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Monthly Newsletter

November 2016



## From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

"NASSPDA's season of sanctioned events has come to an end for 2016 with the proficiency event in Provincetown on October 1st, 2016. We are therefore looking forward to our first event in 2017, which also hosts NASSPDA's North American Championships for that year, "Floorplay in the Desert," in Palm Springs, CA, on January 14th (<http://www.floorplaypalmssprings.com>).

As a reminder, NASSPDA offers six scholarships for this event, which each will cover the recipient's 2017 NASSPDA membership and pay out \$250, helping any registered participant with expenses (procedures and the application form can be found on NASSPDA's website under "About Us" and "Miscellaneous" - <http://nasspda.org/about/>).

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The deadline for scholarship applications have been extended to November 20th, 2016.**

Now that we're at the end of the year 2016, occupying ourselves with the upcoming holidays, focused on friends and family, things are typically slowing down for a volunteer based organization, such as NASSPDA. As is true for all these kinds of organizations as ours, the biggest challenge in serving one's community is finding the people, hours and skills to accomplish its mission and goals. Our community, though small, has been steady, sometimes growing in size, especially around events like the Gay Games and World Outgames, and sometimes shrinking in numbers, namely in the interim periods. This lack in continued growth and the ever changing landscape in our community makes it hard to always bring forth what initially led to the formation of NASSPDA.

On NASSPDA's website (<http://nasspda.org/about/page/1/21>) and on the introductory page of NASSPDA's Competition Rules (to be found on NASSPDA's website under <http://nasspda.org/about/>) one can find our mission, goals and values. Among those for example is to "Function with a high degree of operational accountability and transparency." To that end, the Board of NASSPDA publishes minutes of each monthly meeting on its website (under "About Us") and aims to issue a monthly eNewsletter. Additionally, when possible, aside from the annual membership meeting, which has to be held in conjunction with the North American Championships, we often schedule community meetings at NASSPDA's other sanctioned events as well as encourage our constituency to talk to us in person at these events as well as join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NASSPDA>) or directly e-mail us with concerns, thoughts and comments (see contacts at <http://nasspda.org/about/page/6>).

A more challenging aspect has proven the value that NASSPDA expresses in its "position on the financial return from same-sex partner dance competitions," which is continuously a balance act between keeping events alive and yet affordable. Organizers face the

challenge to at a minimum break even, whereas participants look at not only expenses such as entry fees, but also travel and accommodation expenses. Student/Teacher categories add to these expenses for the student, though also adds larger numbers of participants and therefore greater financial support for organizers. This particular aspect, an important part of the mainstream competition scene in the USA, lesser so or even unknown in other parts of the world, has helped some, who want to grow faster and/or have a hard time finding an adequate partner, as well as organizers to sustain small, especially newly created events. But it also has posed challenges in incorporating it in NASSPDA's system of graded events, especially when teachers have more than one student they want to enter in the same graded event, common in mainstream, but prohibited by NASSPDA's rules.

The Board of NASSPDA continues to discuss and look at issues arising out of its sets of rules and goals governed by its mission and values. Any thoughts, comments and questions are more than welcomed!

HAPPY DANCING!"

## Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

Please note that ALL of NASSPDA's Competition Rules can be found by going to the NASSPDA website or clicking [HERE](#). Any questions or input are welcomed and can be sent directly to [rules@nasspda.org](mailto:rules@nasspda.org).

### January 13-14, 2017

Floor Play in the Desert

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

Title: North American Championships

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - Deadline for application is November 20th, 2016.



### April 29, 2017

April Follies

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

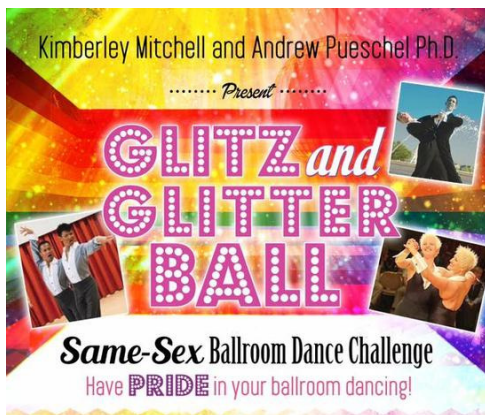
Title: California California state championships



**July 22, 2017**

Glitz and Glitter Ball

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



## 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!](#)



## Outreach and Media

Promotions Committee

### ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

NASSPDA would like to encourage its members and our community at large to engage in various fun activities that promote same-sex dancing. We recognize that many of our members may have a creative idea and NASSPDA would like to contribute in a small financial way.

Some ideas for events and organizers to receive grant support:

- Same-sex dance classes
- A social dance mixer with actively inviting and encouraging same-sex dancing or "alternative lead and follow"
- An excursion to a local competition, introducing dancers to the concept
- A welcome party before one of NASSPDA's sanctioned competition
- Setting up a booth at a local street fair promoting same-sex dancing
- A neighborhood or community event promoting partner dancing and the inclusion of same-sex dancing
- Involving studios to promote same-sex dancing

- An event in conjunction with a city's Pride activities

These are just a few suggestions. To apply for financial support from NASSPDA's \$250 Grant Program, please visit our website at [NASSPDA.org](http://NASSPDA.org), click on 'About Us' and scroll to the bottom for Activity Grant application and information. Or email us at [promotions@NASSPDA.org](mailto:promotions@NASSPDA.org) with any questions.

**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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