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Active Member Newsletter

October 2015



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

There always will be different point of views on issues in our community, as in every community, that can divide us or bring us together. One of these focuses around social versus competitive dancing, which can cause heated and passionate discussions.

It is generally believed that we need to foster social dancing, in order to grow interest in competitive dancing. However, many social dancers are dead set against competing, for various different reasons, which range from "believing that you got to be really good" to "competition, as a sport, takes the art out of dancing." It is my belief that one supports the other and therefore validates both.

Though it is true that your first steps with a partner will be most likely on the social dance floor and that there is a kind of shared enjoyment with other couples on the floor, which can get lost in a competitive frame work, it is the competitive dancer that becomes the best marketing tool within the non-dancing world.

In other words, just as the competitive circuit draws "new blood" from the social dance scene, the social dance circuit gets fed "newbies" that have been inspired at a competition or show presentation. This is why I believe that both, social and competitive dancers, should support each other in whichever way they can, helping to grow our community.

Competition Review and Calendar

Competition Committee

THE BOSTON OPEN -COMPETITION REVIEW

The third Boston Open took place this year for the first time in lovely Provincetown on Cape Cod with lots of sunshine and people. Over 55 couples competed on two days in the spacious town hall, attracting many audience members, who had never seen same-sex partner dancing. On Friday, September 18th, couples from all parts of the country (California, Florida, New Mexico,

etc.) competed for NASSPDA's US Championship title, and on Saturday, September 19th, couples, joined by competitors from Canada, were able to garner for the first time the Provincetown Dance Trophy, created by the organizer of the Boston Open, Kalin Mitov. A list of judges and competitors, the results and the scores, given by the carefully selected and NASSPDA approved judging panel of 7 judges for each day, can be found on NASSPDA's website under "About Us" (<http://nasspda.org/documents/BOresults2015.pdf>) and for US title winners specifically <http://nasspda.org/documents/Medals2015.pdf>).

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

January 15-17

Competition: Floorplay in Palm Springs, CA

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

April 23

Competition: April Follies in Oakland, CA

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

Title: California Championship - registration open in February. Check website for details.

May 27-June 4

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

2016 is going to be an AMAZING year for same-sex dancing!

We will be offering a number of new levels of membership so you can customize the way in which you support same-sex dancing in North America. More details will be coming soon!



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 March 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, at [ggerritsen@nasspda.org](mailto:gerritsen@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.

Exciting Things are Happening

Promotions Committee

IN THE NEWS

Strictly Come Dancing: Julian Clary wants same-sex pairings dancing for the Glitterball trophy



Click the image to the right to read the story in full.

ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

Two new grants have been approved by NASSPDA. If you have a outreach program that you would like obtain funding for, please click [HERE](#) for more information.

PARDON OUR DUST

The current NASSPDA website is under a complete overhaul and we look forward to sharing our news 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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