

Subject: March 2018 e-Newsletter

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Monthly Newsletter

March 2018



Contributed Article

(Any expressed opinions in the following may not be a reflection of NASSPDA's point of views.)

Dance and Tradition

article by Stuart Nichols

Tra·di·tion

Noun

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.

1-A long-established custom or belief that has been passed on in this way.

2-An artistic or literary method or style established by an artist, writer, or movement, and subsequently followed by others.

Tradition [Def. 1]. (n.d.). Oxford Dictionaries Online. In Oxford English Dictionary. Retrieved: September 13, 2015: <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/tradition>.

It would be impossible to practice our craft in any capacity without having some respect and appreciation for tradition. Our styles of dancing are defined by their traditionalism, so much so that it is hard to come up with an element, variation or even a stylistic gesture that has not been established, analyzed and codified by a previous generation of dancers. Tradition is our stock-in-trade. It is our product. If you don't have some love of tradition, this is not the profession for you.

Our traditions, to be sure, go well beyond artistic methods or styles, and extend well into customs with which we are all familiar: courtesy, chivalry, sportsmanship, grooming and attire in the dance world are all informed, if not dictated, by custom. Few traditions, however, are eternal; one tradition I rather miss is the one about drinking and dancing; I haven't performed those two activities at the same time in years, but I fondly remember the days when studio practice party night meant the bar was opened, inhibitions were lowered and money was spent.

[Continue here:](#)

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.)

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

Board elections timeline:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| March 31, 2018 | - Deadline for nominations |
| April 22, 2018 | - Finish vetting & creating candidate profiles |
| May 6, 2018 | - Sent voting ballots to members via Survey Monkey |
| May 13, 2018 | - Sent reminder email to members to vote |
| May 20, 2018 | - Elections close |
| May 27, 2018
members | - Results reported to the Board and to all NASSPDA members |

NASSPDA wants to continue cultivating a diverse board, representative of partner dancers from all over North America. If partner dancing is important to you, please consider running for the Board or nominating someone who represents you. Active NASSPDA members can find nomination materials at <http://nasspda.org/board-members/>.

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/>



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.

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Pink Jukebox Trophy in its 22nd year

By Pete Meager - United Kingdom Same Sex Dance Council

Saturday 17th of February was a very special and hugely exciting time for the Pink Jukebox Trophy (PJT) held once again at the Rivoli Ballroom in London. With over 110 couples entered in both the Men's & Women's Latin & Ballroom categories, this UK Same Sex Dance Competition broke record figures on participation, including new couples taking part from both Poland and Russia. We are delighted to be so inclusive and that these couples overcome so many challenges to be able to compete with us at the PJT.

Jacky Logan, Competition Organiser, comments:

"We were happy this year to welcome a couple from Poland and Russia for the very first time. We hope that the friendly atmosphere and supportive environment that is created at this event will mean that they return next year on February 16th 2019. This competition also marks 20 years of competing in same-sex dance competitions for myself and my partner, Mary Logan - so a very special year all round. Apart from the World and European Championships, we have not seen such a strong Men's section for quite a few years. There were also many new pairings in both the Men's and the Women's categories, which is so encouraging for the future."

The program was tightly run to schedule as usual as we sat on the edge of our seats to watch everyone battle it out for their place on the podium. As usual we were spoilt with performances from the Women's Ballroom Champions (European and World), Caroline Privou and Petra Zimmermann from Cologne. We've lost count of how many years they have previously won the PJT title, and this year was no exception. A truly stunning and elegant performance delivered by them both.

We were also delighted to have Michael Litke and Sergio Brilhante, current Men's Latin European Champions, take to the floor in a very emotional and poignant performance that has seen their career reach its pinnacle since they first stepped on the floor together at the beginning of last year. They took first place just ahead of another talented couple from the

UK, Joshua Moore and Shane Seal, who were snapping at their heels in every round.



Monica Needham, Adjudicator, adds:

"The way everybody supported each other and that all the overseas competitors were so warmly welcomed just made it so wonderful and ever so friendly. My friend who came with me said he had never seen anything like it and thoroughly enjoyed it... there was a really special atmosphere."

The Women's Latin A Class final was won by the delightfully energetic divas Piia Korpi and Santra Rinne from Finland, two ladies who never fail to entertain and amaze us with the sass and sexiness on the dance floor. At the same time, the PJT was delighted to see our very first Russian entry take first place in Men's A Class Ballroom - a real credit to both the couple and their country in what they achieved this weekend.

It was a truly fantastic weekend of Same Sex Dancing, one that London will not forget for a while. We all now look forward to a very successful World Championships at the Gay Games in Paris - #GG10. In August and welcome a brand new same sex competition in Oslo in June with the very first Norwegian Equality Open - #NEO18.

We hope to see you all there!

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

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.

NASSPDA, Lee Fox, 160 NE 58th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334

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