



Current events

Presenting the Dancers

In this section we introduce you to some of our committed same-sex dancers.

Featured in this eNewsletter is Emily Coles.

Emily and her dance partner Citabria Ozzuna, both from California, recently won the 2017 California State Championship title in Open International Standard (*open to all gender combinations*).

And here is Emily's story:

I began my illustrious dance career at the ripe age of 5, prancing on stage with 9 other little girls in tu-tus and slippers. I loved the stage, but the tu-tu was not a fit. For the next 20 years I continued to prance on stages from my childhood home in Pennsylvania to my current home of San Francisco, always searching for the "right dance". This search included modern, jazz, tap, improv, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian Samba, American Tribal Bellydance and finally salsa. ...And the salsa stuck. To salsa I eventually added a full range of ballroom, Latin and social dances.

I believe anything that creates health and joy is a positive addition to our complicated world, and that positive impact is important to me. We need more dancing. We need more music and more singing and more laughing. We need more dorking around. AND... many organizations doing important work just need more money. For that reason, I donate \$10 from each lesson I teach to one of three organizations that I am personally involved with as a volunteer. Here they are: San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Muttville Senior Dog Rescue; The Dirty Girls of Lesvos and Diabetes Hands Foundation

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 3, I love to work with others who have health-related challenges. My students over the years have included folks with a variety of physical and social challenges, ranging from chronic conditions to brain injuries to social anxiety. I strive to bring humor, patience, kindness and compassion to every lesson I teach, especially those with students whose daily hill to climb may be a little steeper than average.

Dance-related achievements:

- 2014 Women's American Smooth World Champion (with Kieren Jameson)
- US Women's Champion in Standard, Latin and 10-Dance with Kieren Jameson a few times. I forget which years.

My answer to an often repeated question in our community "what would make same-sex partner dancing more popular in the USA?" is as follows:

If we look at what dances are generally (queer and non-queer communities) popular in the USA, these are all "social dances". Country Western Two-step, Salsa, Bachata, Lindy Hop etc. People learn these, so one can go to a club, listen to a live band, have a drink, work up a sweat, flirt, feel sexy, forget daily stresses. The environment is important! Even folks who don't know how to dance will go hang out at a Salsa Club, because it's a fun place to be. By contrast, events that feature all other dances are mostly held in dance studios, where the refreshment consists of water and mints, the atmosphere lacks sex appeal, there are plastic plants in the corners... Not hot, and not environments that attract newcomers. So I think one of the things that would increase the popularity of these dances (again, in both queer and mainstream communities, alike) would be to hold more events where they are done in places people want to go. Cool dance halls, chic bars and clubs, places with food and drinks, flattering lighting and good floors... This is, of course, far easier said than done, for a variety of reasons, but I believe it's possible.

EmilyColesDanceSF.com

Board of Directors Election

Election Committee

As previously reported, this year's elections to NASSPDA's Board of Directors were completed at the end of May and resulted in 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. Subsequently, the following officers have been elected by the Board in its June meeting:

President - Benjamin Soencksen
Vice President - Pat Hogan
Treasurer - Lee Fox
Secretary - Erik Jaeger

Competition Calendar

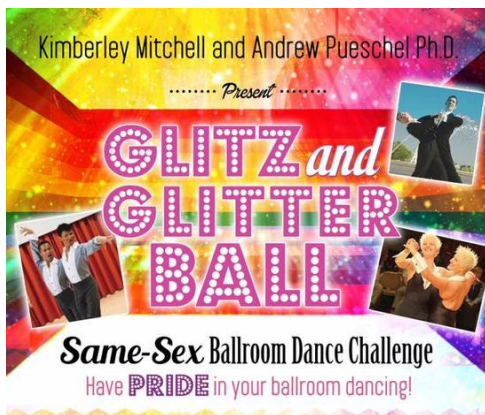
Competition Committee

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.

July 22, 2017

Glitz and Glitter Ball

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



July 27-29, 2017

European Championships

Berlin, Germany

Visit www.equalitydance-ec-2017.info for details.

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 and

rockstep@comcast.net

September 2, 2017

Montreal Rainbow Dance Challenge

Website: <http://studioarcencielt3.wix.com/rainbow>

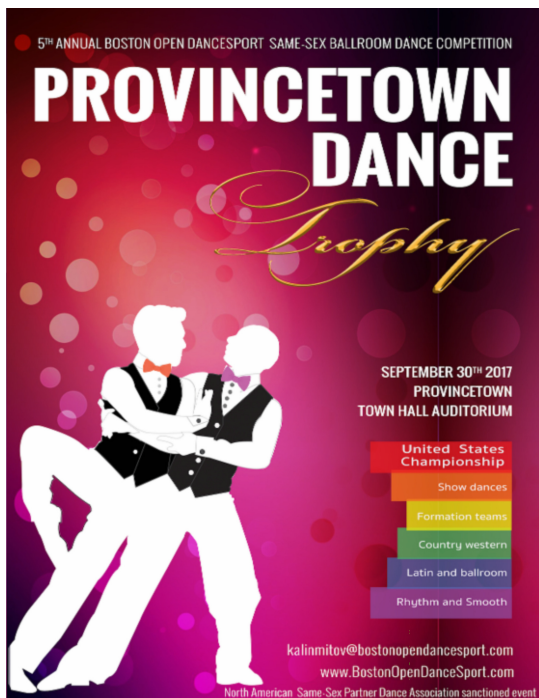
September 30, 2017

Provincetown Dance Trophy

Hosting the 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.

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 or to web@nasspda.org.

Outreach and Media

Promotions Committee



HOT TO TROT
Ballroom dance movie just got released!

The brand new full length documentary film, "Hot to Trot", had its debut screening at this year's Frameline Film Festival in San Francisco. Shown twice (once in San Francisco and once in Berkeley), it was a great success. The film is all about same-sex ballroom competitions, and all of the featured dancers were in town for the San Francisco event along with the Producer Gail Freedman. Gail tracks two couples, one male and one female, through several years of practice and competition culminating in the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland. Both the thrill and the challenge of competition dance partnerships are beautifully and sensitively portrayed. It is a great tribute to our favorite sport!

<http://www.hottotrotfilm.com/>

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, 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 with any questions.



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