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Monthly Newsletter

June 2016



## From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

The 2016 elections for NASSPDA's Board of Directors have taken place and produced a new configuration of its nine members. Board members Michael Winward and Kathy Wildman have both retired from their positions, and we are very grateful for their past commitment and invaluable contribution to our community and organization. The composition of NASSPDA's Board of Directors is now as follows:

- Eddie Alba
- Lee Fox
- Garret Gerritsen
- Pat Hogan
- Daphna Locker
- Kalin Mitov
- Andrew Pueschel
- Benjamin Soencksen
- Barbara Zoloth

At the Board's next meeting the new members will be welcomed and officers will be elected.

The Board's most pressing issues at the moment are:

1. The status of IFSSDA (International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations), which was founded by ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA and has ratified a constitution. Attempts to register the organization in London, UK, have so far failed as well as subsequently establishing by-laws and rules for international competitions. However, all three organizations have agreed to consider all Gay Games and International Outgames the community's World Championships, to be sanctioned and held under the applicable rules of the nearest governing continental body. Therefore, the upcoming World Championships will be held at the 2017 Outgames in Miami, FL, USA, sanctioned by NASSPDA, followed by the 2018 Gay Games in Paris, France, sanctioned by ESSDA. ESSDA requires for its sanctioning and oversight a licensing fee, which is deemed by the FGG (Federation of Gay Games) an undue burden to the organizers of Dancesport at this event. Since other sports have taken similar steps, the FGG decided to prohibit events to be considered any kind of championships in that sport, if fees are required with such a distinction. NASSPDA is working on preserving the considered status of this event, since the greater community doesn't have the resources to organize a separate event.

2. Another issue of even greater concern is the decline in the number of dancers competing at NASSPDA sanctioned events and the subsequent discontinuation of these events. Forming stronger alliances with the collegiate competitive circuit, with which some crossover has occurred, and promote NASSPDA events was one solution suggested at the most recent community meeting following "April Follies" in Oakland. Another was reaching out to the teaching community in general and promoting the inclusion of Pro/Am participation, which is a controversial issue, since NASSPDA doesn't recognize mainstream definitions of a professional and amateur as well as promotes strongly the affordability for competing participants at NASSPDA sanctioned competitions. NASSPDA's Competition Rules dictate therefore a clear separation of Pro/Am inclusion in a NASSPDA sanctioned event, which the Board considers expanding by firstly renaming the category "Student/Teacher" and secondly including it optional for titled events. Based on these changes to be adopted official at the upcoming Board's meeting, the upcoming North American Championship, hosted this year by the "Glitz & Glitter Ball" in Columbus, OH, in July, will offer for the first time this title also in the "Student/Teacher" category.

3. NASSPDA's website is built on a very outdated platform, which makes it cumbersome to keep updated and subsequently hasn't been an adequate resource for its members. And even though the Board has been working over a year to change this and some progress has been made, this issue hasn't been resolved yet. It is hoped, once accomplished, that a new website will help increase visibility and improve communication with NASSPDA's constituency.

And, of course, NASSPDA's Board of Directors will continue working on other issues as these arise and try finding ways that promote Dancesport within our community.

Happy Dancing!"

*Also, as discussed at the last Board meeting, we would like to make the following correction/addition:*

*Correction/Addition for the previous eNewsletter:*

*In the report on this year's "April Follies," adjudicator Michael Babineaux was inadvertently not listed as a member of the judging panel. We apologize for this oversight!*

## Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

### EXCITING UPDATE!

The North American Championships will now be awarding **STUDENT/TEACHER Championship Titles!** Please see the **Glitz and Glitter Ball website** for more details!

#### July 23

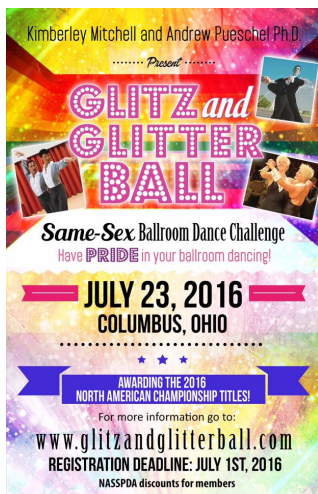
Competition: Glitz and Glitter Ball in Columbus , OH

**Titles: North American Championships**

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

Registration deadline is July 1st.

\$25 per person discount for NASSPDA members!



**August 21, 2016**  
 Delaware Valley Equality Ball  
 Woodbury, NJ

**September 3, 2016**  
 Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge  
 Montreal

**October 1, 2016**  
 Provincetown Dance Trophy  
 Provincetown

## 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

If you have an outreach program that you would like obtain funding for, please click [HERE](#) for more information.

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