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Monthly Newsletter

October 2016



From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

Several years ago, NASSPDA instituted a new level of membership hoping to attract college and university students to join our community by offering lowered dues (see NASSPDA's website at <http://nasspda.org/members/register/>). Many of these institutions have their own partner dance clubs, which have created their own circuit of competitions and welcomes same-sex partner dancing. Some NASSPDA members have continuously partaken in these events, and some students have participated in NASSPDA sanctioned events. NASSPDA certainly welcomes and invites the influx of younger dancers within our community and encourages all students of colleges and universities to add their voices to our constituency.

With next year's North American Championship being hosted early in the year in Palm Springs (see more information below in this eNewsletter about "Floorplay in the Desert"), the Board just voted to offer six scholarships, which each will cover the recipient's 2017 NASSPDA membership and pay out \$250, helping any registered participant with expenses. NASSPDA's Board of Directors especially encourages college and university students to apply (procedures and the application form can be found on NASSPDA's website under "About Us" and "Miscellaneous" - <http://nasspda.org/about/>). Only the influx of younger competitors, seeing them participate and hearing their voices, will ensure that our community stays vibrant and grows. Please help to spread the word!

Another opportunity for growth is offered through NASSPDA's Activity Grant. If anyone has an idea for a social event, dance class or any event that brings our dancing community together or introduces others to same-sex partner dancing, NASSPDA offers annually four grants at \$250 per event. Any ideas, especially those that promote outreach to our wider community, are welcomed. This could be an event leading up to a competition encouraging new participants; or solely a social event where dancers or aspiring dancers meet for one time; or a series of events, such as a class, a dance; or just meeting up for a dance cruise; or renting a bus to drive to a social dance or competition (the application form along with guidelines can be found on NASSPDA's website under "About Us" and "Miscellaneous" - <http://nasspda.org/about/>). Be creative and take advantage of this opportunity!

The Canadian Championships were held for the first time in 2011 in Vancouver and had taken a hiatus until this year, when NASSPDA was asked in August to award this titled event to the Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge, held on September 3, 2016. Getting out the word timely proved of course challenging, which is surely one reason the event wasn't as well attended as hoped. Nevertheless, NASSPDA is pleased that this titled event took place again. Even in this age of Internet, social media and androids, it is still a challenge for a volunteer based organization to spread the word about what concerns and is dear to us. This is where you, our constituency, comes in. Word of mouth is without a doubt still

the strongest form of promotion. Please help us, your community, to spread the word about opportunities, such as NASSPDA's Student Membership, Activity Grants and Scholarships for participating in the North American Championships, as well as events that are sanctioned by NASSPDA, such as the upcoming Floorplay in the Desert, to be held in Palm Springs, CA, on January 14, 2017, hosting the North American Championships, and April Follies, held in Oakland, CA, on April 29, 2017, hosting the California State Championships.

HAPPY DANCING TO YOU ALL!

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.

January 13-14, 2017

Floor Play in the Desert

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

Title: North American Championships

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!



April 29, 2017

April Follies

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

Title: California California state championships



COMPETITION RECAPS:

Provincetown Dance Trophy (October 1, 2016)

The 2016 Provincetown Dance Trophy took place at the historical, beautiful and ornate town hall in the center of this vibrant seaside resort on Cape Cod on Saturday, October 1st, 2016. Participants for this year's proficiency event, sanctioned by NASSPDA, came again from all corners of the USA, from California to right from town. This very enjoyable evening event started with showcases and formation teams followed by single dances in

American Style, Argentine Tango, Salsa, Hustle, West Coast Swing and International Style, interspersed with two sets of live music by the all-female big band The Mood Swings Orchestra from Boston, playing aside from some great Swing tunes, Foxtrots, Waltzes, Tangos, Rumbas, etc. Judges for the evening were the President of NASSPDA, Benjamin Soencksen, NASSPDA Board member, Kalin Mitov, substituting for Christine Harvey, who had to cancel last minute due to illness, and Irina Gorolevici, who graciously consented last minute to fill the shoes of a scheduled celebrity judge from Provincetown. The competition had over 250 entries, which included all ages, youth to senior, and couples of various gender composition. This excellent mixture of show, competition and social dance to live music, was organized by the Boston Open Dancesport Committee, with the help of many volunteers and its main driving force, Director Kalin Mitov.

Montreal Rainbow DanceSport Challenge (September 3,2016)

There were a total of 72 heats in the Montreal Rainbow Dancesport Challenge with 32 people competing for the NASSPDA Canadian Championship titles. There were a few student-teacher couples competing as well as a few "All-Gender" heats where all couples competed against each other regardless of gender. This included male couples, female couples and reverse-role couples, and mainstream male/female couples. Only the men's Latin division had graded rounds. The final results were:

Canadian Championships

Men's International Latin

A-Grade: Jean-Francois Fortin and Yannick Parent -- 1st place
Benoit Labelle and Mario Picotte -- 2nd place

B-Grade: J-Milo Marcello and Greg Marte -- 1st place
Erick Boucher and Nathaniel Villanueva -- 2nd place
Michael Bissonnette and Stephane Quintal -- 3rd place

C-Grade: Pascale Voyer and Mari-Lyne Carrier -- 1st place

Glitz and Glitter Ball (July 23, 2016)

With a total of 172 heats, the Glitz and Glitter Ball welcomed 32 competitors. Both student-teacher couples and same-sex partnerships competed for the NASSPDA North American Championship titles. This also included male couples, female couples and reverse-role couples, and mainstream male/female couples. Titles were awarded to the following:

Men's International Standard

A-Grade: Bill Graner and Chris Nunes (also 45+)

B-Grade: Andreas Woytowitz and Erik Jaeger

C-Grade: Henry Johnson and Mark Williams

Women's International Standard

C-Grade: Roberta Hermann and Merry Crouch (also 45+)

Women's American Smooth

B-Grade: Laura Karasek and Malaki Woodward

Women's 45+ American Smooth

A-Grade: AJ Frye and Jill Christy

Women's Student/Teacher American Smooth

B-Grade: Sherry Thomas and Liora Paniz (also 45+)

C-Grade: Chris Ryan and Liora Paniz (also 45+)

Men's International Latin
B-Grade: Henry Johnson and Mark Williams

Women's International Latin
B-Grade: Roberta Hermann and Merry Crouch (also 45+)

Women's Student/Teacher International Latin
A-Grade: Jo Popadynetz and Liora Paniz
B-Grade: Haley Hixon and Danielle DiMasso

Women's Student/Teacher International Latin 45+
B-Grade: Sherry Thomas and Liora Paniz
C-Grade: Chris Ryan and Liora Paniz

Women's American Rhythm
D-Grade: Laura Karasek and Malaki Woodward

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

Have an idea for a social event, dance class or any event that brings our dancing community together or introduces others to same-sex dancing? NASSPDA offers organizers up to 4 grants at \$250 per event a year. If you have an 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 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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