



Current events

Barbara Zoloth: To put on a dance competition

Notes on Organizing a Same-Sex Ballroom Dance Competition

Challenging though it was at times, being the organizer of April Follies for 10 years was absolutely one of the highlights of my life. It allowed me to combine my favorite past time, dancing, with skills acquired from my work (financial management, managing group projects, working with a committee, etc.) to create an event that brought great joy to a whole lot of people.

This is not to say it was always easy. We had an organizing committee of from 5 to 7 folks that met regularly. We were jointly responsible for lining up volunteers, hiring paid staff (scrutineer, judges, food service), managing making sure all tasks were covered. Clearly a lot of work is involved, but the result was always worth it for me. The very best reward was the joy and delight of the participants! That made all of it totally worthwhile. And just to be perfectly clear, none of this would have been possible without the help of a couple of dozen volunteers!

Although finding the right venue can be one of the most challenging tasks, producers of April Follies were very lucky in being able to rent the Just Dance studio in Oakland each year. We also were able to tap into students at a nearby college who were required to perform social service and who served as willing volunteers on the day of the event. Our overall goal was to have a smooth running, professionally managed day of delight for both the competitors and the audience, and, with the help of the many wonderful folks, I believe we consistently delivered this.



If you're considering producing such an event, here's a list of the some things that would be useful:

- Understanding how the judging system works: if you don't know this, ask folks who have competed in other dance competitions.
- Hiring a professional scrutineer: this is the person who records the judging results and determines the winners.
- Hiring judges who understand and are comfortable with same-sex dancing: check out the NASSPDA website (<http://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Approved->

NASSPDA-Judges-180107.pdf) for the latest list of judges approved by NASSPDA.

- Finding a DJ who knows competition music
- Finding the right emcee-someone who understands how a competition works, is personable, has lots of energy, and is preferably connected to our community.
- Finding a venue that has good lighting, spaces for dressing rooms, and, most importantly, a large enough dance floor.

Finally, know that over the years this has been a labor of love for the Bay Area Dance Community. Don't expect to make a lot of money! If you have a non-profit organization that can take the lead, so much the better.



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](#)

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.

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

Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

Upcoming North American competitions:

April Follies

Hosting the 2018 North American & California State Championships

Organized by BASSDA (Bay Area Same-Sex Dance Association)

April 28th, 2018

Just Dance Ballroom

Oakland, CA

<https://www.aprilfollies.com>



New England Open

Hosting NASSPDA's 2018 New England Championships

Organized by Boston Open Dancesport

September 28 & 29th, 2018

Rhode Island Convention Center

Providence, RI

<http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/events.html>



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.



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 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



At New York Pride Parade back in 2011 with many of us

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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