

Dear Lee,

Thank you for your support of NASSPDA - the North American Same Sex Dance Association.

One of the benefits of being an ACTIVE member is our monthly newsletter. Intended to be a resource for YOU - the members of NASSPDA, it links directly to our website, and showcases the many ways in which your membership can help increase your involvement in and help shape NASSPDA events and activities as well as your own personal dance growth!

If you have any comments or concerns you can always email us at: [info@nasspda.org](mailto:info@nasspda.org).



## Competition Review

### Competition Committee

#### **The Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge was held in the beautiful Espace Fullum on Saturday, August 29, 2015**

Organized by Luc Richer, this competition was held in a former church converted into a convention center-like space with the competition being held on the second floor. It was interesting to see same-sex couples competing on the floor surrounded by pictures of religious scenes such as Jesus on the crucifix, the Last Supper, the Virgin Mary's portrait, etc.

The officials for this event were Lee Fox (head judge), Andrew Pueschell, Kimberley Mitchell, Kalin Mitov, Yves Gosselin, Mario Spenard, and Luc Richer. The MC was Daniel Plante, music was provided by Sylvie Fabre, and the scrutineer was Claudette Martin.

20 couples had registered for this event creating 120 entries, which took 55 heats to complete. Single Dance as well as Multi-Dance categories were offered in the American Rhythm & Smooth and the International Latin & Standard. The graded multi-dance events were mainly in the International Style. In addition, there were 7 Showdance entries presented in the evening session. This category combined 5 group numbers (Formation Teams) with 2 couple numbers, a situation the judges handled expertly.

The level of dancing was good, which included some high quality couples competing in the graded rounds. Congratulations to the winners and runner ups in the following categories.

#### International Standard A-Class:

Photis Pishiaras & Ron Jenkins -- winners  
Isabelle Leger & Lisa Pomeranz – runner ups

#### International Latin A-Class:

Jean-Francois Fortin & Yannick Parent – winners  
Benoit Labelle & Mario Picotte – runner ups

#### Showdance:

Mathiew Cutler & Virginie Primeau Poirier – winners  
S Studio Musique – runner ups

#### **The Delaware Valley Equality Ball was held at the picturesque Auletto's Ballroom in Deptford, NJ on Sunday, August 30th, 2015**

Organized by Nancy Brown & Eugene LaPierre, the competition took place all day, followed by a buffet style dinner, special awards to top student, top studio, etc., and a professional show by Alano Gouveia & Serena Lecca. Judges for this event were Benjamin Soencksen (head judge), Sarah Billings and Richard Jones.

This competition had approximately 20 participants registered with multiple entries for Showcase, Single-Dance and Multi-Dance categories. Except of the Multi-Dance categories, which consisted of 1 to 3 couples, all categories were judged based on proficiency within the level entered, not compared against any other couples. The majority of couples had identified as Pro/Am, the exception being an elderly mainstream Am-couple and a Pro-male couple that presented a Showcase in the afternoon. 9 Showcases took place in the morning session as well as all Smooth and Standard categories, and, after a lunch buffet, the afternoon featured the one Pro Showcase plus all Rhythm and Latin categories.

There were several same-sex Pro/Am couples, male and female, which received the same welcome and attention by all, and who competed against mainstream couples in the multi-dance categories. The atmosphere was very supportive.

## Upcoming Competitions

### Competition Committee

This year's Boston Open will be a weekend of great fun and great dancing and the location of the United States Same Sex Championship!

What's more? Your participation helps ensure the growth of same-sex dancing in communities across North America and helps spread our mission. And remember—NASSPDA members receive a registration discount.

Visit <http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/> for more details and registration information.

## Membership Information

### Membership Committee

TIME TO CELEBRATE! Our membership is the highest it has ever been! We have been increasing our membership at an average rate of 10% per year over the past two years. Thank you for your support!

NOTE- your membership expires at the end of the year. You can renew your membership at anytime by going [HERE](#).



## Board Elections

### Elections Committee

We are now looking for 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, Eddie Alba, at [ealba@nasspda.com](mailto:ealba@nasspda.com) 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

Why this same-sex dance champ thinks Strictly isn't ready for same-sex pairings

His view may surprise some, given his profession, but top same-sex dance champ Tim Regan (pictured, at right) says Strictly Come Dancing shouldn't introduce a same-sex pairing this season. He explains why: **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**

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

**DUST . . .** site with you soon! You can still visit the existing site until the replacement site is up and running.



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