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Monthly Newsletter

August 2016



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

"NASSPDA's Board of Directors hopes that you are enjoying your summer filled with dancing!

The upcoming year 2017 promises to be a very exciting year, with OUR World Championships being held in Miami as part of the World Outgames (see www.outgames.org/sports/dance-sport for more information). Registration is now open and offers currently an "Early Bird" discount of \$100. The Board also just awarded the 2017 North American Championships to the sanctioned "Floorplay In The Dessert" event, held in Palm Springs on January 14th, 2017 (see for details www.floorplaypalmsprings.com), and the 2017 USA Championships to next year's Boston Open in October (www.bostonopendancesport.com).

In accordance to NASSPDA's Competition Rules (see Page 9, Section A, Rule 3.5.8 at <http://nasspda.org/documents/NASSPDA%20Competition%20Rules%20Version%20160612.pdf>), NASSPDA strives to move "North American and all National titles from one geographic region to another over time," in order to support all regions, members and competition organizers within North America. Other organizations such as our counterpart in Europe, ESSDA, the Federation of Gay Games (FGG), International GLISA, the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF), are all guided by that same principle when selecting host cities for their events. But, for example, this year's Eurogames were hosted in Helsinki, Finland, which is harder to reach for the majority of dancers, who live in mid-Europe. This showed itself in the numbers of participating couples, which was the lowest in the history of this event.

Without a doubt, aside from the titled event, the geographical location adds to the attraction of any event, which though shouldn't mean that some places don't deserve to host an event, because they aren't considered within easy reach and/or as attractive as other locations to our constituency. But now even other considerations are starting to play a role in the selection process, such as overall costs and security concerns in particular. Like, for example, regarding the Olympics, currently underway in Rio, Brazil, it has been suggested that the stance of geographical diversity might be outweighed by these concerns and that one location should be assigned to host this event. Like with so many issues, an argument can be made in either direction. But, no matter which argument wins in the end, it is important for all of us to recognize that participation is the only way to give importance to a titled event. So, sometimes it'll cost a bit more, the security risk might seem higher (2018 Gay Games in Paris, for example) or the location isn't just as attractive, but if we care about our sport, we'll show our support by being there and participate.

Before there was NASSPDA and its European counterpart ESSDA, there were the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney, Australia, which was not only dauntingly far away and therefore expensive, but already the choices of dances in the lower classes of the Latin category was an indicator that things would be different than what we were already used to since the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam. But if this event, only the second time that the Gay Games featured Dancesport and already

consider OUR World Championships, was going to mean anything in our world/community, it seemed important to be part of it. That is precisely what made it hard to understand why many European couples chose not to come to the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland. Those that did, had a great time, were glad having contributed to this important event in our community and went out of their way to let us know.

In other words, we would be delighted to greet all of you and admire your fabulous dancing at any of next year's upcoming exiting events, giving each one the importance it deserves! Happy dancing!"

Happy Dancing to all of you!

Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

The Glitz and Glitter Ball, held on Saturday, July 23, was the host of the 2016 NASSPDA North American Championships. Located just outside of Columbus Ohio, this event was the first ever to give NASSPDA sanctioned Championship Titles to Same-Sex Student/Teacher partnerships. Over 35 dancers danced in over 100 heats which included graded rounds for Championships as well as single dances in all 4 styles of American and International Ballroom. The winners of the A Graded Rounds in each division competed against each other for the "Best of the Best" tiaras.

The officials at the Glitz and Glitter Ball were: Master of Ceremonies Mat Rosswood, Music Director Terry Cavanaugh, Scrutineer Jean Paul Gronek, Adjudicators Dana Edwards, Lee Fox (Head Judge), Jacob Jason, Kimberley Mitchell, Andrew Pueschel, and Bill Sparks.

The results for the 2016 Glitz and Glitter Ball will be posted on the NASSPDA website shortly. The 3rd Annual Glitz and Glitter Ball will be held in the Summer of 2017. More details to come.

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS:

September 3, 2016

Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge

Website: <http://studioarcencielmt3.wix.com/rainbow>



October 1, 2016

Provincetown Dance Trophy

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



January 13-14, 2017

Floor Play in the Desert

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

Title: North American Championships



April 29, 2017

April Follies

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

Membership Information

Membership Committee

Now is the time to renew your memberships!

In order to renew, sign into your online account and you will find a button in the upper right hand corner next to "logout" for renewing your membership.



Not a member yet? [JOIN TODAY!](#)

PARDON OUR DUST

The current NASSPDA website is under a complete overhaul and we look forward to sharing our new site with you soon!
 You can still visit the existing site until the replacement site is up and running.

Outreach and Media

Promotions Committee

ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

Have an idea for a social event, dance class or any event that brings our dancing community together or introduces others to same-sex dancing? NASSPDA offers organizers up to 4 grants at \$250 per event a year. If you have an outreach program that you would like obtain funding for, please click [HERE](#) for more information.

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