

October, 2013



Dear Dance Friends,

It has been a busy couple of months since we last updated everyone on the Board's activities. First, we were represented at the World OutGames in August and co-signed with ESSDA to formally create a constitution for the International Federation of Same Sex Dance Association. Then we were on hand to witness the success of the Boston Open in September. Congratulations to Kalin Mitov for producing a well attended and exciting competition.

We are now fully engaged with many dedicated volunteers in organizing the Dancesport Competition for the 2014 Cleveland Gay Games.. and making great progress at that.

We are still exploring our options with enhanced upgrades to our website and would love to hear from you what you'd like to see. And lastly, in 2014 we will have an election for three Board Director positions which requires us to form an Election committee so we're getting the word out to those of you who may be interested in running.

In other competition related news, The Board has granted the Boston Open the North America Championship for 2014. We are also very excited that the Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge is back in March 2014. We are looking forward to a new year of competitions soon, seeing old friends and meeting new ones

Keep Dancing!

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.

North American Championship SCHOLARSHIP

NASSPDA is committed to offering scholarships annually to the extent our funds permit. Inaugural scholarships were awarded to competitors at the 2013 North American Championship hosted by [April Follies](#), Apr 23, 2013. Awards are based on financial need, and recipients will receive (1) a \$200 USD stipend, (2) payment of their competition entry fees for the North American Championship, and (3) payment of their membership dues in NASSPDA for the year in which funds are awarded. We are


pleased to announce that the Boston Open taking place October 11, 2014 has been granted the North American Championship. In 2014, NASSPDA will offer scholarships to participants in the Gay Games, as well as the Boston Open. The submission deadline for 2014 scholarships is January 29, 2014, and the application form and instructions are posted on the NASSPDA website at the links shown below.

[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!**

| | |
|---|---|
| ~ GAY GAMES SAMPLER ~ | |
|  <p>In August 2014, the world will dance together.</p> <p>Come dance with us!</p> | <p>New series every month</p> <p>Every Thursday</p> <p>7:00 – 8:45 pm Two dances each month 15 minute practice time in between</p> <p>\$20 drop-in \$60 four class series</p> |
| <p>Same-Sex dance classes</p> <p>VIMA Dance Studio</p> <p>820 26th Street, San Francisco 415-977-0203 www.vimadance.com</p> | |
| <p><u>Your Teachers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Citabria Ozzuna ❖ Rafael Dominguez ❖ Ron Jenkins ❖ Photis Pishiaras | <p>The Gay Games are open to all ages and skill levels.</p> <p>Join us on the dance floor!</p> |

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!

Boston Open 2013

Message from Kalin Mitov, Organizer of the Boston Open

I just want to say how happy I was at the turn-out for our first competition. It was an amazing event, with 48 couples from 11 states, the United Kingdom, and Canada...and more then 350 spectators. I didn't expect many participants from Massachusetts, (except when Michael and I were dancing) but actually we ended up with 16 couples from the host State, and I am so pleased with that. I hope in following years the amount of participating couples will only grow. I hope to bring more fun activities next year as it will fall on the long weekend, 11, 12, 13 of October. And it will be the North America Championship!

Scores from the Boston Open can be found at www.bostonopendancesport.com in the results tab.

Upcoming Events

January 19, 2014 Dancing in the the River City, Sacramento. California Championship.
Sanctioned by NASSPDA [More Information](#)

March 29, 2014 Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge

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!

Board Member Profile: Garret Gerritsen

How did you first become involved with partner dancing?

I started Argentine Tango lessons in June 2011. Soon thereafter I was encouraged to try waltz and rumba. The thought of social dancing wasn't very appealing to me so my teacher suggested competing. With one studio recital under my belt we decided to enter the same sex dance event of The SF Quake. For my first competition it was both nerve-racking and exhilarating to be the only couple on the floor. After learning a few Smooth routines, we then began to dance Standard, ... and I was hooked.

Memorable experiences with same-sex partnering?

Practicing, training, and competing with my Life partner is always a memorable experience.



How did you get involved with NASSPDA?

After leaving the Board of the San Francisco Civic Symphony on which I'd served for 12 years, I was excited by the opportunity to serve again with an organization to which I could offer my knowledge and experience.

*What's your vision for the future of same-sex dance?*

I feel that attitudes may be changing towards more tolerance and acceptance. Our community not only encourages new dancers but warmly welcomes those who want to dance and be free from others questioning their sexuality just because they choose to dance with the same-sex. NASSPDA sponsored Competitions and Events allow us to come together. And since the US does not follow the European model of having regional dance clubs, I think it is vital that NASSPDA, and through all our members, continue to reach out to those who are looking for a supportive dance community. Although it is organizationally challenging for NASSPDA to sponsor more comps each year, it's a good challenge to have.

Anything else you'd like our readers to know about you?

Before I started dancing, I was Conductor of the San Francisco Civic Symphony Orchestra for 12 years. So I'm now learning to put all that upper-body, arm-waving motion into my feet.

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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