



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

Exciting events are ahead for NASSPDA, which I would like to share with you in more detail.

But first, the results from Floorplay in the Desert are now posted on NASSPDA's website, to be found under "Archives" and "Competition Results" (<http://nasspda.org/competition-results/>). This event showed a tremendous growth in attendance and hosted the 2017 North American Championship, as reported in our previous eNewsletter. We applaud the organizers for making this event such a resounding success in its second year.

April Follies, celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2017, one of the largest annually held events sanctioned by NASSPDA is coming up at the end of April, featuring the California State Championships. This very successful event is organized each year by the volunteers of the non-profit organization BASSDA, Bay Area Same-Sex Dance Association, who have dedicated many hours all year long to make welcoming to all. Aside from awarding competitors all day in categories of all styles, culminating in the evening with the best on the floor as well as a well-choreographed show, the organizers elect a recipient for the Dr. Aimée Tabor Award, an individual who has significantly contributed to greater inclusion of people of color in the queer partner dance community, and for the 2017 Richard Lamberty Trophy, a person who has contributed significantly to the same-sex dance community and who best embodies the spirit of same-sex Dancesport. As in previous years, the event is held again at Just Dance Ballroom in Oakland (see <http://www.aprilfollies.com/> for more details). Join the fun!

Even though NASSPDA's fiscal year is the calendar year, the Board of Directors decided a year ago to move each year's elections of the Board to mid-May, when membership seems to have reached its peak, mainly due to April Follies taking place annually on the last Saturday of April. The term of a Director is for two years, with about half of the members of the Board having overlapping terms with the other half, so that the Board is assured some continuance in governance. This year out of the four Directors of the Board whose terms are expiring, the Board consists currently of nine members, two have decided not to stand for re-election. The deadline for nominations of new candidates is Sunday, April 9th, 2017, by midnight PST. If you know of someone or are interested yourself, please visit NASSPDA's website (<http://nasspda.org/board-members/>) to find an introduction to the election process (<http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Election-Process.pdf>) and both forms necessary, which also instruct you how to submit (<http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Candidate-Statement.pdf>; <http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Statement-of-Support.pdf>). Be heard, be visible!

The World Outgames are held this year in Miami, as usual, just one year prior to the Gay

Games, which in 2018 will take place in Paris, France. Like at the Gay Games, Dancesport at the World Outgames tends to be a favorite among spectators of all the sports offered and is therefore typically well attended. Many competitors and officials will be there from around the world. Our worldwide community has always considered these two international events as "our" World Championships and have done so officially after IFSSDA was formed in 2013 through an agreement of the three founding Associations, ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA. However, the geographically nearest organization's rules are applicable until IFSSDA has established by-laws and international competition rules. Country Western events sanctioned by IAGLCWDC will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Miami Airport & Convention Center from May 25th through May 30th followed by the events in all other styles sanctioned by NASSPDA from May 29th through June 2nd. For more information and registration visit the event's website <http://www.outgames.org/sports/dance-sport>, and hopefully we'll be seeing you there!

Please also add to your calendar two other upcoming dates: July 22nd [delete that's] when the Glitz and Glitter Ball, which successfully hosted last year's NASSPDA North American Championships, will take place in its third year (<http://www.glitzandglitterball.com>); and September 30th when the Boston Open organizers will host the 2017 USA and Massachusetts State Championships in Provincetown, an event that has seen great popularity (<http://www.bostonopendancesport.com>).

As always, it is my hope and wish that you continuously enjoy your dancing and your participation in our community and that we will see you soon!"

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.

April 29, 2017

April Follies

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

Title: California State Championships



May 29- June 2, 2017

World Outgames

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

Title: IFSSDA's World Championships

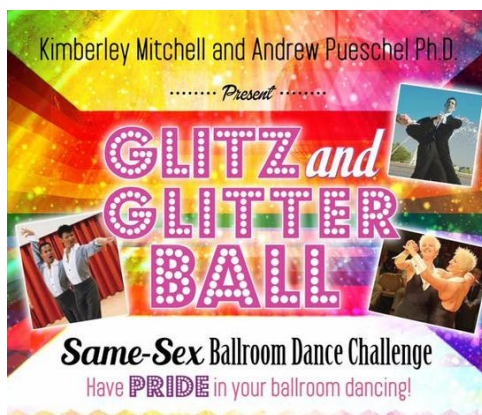


July 22, 2017

Glitz and Glitter Ball

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

Title: US Championships



August 30, 2017

Delaware Valley Equality Ball

September 2, 2017

Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge

Website: <http://studioarcencielt3.wix.com/rainbow>

October 1, 2017

Boston Open

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



Membership Information

Membership Committee

We want YOU on our team!

We are seeking individuals to sit on our NASSPDA board. The deadline for nomination shall be Sunday, April 9th, 2017. If you would like to join the decision making arm of this organization, or if you know of anyone that might be interested in serving, please reach out and encourage that individual to stand for election. We are in particular interested in creating better gender, geographical and ethnic representation.

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.



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