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Monthly Newsletter

February 2016



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

We hope that the New Year got off to a good start for all of you!

As with each year, it is time to renew your commitments, including your membership with NASSPDA. We all know that as an organization our voice is only as strong as our membership. NASSPDA is a member of the FGG (Federation of Gay Games), a member of GLISA (Gay & Lesbian International Sports Association) and a founding member of IFSSDA (International Foundation of Same-Sex Dance Associations). Here are brief updates on our involvements with these organizations:

The FGG is currently in the midst of a heated debate about two issues, trying to create a combined event by the FGG & GLISA based on popular demand and prohibiting events at the Gay Games to be sanctioned as "World Championships." The resolution of both issues would impact our community as much as any other sport, but in particular the latter. Due to limited resources and failure to yet finalize the formation of IFSSDA by registering it as a legal entity and creating governing by-laws and rules, the founding organizations, ESSDA, IAGLCWDC & NASSPDA, have decided that each Gay Games and World Outgames event will be considered the "World Championships" for Dancesport. Apparently, other sports have made the same determination, though some ask the organizers of the Gay Games for licensing fees before granting such title, which adds a financial burden to organizing the games, and/or have qualification requirements in place, which contradict the "inclusion-of-all and "personal-best" mantra of the games.

GLISA is a more complicated organization, having continental bodies that also hold their own events, such as the upcoming North America Outgames in St. Louis. Since the formation of GLISA, caused by disagreements over the organization of Gay Games 7, originally to be held in Montreal and then hosted by Chicago, and due to its more complicated structure, many FGG members have a very negative stand towards GLISA, which hampers negotiations for a combined event. Any organization can be a member of both, the FGG as well as GLISA, and many are, just like NASSPDA.

Therefore, it could be argued that joining forces again as one organization would make sense, though many in the FGG fear that that would mean losing the initially intended focus and spirit of the Gay Games, since GLISA seems to focus less on sport and more on human rights issue focused events.

IFSSDA was formed in 2010 at Gay Games 8 in Cologne, Germany, based on an initiative by ESSDA & NASSPDA. A preceding survey revealed that the community is interested in worldwide representation and an event that would officially carry the title of "World Championship." Together, both organizations created a six person committee, which rewrote the "Red Book," the rules that govern each sport and its sanction as well as organization at the Gay Games. IAGLCWDC joined shortly thereafter, and a constitution was drafted, which got signed in 2013 by all three organizations at the World Outgames in Antwerp. The Dancesport event at these Outgames was for the first time sanctioned to be IFSSDA's World Championships, and it was agreed that all following Gay Games and World Outgames shall be officially "our" World Championships, which is how our community had viewed these events anyway.

NASSPDA continues to be involved, but can only do so effectively, if it has a score of members to support its efforts. To that end, please remember to renew your membership with NASSPDA or, if you haven't yet, join us, so that we have a stronger voice on these and other issues.

<http://www.nasspda.org/members/register/>

Thank you for supporting your community!

Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

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

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: <https://www.naoutgames2016.org/dancesport.html>

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

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!](#)

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 and find related material under "About Us" and "Organizational" (<http://nasspda.org/about/>), such as an explanation of the process and required submissions.

Outreach and Media

Promotions Committee

ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

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.

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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