



## From the President

### Year-end letter:

Dear Dancers,  
NASSPDA's Directors of the Board want to extend Season Greetings and Best Wishes for 2018 to all of you! May you enjoy good health and excellent dancing!

As every year, this year has brought us some interesting changes and results: NASSPDA's new website and membership database was launched at the end of 2016 and required everyone, newly joining and renewing members, to create an account log-in with new credentials. From here on the annual membership wasn't any longer based on the calendar year, ignoring the fact that someone might have joined in the middle of the year, but rather on the date of the creation of a new membership account and payment of annual dues. And once again, as in the past few years, NASSPDA's membership number by the end of this year rose above the hundred mark. The new website's functionality, look and content has much improved since its inauguration, but still needs further development in some areas and needs constant updates, which proves at points challenging. All in all though, it seems that this change has been successful and a positive change.

At the beginning of the year, the Board appointed Simone Assboeck to join its ranks and thereby filled the vacancy left by Daphna Locker. Barbara Zoloth, after having stepped down as President the previous year, agreed to function as Interim-Secretary until the elections in May, which resulted for the second time in NASSPDA's history into an eight-member Board of Directors and the appointment of Erik Jaeger as Secretary.



Andrew Pueschel and Garret Gerritsen regrettably didn't renew their terms and resigned at this point, after their much appreciated contribution of volunteer services to our community.

NASSPDA's North American Championships were hosted early in the year at 'Floorplay in the Desert' in Palm Springs, which included for the second year the chance for Student/Teacher couples to garner this coveted title, and again NASSPDA awarded several scholarships that financially assisted some members to attend. This was followed by the California State Championships at the always well attended 'April Follies' in Oakland. Then our world was shocked to find out literally hours before the opening ceremony that almost all sports and both, the opening and closing ceremonies, of the 4th International Outgames written out by GLISA were cancelled, due to a yet undetermined financial fiasco. Many had already arrived in Miami or were on their way. Thanks to the combined efforts of

the founding members of IFSSDA (ESSDA, IAGLCWDC & NASSPDA) the Dancesport event took place at least for one day of competition, giving those that couldn't cancel their plans in time a chance to display and measure their craft. But it also meant that our community ended up not having its 2017 World Championships. The next month featured the 'Glitz & Glitter Ball' in Columbus, which was designated as the Ohio State Championships by NASSPDA. But the organizers elected not to host these championships and to renew their NASSPDA membership this year. NASSPDA hopes that this event, which was just in its third year, will continue to exist and offer our community yet another opportunity in the year, even if it isn't sanctioned by NASSPDA. The year was then rounded off by the 'Boston Open' team organizing again a very enjoyable event in Provincetown, hosting the 2017 USA Championships.

Other highlights this year:

Many of us attended the screenings of 'Hot To Trot', a feature documentary by Gail Freedman chronicling the struggle of two couples of our community working towards the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, at the San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival 'Frameline 41' and at the New York LGBT Film Festival 'New Fest,' where it won the coveted Audience Award. It also was the official selection of the Atlanta 'Out On Film' Festival 2017 and the London 'Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest.' Additionally, several well qualified adjudicators have been welcomed into the ranks of NASSPDA approved judges, enlarging that number to 55, and NASSPDA's Promotional Committee has expanded its outreach efforts through newly designed banners, an increased presence on Facebook and awarded activity grants.

Next year's aspirations, goals and events:

The Board of NASSPDA started a discussion on revising membership levels and dues, which resulted into establishing a new membership category for couples with dues, combined into one, of \$50 (a \$10 discount) and reducing dues for team membership from \$100 to \$50. These changes will be implemented in the coming year.



For the North American Championships, hosted by 'April Follies' (for more information go to <https://www.aprilfollies.com/>) this coming year, the Board has increased the scholarship amount to \$400 plus membership dues, offered to 6 eligible applicants, and opened application to former applicants with priority given to those that have never applied before. Please go to <http://nasspda.org/scholarships/>, if you seek financial assistance and submit your application by January 28th, 2018.

NASSPDA had awarded the hosting of the 2018 USA Championships to 'Floorplay in the Desert' but the organizers decided to take a hiatus this coming year and to resume in January 2019, for which the venue in Palm Springs has already been secured. Please watch for upcoming announcements of where these championships might be hosted.

Since the number of NASSPDA's Directors of the Board decreased this year from nine to eight and longtime Vice-President Pat Hogan from Vancouver, Canada, will not renew her term, the Board is working already on soliciting nominations of new candidates supplementing and increasing its numbers back to

nine in 2018. Please go to <http://nasspda.org/board-members/>, if you are interested in serving on NASSPDA's Board.

The excitement mounts leading up to IFSSDA's World Championships in 2018 held in conjunction with the 10th Gay Games in Paris (<https://www.paris2018.com/sports/dancesport/>). Couples from all over the world will measure their skills at this event, which offers adult, senior and handicap categories in International Style, including 10-Dance, and Argentine Tango divided into genders, including mixed gender.

IFSSDA's founding members ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA will continue looking jointly into the further formulation as a world organization, including the creation of policies and combined competition rules, especially in view of the 11th Gay Games having been awarded to Hong Kong as the host city.

NASSPDA's set of Competition Rules posted on its website was recently slightly revised and republished (<http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NASSPDA-Competition-Rules-171104.pdf>), addressing how to appropriately indicate/name age categories. These rules are consistently reviewed for any loopholes and its reflection of changing regulatory needs. Currently under consideration is how to best identify for adjudicators the student in a Student/Teacher couple, who should be the only member in the couple to be judged. Should you have any concerns or suggestions please feel free to e-mail us at [rules@nasspda.org](mailto:rules@nasspda.org).

Please reach out to any of us on the Board at any time, should you feel the need to address anything of concern to our community (see for e-mail addresses <http://nasspda.org/contact/>).

HAPPY DANCING IN 2018!



## Announcement

### North American Scholarships available now

NASSPDA's Board of Directors has awarded April Follies for the second time in its history to host the North American Championships in 2018.

In conjunction with this decision, it was also decided to offer 6 scholarships, which will pay the applicant's 2018 NASSPDA membership dues as well as a \$400 stipend, to those who wish to attend and need financial assistance.

The deadline to apply is January 28, 2018. Application and guidelines can be found here: [2018 North American Scholarship Application Form](#)

## New change in the Competition Rules

### **Rule 2** Sub-Distinctions of Competition Categories (p.19)

#### **Rule 2.3** Distinction by Age

The overall age restriction is 18, and is considered the adult category. A senior level in the "Multi- dance graded" and "Single Dance" categories may also be offered. The age restriction for this senior level is set at 45. Both partners in a couple shall be 45 or above at the time of the competition. These age categories shall be named 18+ (adult) and 45+ (senior). An additional senior level for dancers above 45 years old (for example, dancers 60 years of age and older) may be offered which should be appropriately named with the designated age and a plus sign (for example, "60+"). Both partners in a couple shall be the designated age or above at the time of the competition (for example, in the 60+, both must be at least 60 years old). If the number of participants is low in any category, it is recommended to run such low-participant categories at the same time, but to judge the categories separately. Alternatively, all couples may be simultaneously judged against each other, with the resulting placements automatically reflecting the placements of the senior couples against each other (e.g., if there are 7 couples, 5 adult only and 2 senior, and the 2 senior couples placed in 3rd and 6th place, then the 3rd place couple would be automatically 1st place in the senior category, but a 3rd in the adult category). Proof of age is required for all senior categories on the day of the event. If the senior categories are held separately from the adult categories, all couples entered in the senior categories may also compete in the adult categories.

See the complete NASSPDA's Competition Rules here:

[NASSPDA Competition Rules 171104](#)

## Board of Directors Election

### Election Committee

#### Board members needed!

Each nominee must have an active NASSPDA membership and submit the following to the Election Committee:

- \* a Candidate Statement Form
- \* a photo
- \* two (2) Supporters' forms

Forms are available on <http://www.nasspda.org/about/> and instructions for submission are included.

Each nominee will be contacted via phone by a member of the Election Committee for a short interview. Once a nominee has been accepted, their name and Candidate Statement will be included in the ballot.

Elections take place in May, and every NASSPDA member will be sent an electronic link to the ballot. (People who have registered to vote via snail - mail will be sent a paper ballot.)

Voting will close on May 15. Results will be announced by or before May 31 , and be posted on the NASSPDA's website: [www.nasspda.org](http://www.nasspda.org).

The Election Committee is in charge of reviewing candidates, supervising and running the election. No one on the Election Committee will be a candidate for election on the Board.

If you have questions, please email: [info@nasspda.org](mailto:info@nasspda.org)



## Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

### *Upcoming North American competitions:*

#### **April Follies**

Hosting the 2018 North American Same-Sex Championships

April 28th, Oakland CA

<https://www.aprilfollies.com>



#### **Boston Open DanceSport present**

#### **New England Open DanceSport Championship**

Hosting the 2018 New England same-sex Championship

new location- Rhode Island Convention Center

September 28-29th, Providence RI



**Upcoming World competition:****Gay Games X**

Hosting the World Same-Sex Championships

DanceSport events August 6-10th, Paris

<https://www.paris2018.com/sports/dancesport/>

**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 [info@nasspda.org](mailto:info@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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