

February, 2014[Join Our Mailing List!](#)**Dear Dance Friends,**

Election Time!!

It's time once again for all active NASSPDA members to vote for their favorite Board Members. Each Director serves a term of two years, and each year 3-4 Board members' term expire. This year we extend our gratitude and wish a fond farewell to Christopher Kelleher, who is stepping down after 4 years of faithful and productive service as Vice President. Lee Fox (Florida) and Pat Hogan (Vancouver, Canada) both current Board members are running for reelection, and we're thrilled to have two community members who have stepped forward to run as well: Eddie Alba (California) and Michael Winward (Massachusetts).

Current Board members whose terms are not expiring this year are Garret Gerritsen (California), Benjamin Soencksen (New York), Kathy Wildman (Missouri), and Barbara Zoloth (California).

Members are asked to vote for as many as 3 candidates from the list. You will soon be sent an email with complete instructions on how to vote including an electronic link to the ballot. Those who registered to vote via snail-mail will be sent a paper ballot) Ballots will include statements by the candidates as well as their photos. Please be sure to cast your vote before the deadline of March 22, 2014. Results will be announced by or before March 29, 2014 on NASSPDA's website.

Sincerely,

*The NASSPDA Board of Directors**Lee Fox, Florida**Garret Gerritsen, California**Pat Hogan, Vancouver**Christopher Kelleher, Massachusetts**Benjamin Soencksen, New York**Kathy Wildman, New Mexico**Barbara Zoloth, California*

PS: Please share this e-newsletter with others by using the
'Forward email' link at the bottom of this page.

SCHOLARSHIP Opportunities

NASSPDA will be offering 5 Scholarships for the Gay Games (NASSPDA membership plus \$200 stipend plus \$130 towards Dancesport registration fee) with an application deadline of May 12, 2014. NASSPDA will also offer 5 scholarships to the Boston Open North American Championships (NASSPDA membership plus \$200 stipend plus \$65 toward registration) with an application deadline of July 11, 2014. If fewer than 5 scholarships are awarded for GG9, more than 5 scholarships to the Boston competition may be available. No individual can receive more than one such scholarship. Scholarship application forms have been updated and posted on the NASSPDA website.

[Scholarship Guidelines](#)

[Scholarship Application](#)

Gay Games Community Spotlight

**Know of any Studios or Venues offering Dance classes to prepare for the Gay Games?
Let us Know!**

Want to dance in the 2014 Gay Games?

Bay area is taking a *FORMATION TEAM*

A collaboration with SF at **VIMA** and East Bay with **Trip The Light Fantastic**

The 2014 Gay Games are in America, this wonderful opportunity to compete in the Gay Olympics happens every 4 years. 2010 they were in Germany and the next ones will be in the US. Dance Sport is one of the ways that you can participate and a formation team or performance group is a great way to dance with a group and be part of the fun. A new collaborative country and western team is just about to begin training. Its an exciting new joint project between the two award winning dance teams of *Vima Vice Squad* and *Trip the light Fantastic*. We would love this to be a huge Bay area team.

We are starting early so you can get on board now, you don't need a partner and can choose whether to lead or follow. The team will have a range of experience from absolute beginners to teachers and will be a very fun experience. The main song will be 'Mamas Broken Heart' by Miranda Lambert and the routine will include **country 2 step, line dancing, some country waltz and west coast swing.**

The aim is to perform at the **April Follies** same sex dance competition in Oakland on April 26th, 2014 and then the **Gay Games in Ohio August 9 to 16th, 2014.**

There will be SF and East Bay venues to learn the routines and also times when the two groups come together for joint practices. **The SF time will be on Tuesday eve from 8 to 9pm at Vima starting November 5th.**
The East Bay time will be on Tuesday eve at 8:30pm in Hall 1 at Lake Merritt Dance Center, Oakland.

What is the commitment?

We are looking at an overall 10 month commitment with some breaks in the time over the period from October 2013 to August 2014 with the goals of the April Follies, in April, a local same sex dance competition, then the Gay Games, August 9-16, 2014. There would be additional performances prior to competitions to get our performance energies going. We would have the group lesson once a week and the last months prior to competitions possibly group lesson will extend to 90 mins or add an additional weekly practice.

Do you need a partner?

No experience or partner is required to join. Everyone is welcome. We don't expect people to bring a partner, and the aim is to have enough leads and follows for it to work. If someone does bring a partner we would try to let them dance together but height and dance levels may influence that. Do let us know if you have other questions and we would be happy to answer them. These groups are always a fun experience that increases your dance and performance abilities.

Do let us know in advance and as soon as possible if you plan on attending.

Contact info:

For San Francisco: You can contact VIMA at 415 - 977 0203 or vima@vimadance.com
For East Bay: You can contact Zoe at 510 - 430 8820 or zoe@triplightfantastic.org.

Website:

www.vimadance.com
www.triplightfantastic.org

Cost: \$52 for each 4 weekly hour long, class increasing pro rate for the 90 minute classes. Costume costs are covered by individuals.

Gay Games Resources:

For the most recent updates, Go to our Facebook page: **2014 Gay Games Dancesport**

Also, Visit Gay Games website at www.gg9cle.com

!!!! Current Number of Gay Games DanceSport Registrants: 92 !!!!!

Creating Community

Outdance

Dance Calendar For The LGBTQ Community

Dancers, teachers, and event organizers are encouraged to visit and use Outdance! It is a website devoted solely to providing a calendar of events for the same-sex partner dance community. Anyone can post an event for free. You can update or edit your events whenever you like. You can customize your website by geographic area, dance styles, and/or type of event. This website was created for YOU! Please make use of it. The intent is to provide one place where dancers can find information about where and when to dance!

Competition News

Dancing In The River City 2014, The Last Hoorah!

After another successful competition this year, it was disheartening to learn that this year would be the last Dancing in the River City Competition. Since 2009, Dancing in the River City has faithfully kicked off the start of the same-sex dance competition season. And each year, one could count on really creative themes that gave character and excitement to the competition and show such as this year's theme of "Cruising Around the World." Throughout the years of fun though, the mission of this competition has not changed.

In 2008, a group of Sacramento same-sex ballroom dancers came together to create a competition & show, while at the same time raise money to send dancers to the Gay Games held every four years all over the world. Cindy Mills, who had the original vision, recruited other dance enthusiasts, and an organizing committee was formed. In 2009 Dancing in the River City, an annual same-sex ballroom dance competition, was born.

When asked about how the competition evolved over the years, Elly Bishop of the Organizing Committee commented, " Our focus was to provide a smooth-running competition with a sense of fun and flair. We always asked for feedback and we made improvements based on that. This last year was the first time we had made registration and payment completely online. The year before last, we introduced Open Dances that couples could sign up for on the day of the event."

Throughout the years it was also evident that DITRC volunteers were truly engaged from the heartfelt hospitality of the chili dinners they made and served to volunteers such as Robert Aina who created beautiful and unique quilts that became the anticipated and sought after raffle prize.

Although the group of Sacramento same-sex ballroom dancers now feel they have accomplished their mission with the upcoming Gay Games what they did not probably plan on was the everlasting impact, memories and sense of community this competition has gifted to so many same-sex dancers.

Upcoming Events

March 29, 2014 Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge [Find Out More !](#)

April 25, 2014 April Follies, Oakland. USA Championship. Sanctioned by NASSPDA
[Visit their website](#)

August 9-16, 2014 Gay Games IX, Cleveland + Akron. World Championship.

Sanctioned by IFSSDA ([How hot is this?!](#))

October 11, 2014 Boston Open. North American Championship. Sanctioned by NASSPDA
[2014 Details Coming Soon](#)

Check our [links](#) for classes and events in your area, and send updates and additions to
newsletter@nasspda.org.

STILL GROWING!! outdance.org Check. It. Out!

Our Mission

The North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association (NASSPDA) is a membership organization committed to the promotion and expansion of social and competitive same-sex partner dancing, which includes Ballroom, Latin, Swing, Country Western, and other partner dances. NASSPDA acknowledges and celebrates its origins in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.



Winter & Auriel
(photo by Barak Yedidia)

eNews Contributors:

Barbara, Chris, Garret, and Pat

Become a member and support our work at www.nasspda.org

Visit our Community Links:

<http://www.nasspda.org/about/page/7/30>

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