



From the President

NASSPDA's Board of Directors wishes to extend a big 'Thank You' to all of our members that took part in this year's elections!

After having conducted business for the past year with one vacancy, the Board has once again 9 directors and elected the following officers as its first action of business:

President: Benjamin Soencksen

Vice-President: Debbie Esparza

Treasurer: Lee Fox

Secretary: Erik Jaeger

In accordance to the Board's governance policies, the position of the President and Vice-President are again filled by opposite gender directors. All other Board members are active as committee members and chairs, namely Eddie Alba, Simone Assboeck, Horace Luong, Kalin Mitov and Barbara Zoloth.

Pat Hogan, having served NASSPDA's Board for 11 years as its Vice-President, had decided not to run again for reelection. We are very grateful for her commitment and contribution to our community for all these years, being the only representative from Canada on the Board. Nothing could be accomplished, if it wouldn't be for this kind of volunteerism from our constituency. We have therefore awarded Pat Hogan a lifetime honorary membership with NASSPDA. Thank you so much, Pat!

Horace Luong has stepped in for Pat Hogan as the representative on NASSPDA's Board for Canada, for which the Board is very appreciative. It is important to have all voices heard within our community. NASSPDA's Board is continuously working towards increasing its diversity, so that our constituency is represented in all of its wonderful and welcomed diversity.



'Diversity' is also the reason that brings an ongoing discussion about the term 'same-sex' again and again back on the horizon for NASSPDA, a debate about whether a name change of the organization is called for, in order to be more inclusive. The Board has picked up this point again and is considering the implication of 'gender fluidity' for this organization. When this thought was brought up the last time, the general consensus seemed to be that the term 'same-sex' was still very important for many reasons, though shouldn't be viewed as exclusive. It would be good to hear again from all our members on this issue. Make your voices heard!

In the meantime, we are looking forward to the biggest and most important event of our community, IFSSDA's World Championships at the 10th Gay Games held in Paris at the beginning of August. The International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations, which was formed in 2010 by ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA, with its constitution signed by all three organizations in 2013, has since designated GLISA's World Outgames, which were cancelled last minute in 2017, and the FGG's Gay Games as its World Championships. In the absence of its own competition rules, IFSSDA also decided that the sanctioning entity and therefore applicable rules shall be those from the closest continental body, in this case from ESSDA. NASSPDA's Board wishes all participants much success and fun!

In view of the 11th Gay Games being hosted in Hong Kong in 2022, IFSSDA's challenge in the coming years will be to define which body will sanction and therefore which rules will be applicable for this event. Aside from further legalizing IFSSDA by registering as an entity either in Europe or North America, which would dictate the by-laws, still to be formulated, and subsequently lead to a set of rules, we also need to reach out to our community in Asia, in order to include everyone in the process. Continued communication and outreach will be paramount to make this happen!

For NASSPDA, the last important event of this year will take place on September 28 & 29, 2018, in Providence, RI, when Boston Open Dancesport will host the first New England Championships (<http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/new-england-open.html>). It is our hope that everyone will help make this event a huge success by participating, which is also why the Board extended its annual scholarship program from supporting just the North American Championships to supporting all NASSPDA sanctioned events as long as designated funds are still available. Please visit our website for the application form and process (<http://nasspda.org/scholarships/>)!

It is our sincerest hope that we will serve our constituency as best as we can, but we also rely on your continuous input. Please make your voice heard by writing to feedback@nasspda.org or anyone on the Board (<http://nasspda.org/contact/>)!

Community



We have created a **Facebook Group** for North American dancers planning on attending and/or competing at the Gay Games 10 in Paris this summer. Share your questions, ideas, preparation of routines and find any of your friends who is traveling to Paris. Please, join the group for latest info.

The T-shirt shop for your Gay Games X, Paris 2018 team outfit is open. Take a look at the variety of options we have and purchase your t-shirt. For shipping in outside continental USA may take longer time for delivery.

<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/nasspda-logowear/>



Announcement

More Scholarships are available now

The Board of Directors has approved a proposal by the Scholarship Committee to expand NASSPDA's scholarship program to include all its sanctioned competitions. Therefore, anyone planning to compete at a NASSPDA sanctioned event may now apply for financial aid.

Currently, 4 scholarships of \$400 each plus membership dues for one year are still available to be awarded this year. The next eligible event is the New England Championships held in Providence, RI on September 28th & 29th, 2018.

The deadline to apply is extended to August 15th, 2018.

Application and guidelines can be found here:

Scholarship Application Form

Guidlines

Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

Upcoming events in North America

New England Open

Hosting NASSPDA's 2018 New England Championships

Organized by Kalin Mitov and Boston Open Dancesport

September 28 & 29th, 2018

Rhode Island Convention Center

Providence, RI

<http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/new-england-open>

Friday, 09/28:

American Smooth Single dances

International Ballroom Single dances

Smooth and Ballroom Scholarships

Smooth and Ballroom Championships

NASSPDA Same-Sex Championship

Show Dances

Formation Teams

Saturday, 09/29:

Kids, Youth and Under 21 - Single Dances (all Styles)

American Rhythm single dances

International Latin Single dances

Rhythm and Latin Scholarships

Rhythm and Latin Championships

NASSPDA Same-Sex Championship

Gala Dinner with Shows and Social Dancing

*Workshops throughout the weekend

*NASSPDA scholarship for same-sex couples

*Cash money Prize Awards

* Top Studio Award





Upcoming World competition:



Dancesport

Gay Games X

Hosting the World Same-Sex Championships
DanceSport events August 6-10th, Paris
<https://www.paris2018.com/sports/dancesport/>

Did you know that there are already more than 331 participants registered for the DanceSport competition at the Gay Games 10 in Paris? There is strong contingency from USA and we look forward to cheer them on.

The competition will take place August 6-10. A gala will be held on August 10, and a Competitive Edge workshop for Latin and Standard dances on the morning of August 11- both are included in your registration fee. There will be dancing at all levels and different age groups for International Standard, Latin, Argentine Tango, and Showdance. Also, there will be

same-sex, mixed couple, handdance and team dancing, something for everyone. Connect with other interested participants from North America by joining our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/217997922266692/>).

Schedule:

Monday, August 6th 2018 will be dedicated to training and rehearsal.
Competition will be run from Tuesday the 7th till Friday the 10th of August 2018.
For each day of competition, there will be two sessions:

Morning (9 am - 2 pm)

Senior Men, Women and Mixed couples Latin and Standard dance competition (general look, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals D, C, B and A)
Handi dance; Formation Team; Showdance (on Friday)

Break (2 pm - 3 pm)

Afternoon (3 pm - 8 pm)

Open Men, Women and Mixed couples Latin and Standard dance competitions (general look, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals D, C, B and A)
Argentine Tango (on Wednesday)

On Wednesday, August 8th, 2018 the Argentine tango competition will be immediately followed by a Milonga, open to both competitors and spectators.

Friday, August 10th, 2018 is reserved for the Gala Ball (at 7 pm), during which the winners of the category "Top level" (A) of the Standard Dance, Latin Dance and 10 Dance Showdance, and Argentine tango will present their most beautiful performances.

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.



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