



## From the President

Benjamin Soencksen

As many of you already know, the organizers of the 2017 World Outgames cancelled its opening and closing ceremonies as well as all sports one day prior to the start date, all but aquatics, soccer and Country Western dancing, which were organized separately by their respective organizations. Many participants had already arrived, left for or were about to leave for Miami and had no other recourse but to make the best out of a very, very bad and scandalous situation.

Due to the resilience of the IAGLCWDC, in particular it's Competition Director, Lee Fox (also Treasurer of NASSPDA), their annual Country Western dancing convention, to coincide with the Outgames and precede Dancesport, actually took place. That presented an opportunity, which prompted Davy Brocatus, the Co-President of ESSDA, and myself, arriving both on Saturday, to immediately work on behalf of those Dancesport competitors, who did end up coming to Miami, not being able to cancel their plans in time, especially those from overseas. With the list of the registered competitors and officials as well as with the help of some of those already in town, it was determined that enough couples and officials will be present to have at least a one-day event. IAGLCWDC donated the room, floors and lights for a free practice session on Monday followed by an afternoon tea dance and NASSPDA paid for an additional day to keep all that in place, in order to have a full day of competition on Tuesday.

Though the ensuing event couldn't be considered IFSSDA's World Championships, it was the very first time that IFSSDA ended up organizing its very own event. All officials agreed to donate their time and many participants as well as spectators gave a donation at the door for the tea dance and the day of the competition to defray some of the costs. Unfortunately, all formerly invited female adjudicators ended up not coming, which made for an all-male judging panel, though the female team of a scrutineer and DJ's tried to make up for the gender imbalance. Scott Lappin, the coordinator for Dancesport at the Outgames, who had done all the preliminary groundwork, printed certificates and was MC'ing the event.

Argentine Tango and all American Style as well as the division into age groups were scratched due to the limitations of time and number of registrants present. The combined results of the Standard and the Latin categories were used to determine the 10-Dance results. All finals of the A-Level as well as Showdance entries were danced in the evening, and everyone was handed a certificate and one rose (donated by Serge Aliev) in an awards ceremony at the end of the event.

Please find all results on NASSPDA's website using this link  
<http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IFFSDA2017MiamiResults.pdf>

Couples that participated came from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The spirit of this competition and level of dancing were high and inspiring to all.

The following officials helped making all that happen:

MC: Scott Lappin (USA)  
DJ's: Laurinda McRaven (USA), Tania (Germany)  
Scrutineer: Amanda Ashcraft (USA)  
Head Judge: Benjamin Soencksen (USA/Germany)  
Adjudicators: Eddie Alba (USA), Davy Brocatus (Belgium), Lee Fox (USA),  
Armin Lohrmann (Germany) and Kalin Mitov (USA/Bulgaria)

This collaboration of the founding members of IFSSDA, ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA, reaffirmed that there is a global community of us that can come together and make things happen. It was therefore agreed that we will continue to work on shaping the future of our global community through IFSSDA. Hopefully, we will see you all at IFSSDA's next World Championship held at the 2018 Gay Games in Paris.

As always, Happy Dancing to you ALL!

All the best,  
Benjamin

## Board of Directors Election

Election Committee

This year's elections to NASSPDA's Board of Directors were completed at the end of May and resulted into the re-election of Barbara Zoloth from Oakland and Benjamin Soencksen from New York City as well as the new addition to the Board of Erik Jaeger from Chicago. Officers will be elected by the Board in its upcoming June meeting. Parting the Board of Directors are Andrew Pueschel from Athens, OH, and Garret Gerritsen from San Francisco, which means that the Board is currently again comprised of eight Directors. The Board wishes to express its thanks and gratefulness to the invaluable services rendered by both to our community and welcome its newest member from Chicago!

## Competition Calendar

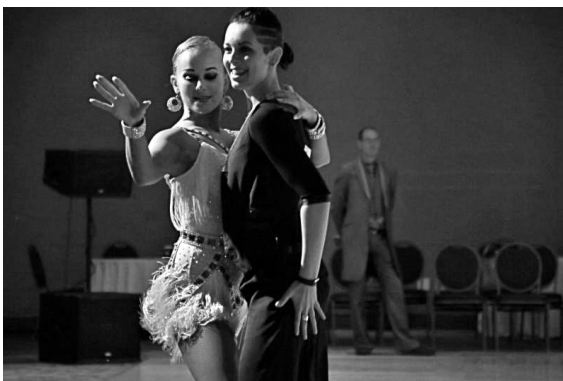
Competition Committee

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).

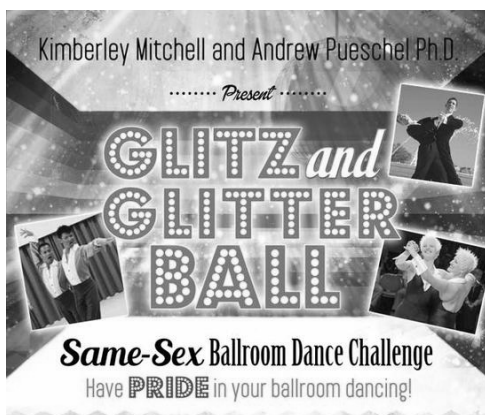
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Please find the Miami dance competition's results on NASSPDA's website using this link <http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IFFSDA2017MiamiResults.pdf>

2017 Miami same-sex ballroom Dance Competition, May 30th in pictures:



**July 22, 2017**  
**Glitz and Glitter Ball**  
Website: <http://www.glitzandglitterball.com>



### August 27, 2017

Delaware Valley Invitational Equality Ball - at Auletto Ballroom, Almonesson, NJ  
 For information and participation packages, please contact Nancy Brown and Gene Lapierre at [exclusivedanceweekend@verizon.net](mailto:exclusivedanceweekend@verizon.net) and [rockstep@comcast.net](mailto:rockstep@comcast.net)

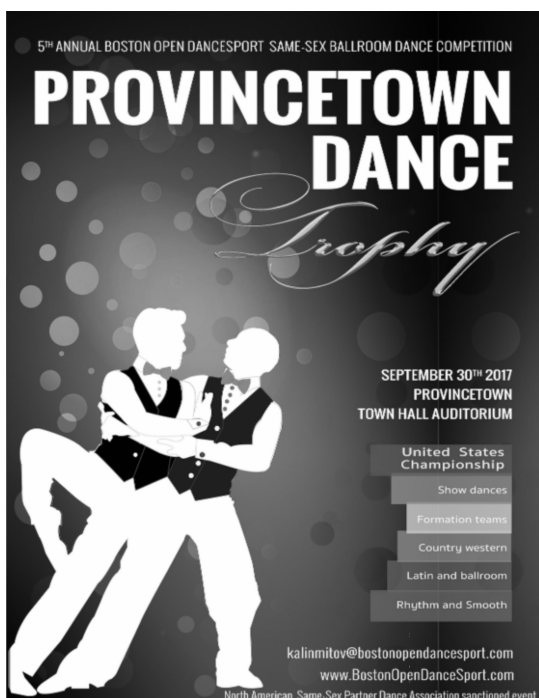
### September 2, 2017

Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge  
 Website: <http://studioarcencielt3.wix.com/rainbow>

### September 30, 2017

Provincetown Dance Trophy 2017 USA Same-Sex Ballroom Dance Championship  
 Website: <http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/events.html>

*\*Offering early bird registration and NASSPDA members discounts*



# Membership Information

Membership Committee

Join NASSPDA TODAY! Payments will now be taken by credit card instead of through PayPal. The new system has special encryption to keep your data safer than before. The new site URL is the same as before: [nasspda.org](http://nasspda.org).



If you have problems, or want to help us improve the website-parts are still under construction-please write to Kathy Wildman, our website administrator, at [wildmankathy@gmail.com](mailto:wildmankathy@gmail.com) or to [web@nasspda.org](mailto:web@nasspda.org).

## 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.

Up to 4 grants of \$250 each will be awarded per calendar year on a first-come first-served basis to applicants who can demonstrate that the proposed activity will advance NASSPDA's mission of promoting and expanding social and competitive same-sex partner dancing.

The proposed event should also be in alignment with NASSPDA's following goals:

- \* Support functions and venues for social same-sex partner dancing.
- \* Provide a resource for same-sex partner dancers.
- \* Aim to raise the level of same-sex partner dancing
- \* Encourage the inclusion of dancers from diverse backgrounds with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, [dis]ability, gender identity and/or expression.

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 the 'Scholarships and Grants' bar and then 'Grants' to read more for more

information. You can also email us at [promotions@NASSPDA.org](mailto:promotions@NASSPDA.org) with any questions.



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