



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all from NASSPDA's Board of Directors!

This year starts off right away with our North American Championships on January 13th and 14th, hosted by "Floorplay in the Desert" and held in Palm Springs, CA, the most prestigious title to garner within the community of NASSPDA (<http://www.floorplaypalmsprings.com/>). In its second year, this event promises to be well attended and much fun. Good luck to all participants!

Then in April our biggest event of the year, "April Follies" (<http://www.aprilfollies.com/>), will take place, now in its 15th year, held in Oakland, CA, on April 29th and hosting as always the California State Championships. A truly amazing event each year organized by the very skilled and knowledgeable volunteers of BASSDA (Bay Area Same-Sex Dance Association).

Shortly thereafter, in the week following Memorial Day our communities biggest event will take place in Miami, FL, IFSSDA's World Championships, being part of the 2017 World Outgames (<http://www.outgames.org/sports/dance-sport>), which are held every 4 years, in the year preceding the Gay Games. This 4-day long competition is preceded by 4 days of Country Western dancing and brings together dancers from all corners of the world and showcases the best of what our community has to offer.

Other events to follow in 2017 will be the "Glitz & Glitter Ball," held in Columbus, OH, the "Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge," held in Montreal, QB, Canada, the "Delaware Valley Equality Ball," held in Woodbury, NJ, and the "Provincetown Dance Trophy," held on Cape Cod, MA.

The annual elections to NASSPDA's Board of Directors will take place in May. If you are interested in serving your community or know of someone who you would like to nominate, please go to NASSPDA's new website at <http://nasspda.org/board-members/> for the necessary forms to be submitted and a layout of the process. Make an impact in your community by volunteering your time and skills!

In the meantime, Simone Assböck, a longtime member of our community, accomplished dancer, teacher and judge, was invited by and has joined NASSPDA's Board of Directors to fill the most recent vacancy on the 9-member Board. Welcome, Simone!

Our new website is now up and running, but many parts are still under construction. It takes many hours and input from various resources to create an up-to-date site that correctly reflects our organization and keeps our constituency informed. Once again, we can't thank NASSPDA's former Board member, Kathy Wildman, enough for overseeing this process!

Please remember that in order to renew your membership, we are asking all previous members of NASSPDA to newly join, just as any new member would have to, rather than renew one's membership. Yes, that means entering your data all over again and creating new log-in credentials, since it was too daunting a process transferring the encrypted data to the new platform. However, this new platform allows for all annual memberships to be independent from the calendar year and will now be tied to the year based on the date of joining. It is our hope that this enhances your elected membership experience with NASSPDA. Again, to join, please go to our website at www.nasspda.org and select the blue button "join now" or use this direct link: <http://nasspda.org/membership-account/membership-levels/>

We hope to see you throughout the year enjoying your own and other's dancing!

All the best,
Benjamin

Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

Please note that ALL of NASSPDA's Competition Rules can be found by going to the NASSPDA website or clicking [HERE](#). Any questions or input are welcomed and can be sent directly to rules@nasspda.org.

January 13-14, 2017

Floor Play in the Desert

Website: <http://www.floorplaypalmsprings.com>

Title: North American Championships

NASSPDA's Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, January 13th, 2017, at 5:00 PM PST, at a Suite of the Renaissance Palm Spring Hotel (number to be announced) registered with "Floorplay in the Desert" in Palm Springs, CA.



April 29, 2017

April Follies

Website: <http://www.aprilfollies.com>

Title: California State Championships



May 30- June 2, 2017

World Outgames

Website: <http://www.outgames.org/sports/dance-sport>

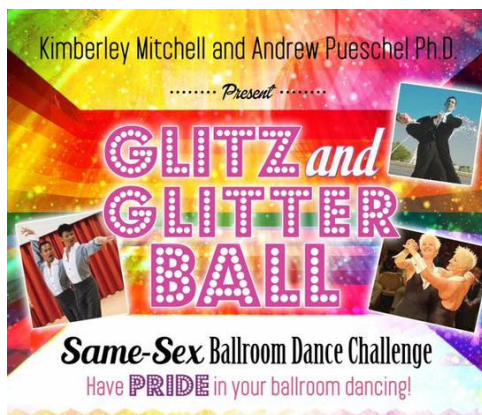
Title: IFSSDA's World Championships



July 22, 2017

Glitz and Glitter Ball

Website: <http://www.glitzandglitterball.com>



Membership Information

Membership Committee

NASSPDA's Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, January 13th, 2017, at 5:00 PM PST, at a Suite of the Renaissance Palm Spring Hotel (number to be announced) registered with "Floorplay in the Desert" in Palm Springs, CA.



We proudly introduce our new website! This is timed, in part, to coincide with our

membership renewal period. Please go to the website and click the "Join Now" button in the left sidebar. (Don't try to log in.)

We're asking you to join anew and, sorry, to enter some information again. Among other difficulties, we couldn't move our member data with passwords. Having you "join" affords us the chance to clean up our database and gives you a look at the new site. Clicking the "Join Now" button will take you to the new member sign-up page, where most of you will choose the "individual" level. The path from there should be clear.

Payments will now be taken by credit card instead of through PayPal. The new system has special encryption to keep your data safer than before. The new site URL is the same as before: nasspda.org.

If you have problems, or want to help us improve the website-parts are still under construction-please write to Kathy Wildman, our website administrator, at wildmankathy@gmail.com or to web@nasspda.org.

Outreach and Media

Promotions Committee

ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

NASSPDA would like to encourage its members and our community at large to engage in various fun activities that promote same-sex dancing. We recognize that many of our members may have a creative idea and NASSPDA would like to contribute in a small financial way.

Some ideas for events and organizers to receive grant support:

- Same-sex dance classes
- A social dance mixer with actively inviting and encouraging same-sex dancing or "alternative lead and follow"
- An excursion to a local competition, introducing dancers to the concept
- A welcome party before one of NASSPDA's sanctioned competition
- Setting up a booth at a local street fair promoting same-sex dancing
- A neighborhood or community event promoting partner dancing and the inclusion of same-sex dancing
- Involving studios to promote same-sex dancing
- An event in conjunction with a city's Pride activities

These are just a few suggestions. To apply for financial support from NASSPDA's \$250 Grant Program, please visit our website at NASSPDA.org, click on the 'Scholarships and Grants' bar and then 'Grants' to read more for more information. You can also email us at promotions@NASSPDA.org with any questions.

NASSPDA, 10352 Royal Oak Rd, Oakland, CA 94606

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