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Active Member Newsletter

December 2015



## From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

And once again, it is that time of the year when many look back at this past year and make plans for the next year.

NASSPDA has continued to grow as an organization and encountered some changes. Separate competition rules for Argentine Tango, formulated for the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, were officially integrated in NASSPDA's Competition Rules at the beginning of this year.

The Board of Directors got expanded to nine members in April. A new website has been in the works since last year, obviously taking longer than expected, but will be much more user friendly and be a better tool for reaching out to our community. Members of NASSPDA have pushed for inclusion in the mainstream dance world, which resulted into USA Dance (organization of amateurs in the USA) as well as a regional chapter of the Fred Astaire Dance Studios' organization (FADS) officially expanding its definition of a couple, allowing same-sex dance couples to compete at many of their events and this has been the year with the highest registered membership so far.

New and old competitions popped up, sanctioned by NASSPDA, including the Glitz & Glitter Ball, held in Columbus, OH, on June 20; the Delaware Valley Equality Ball, held in Woodbury, NJ, on August 29; and the Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge, Canada, held on August 29. April Follies hosted once again this year our North American as well as the California State Championships, held in Oakland on April 25. The Boston Open changed location this year to Provincetown on Cape Cod, hosting this year's USA and Massachusetts State Championships, and this has added a day for the newly created Provincetown Dance Trophy.

These are just some highlights of this year. For more details, please visit NASSPDA's website and read the minutes of the Board's monthly meetings, find scoresheets for all sanctioned competitions or a listing of all title winners, which all can be found at <http://nasspda.org/about/>.

For 2016, due to its growing and varied membership, NASSPDA is looking into creating new membership levels that will be tailored to the members' reasoning for being part of this community. The new website will make managing these different tiers of membership and accompanying benefits much easier. The Board of NASSPDA is also discussing various additions and/or expansions to the Competitions Rules that would allow for more inclusion regarding gender definition and couples defined in mainstream as Pro/Am (NASSPDA doesn't recognize mainstream definitions of amateurs vs, professionals). NASSPDA additionally continues working with ESSDA, our European counterpart, and IAGLCWDC, our "Country Western" counterpart, on registering IFSSDA (International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations) as a legal entity, creating by-laws and establishing ultimately rules for the World Championships, which are currently considered, via mutual agreement, all Dancesport events at the International Outgames (2017 in Miami, USA) and the Gay Games (2018 in Paris, France).

This coming year starts in January with yet another newly sanctioned competition, called Floorplay in the Desert and held in Palm Springs (details at <http://www.floorplaypalmsprings.com/about-floorplay/>). On April 23, the annual California State Championships will again be hosted by April Follies. NASSPDA's North American Championships will be part of the Dancesport event at the North America Outgames, held in St. Louis, MO, on three days, June 1 to 3, and you can find more details at <https://www.naoutgames2016.org/dancesport.html>. And, the Glitz & Glitter Ball, held on July 23 in Columbus, OH, will host the 2016 USA Championships.

The Board of Directors extends its Season Greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all!

## Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

2016 SAME-SEX DANCESPORT CALENDAR - The first 1/2 of the year:

January 16

Competition: Floorplay in Palm Springs, CA

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

April 23

Competition: April Follies in Oakland, CA

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

Title: California Championship - registration open in February. Check website for details.

June 1-3

Competition: North American Out Games in St. Louis, MO

Website: <http://teamsaintlouis.org>

Title: North American Championships

July 23

Competition: Glitz and Glitter Ball in Columbus, OH

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

Title: U.S. Championships

## Membership Information

Membership Committee

2016 is going to be an AMAZING year for same-sex dancing!



We have more members than ever! Now is the time to renew your memberships for 2016 - especially if you are going to compete early in the year! 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.

Note: If you are planning to compete in January - that competition offers a discount at registration for members.

## Board Elections

Elections Committee

We are now looking to fill four positions via nominations for the 2016/2017 election to the Board of Directors, which will take place around MAY 2016.

Candidates need to be prepared joining a monthly phone meeting as well as travel once per year to an in-person Board meeting and/or for the annual membership meeting. If you are looking to get more involved in a wonderful and growing organization, please email this year's Election Committee Chair, Garrett Gerritsen at [ggerritsen@nasspda.org](mailto:ggerritsen@nasspda.org) and find related material under "About Us" and "Organizational" ( <http://nasspda.org/about/>), such as an explanation of the process and required submissions.

## Media and Outreach

Promotions Committee

### **DANCING WITH THE STARS**

The idea of two men dancing together is too much for ABC, which has said no to a performance on Dancing with the Stars - but it is not all negative. [Click the HERE to read the story in full.](#)

### **ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM**

Two new grants have been approved by NASSPDA. If you have an outreach program that you would like obtain funding for, please click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

NASSPDA's Board of Directors announces the availability of 5 scholarships in the amount of up to \$500 per person to help with the costs of participating in the 2016 North American Championships held at the North American Outgames in St. Louis

from June 1st to 3rd, 2016 (<https://www.naoutgames2016.org/dancesport.html>). The deadline for an application is March 1st, 2016, and the application can be found at <http://nasspda.org/documents/ScholarshipApplication2016.pdf>. At any time, if you have any questions, please contact us at [info@nasspda.org](mailto:info@nasspda.org).

## **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.

NASSPDA, 10352 Royal Oak Rd, Oakland, CA 94606

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