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Monthly Newsletter

January 2016



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

NASSPDA's Board of Directors wishes you a healthy, successful and dance filled 2016!

This year, as reported in our last newsletter, brings you many exciting opportunities to hone and measure your dancing skills at NASSPDA sanctioned events. In addition, you might find more opportunities at mainstream events than in any year before. The college circuit had traditionally for many years accepted any gender configuration of a couple. But since USA Dance, the amateur organization in the USA, officially changed its definition of a couple in their rules last year, anyone can now participate in their events as well, keeping in mind that organization's different levels and syllabi restrictions. The New England branch of FADS (Fred Astaire Dance Studios) also established rules last year for the first time that allowed for a category free of a couple's gender definition. Now, even the NDCA (National Dance Council of America) did consider welcoming "other defined" couples at their sanctioned events, which though got so far rejected.

Several years ago, the German equivalent of NASSPDA, the DVET, became a member of the mainstream German amateur organization, DTV, which didn't mean changing the definition of a couple in mainstream, but allowed for DTV officials to serve at DVET events and also for combined events. Other attempts have been made in other countries to find acceptance by and or integration in the mainstream world of partner dancing with lesser success. But it seems that if we are lucky, at some point in the world of partner dancing the gender definition of a couple will be less important than the couple's skills.

It is my hope that you are all out there honing your dance skills, enjoying old and new moves, and making new friends. Maybe I will see you in St. Louis at NASSPDA's annual membership meeting, which always takes place each year in conjunction with the North American Championship, this year being part of the North America Outgames.

Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

FLOORPLAY IN THE DESERT RECAP:

A brand new same sex competition called Floorplay in the Desert was held this past weekend in Palm Springs, California. The event was at the Convention Center next to the Renaissance Hotel. The weather was very pleasant and the hotel was situated close to the main drag where people were able to shopping, dining, and partying at their leisure. I was pleasantly surprised to see that it was attended by a larger contingence of people than I expected for their first competition. Eddie Alba, Michael Babineaux, Dale Cole, and Anthony Acquavivo did a wonderful job with the organizing of the event and capped it off with a wonderful show at the end of the evening.

There were a total of 94 heats throughout the day in the international styles and the American styles with a smattering of the other dances in the night club, country/western, and Argentine Tango genres. There were also five showdances and two formation dances. Most of the entries were Pro-Am couples with a few of the regular classification couples dancing in the graded rounds.

The staff was well organized and the competition ran on time. The judges of the event were Lee Fox (chair), Luc Richer, Michael Winward, Marcus Johnson, Martin Cawston, and Selena Morano Johnson. Keeping the competitors hopping was the Mistress of Ceremonies, Wendy Johnson. The scrutineer was Sandra Wollin with her husband Bob Arthur playing excellent music as the DJ.

The evening consisted of plenty of open dancing with a Best of the Best Dance Trophy Competition consisting of the winners of the "A" class in each style competing against each other. The show had several of the competitors performing along with featured performers Stefan Lehner and Axel Zischka, European Champions who visited us all the way from Paris.

Look for this competition to return next year with more attendees as I know people who were here are going to be talking about this one for some time.

Lee Fox

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: <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

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.

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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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