if one dancer pays the other and noted that they could compete in the graded events if payment wasn't being exchanged.

Perhaps also give participation awards/medals (like the Gay Games, but not sure if this is NASSPDA's responsibility or that of the competition organizers).

Expectations for lower levels should be explicit and clearly explained (e.g., should they focus on higher level steps or doing lower level steps better? Is it timing, connection, footwork, etc.) Someone overheard a comment by a judge at April Follies last year that the judges had been told to use the level of the patterns (bronze, silver, gold) to determine in what grade to place them. This seems wrong to all of us—we think it should be a combination of the level of the patterns and the quality of the dancing. Since we don't do levels by syllabus, this seems like a reasonable and important question.

### NASSPDA Website

It needs to be more user friendly.

Posting information about events needs to be easier.

Provide some way for people to see other members' profiles.

Provide a way to help folks who are looking for dance partners. For example, make members' profiles available to all or perhaps specific info about only those dancers seeking dance partners.

Include more photos and video links.

Create a music library using newer and trendier music (this came partly out of the discussion about how to attract younger dancers). Diversitydancesport.com is Kurt's site (he's in San Diego) where he's posted play lists for the Latin dances.

### Dance camp

There was a lot of interest in a dance camp. Adrienne Sainten is willing to help work on this. Kurt wants to participate but doesn't want to be part of the organizing effort. Everyone liked the idea of a weekend of workshops, forums, and social dancing.

They also seemed to like the idea of Palm Springs as a venue because:

- 1) We've got someone there who's willing to help make it happen
- 2) Prices are reasonable there right now because of the real estate crash

**Discussion forums** were talked about quite a bit. Some ideas:

- Judging criteria
- Grading criteria

### How to grow same-sex International ballroom/Latin community

Create **line dances** based on International style dances. Sacramento had made up a simply samba line dance that was very popular for a while. Get someone(s) to create some line dances (not unlike round dancing) set to specific songs and each based on a particular International style dance. Teach them at dance camp and possibly at competitions.

Invite college captains (of their dance teams) to come to our forums and talk about how to make connections to the students.