



Current events

Paris 2018, Gay Games 10

"The Gay Games 10 Dancesport Experience"

by Horace Luong, NASSPDA Board Member

Gay Games 10 was held between August 4-12 in Paris, France. There were over 10,300 participants registered for these games, Dancesport being one. The Games started off with the Opening Ceremonies in the Paris stadium, Stade Jean Bouin, where the countries paraded in followed by entertainment ([video](#)). Of note is the participation from countries where homosexuality is illegal.



The Gay Games 10 and IFSSDA World Championship Dancesport event was held at Gymnase Japy, which was built in 1870, initially as a covered market and then later in the mid-1880s it was converted into a gymnasium. Paris was hit by scorching temperatures during the first day of the event and lacking air conditioning (or air movement for that matter) at this older venue, seeing who can stay in their standard costumes the longest under the hot environment should have been a sport in itself. The competition ran from August 7 to 10 for about 10-12 hours a day and was hosted by two masters of ceremonies - Peter Meager (English speaker) and Tony Marcireau (French speaker), both of whom did a wonderful job keeping events moving and entertaining the audience.



There were 13 judges for this Dancesport competition, two of whom from North America - Benjamin Soencksen and Wendy Johnson. Over the first three days of the competition we cheered for those in the Standard, Latin, 10-dance, and Argentine Tango divisions. There was a range of skill levels on the dancefloor, and it was amazing to see how many and the high caliber of the A-level dancers - there were quarter finals for this class! On the last day, was the overly entertaining Showdance competition where several teams and couples were competing. There was also a Handi-dance Showdance competition (wheelchair dancing) this year where the top couple was truly a crowd-pleaser with their skills and enthusiasm!

With over 360 Dancesport competitors from all around the world, there was a strong contingency of NASSPDA members. In the evening on the last day, all winners of the high level divisions gave a short presentation of their dancing at the gala followed by social dancing late in the evening.



Congratulations to all of these North American couples who placed high in their divisions:

- Sergio Brilhante and Eddie Alba (1st place - Men's 10-dance competition; 1st place - A Grade Open Men Latin)
- Evelyn Velez and Caryl Ann Hathaway (1st place - C Grade Senior Women Latin; 2nd place - C Grade Senior Women Standard)
- Abdallah Karam and Michael Herman (1st place - C Grade Senior Men Standard)
- Photis Pishiaras and Ronald Jenkins (1st place - B Grade Senior Men Standard)
- Pamela Shreeve and Michele Richards (1st place - A Grade Open Women Argentine Tango)
- Renee De Palma and Nancy Bryden (1st place - C grade Open Women Argentine Tango; 2nd place - C Grade Senior Women Argentine tango)



- Michael Mak and David Estrada (2nd place - B Grade Open Men Latin)
- Garret Gerritsen and Rafael Dominguez (2nd place - C Grade Open Men Standard)
- Ardel Thomas and Louisa Haefele (2nd place - D Grade Senior Women Latin)
- Tracey Payne and Alexis Massey (2nd place - C grade Open Women Argentine Tango)
- Barbara Zoloth and Kim WALLace (2nd place - B Grade Open Women Argentine Tango ;2nd place - B Grade Senior Argentine Tango)
- Craig Louisy and Alessandro Ghidini (2nd place - C Grade Senior Men Latin; 3rd place D Grade Open Men Standard; 2nd place D Grade Senior Men Standard)
- Sunny Williams and Melissa Saphir (3rd place - A Grade Senior Women Standard)
- Jo Popadynetz and Deborah Perez (3rd place - A Grade Senior Women Latin)
- Chris Nunes and William Graner (3rd place - B Grade Senior Men Standard)
- Andreas Ozzuna and Ginger Daniel (3rd place - A Grade Open Women Argentine Tango)
- Vima Vice Squad (2nd place - Team Showdance)



As a complete newbie to the Same-Sex Dancesport scene, I really enjoyed the supportive and tolerant environment that everyone attending the events created. It was inspirational to see the diversity in dancers from a range of skills, ages and countries represented. According to Peter Meager on Facebook who attended the Federation of Gay Games Annual General Assembly, "...the Dancesport Competition and the Gala was discussed as two of the most successful events that took place in the schedule ... this was brought to the table by FGG Board & Members, who weren't dancers and turned up to our events to spectate and support ... they couldn't believe the atmosphere we created and the community we so clearly have, not to mention the high caliber of dancers we had on the floor. They were also particularly delighted to see how we support and encourage new competitors, some from the most challenging countries in the world."



I'd like to thank the organizers of the event, Rainbow Evidanse (Patrice Naudier and team), for a wonderful job at ensuring the events ran smoothly and were well organized.

Based on what we saw in Paris, we better start training now for Gay Games 11 in Hong Kong 2022.

Photos from the competition:

[Karla Pixeljager \(Official Photographer\)](#)

Horace Luong's Photos

[Day 1](#)

[Day 3](#)

[Day 4](#)

[Cactus Capture Photography](#)

For more photos and videos, check out the [Gay Games 10 - Dancesport community Facebook page](#).



Announcement

Hot to Trot movie by Gail Freedman opens theatrically beginning Friday, August 24th, in NYC, at the Quad Cinema and Friday, September 14th, in Los Angeles, at the Laemmle Music Hall Theater!
Tickets are on sale now.

[Visit Hot To Trot Facebook Page](#)

[Visit Hot To Trot Website here](#)



Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

SEPTEMBER 28-29th 2018, Providence Rhode Island

New England Region Same-Sex Championship (Sanctioned by NASSPDA) at
the NEW ENGLAND OPEN - Ballroom Dance Championships

This event is hosted by Kalin Mitov and Boston Open DanceSport.
September 28th and 29th, Rhode Island Convention Center
1 Sabin Road, Providence, Rhode Island



Friday, September 28th American Smooth and International Standard; Showdance
and Formation Teams
Saturday, September 29th - American Rhythm and International Latin, Country
Western and Argentine Tango

Workshop A - American Foxtrot by David Rosinski, 09/28 at 4pm
Workshop B - Country Western Two Step by Lee Fox, 09/28 at 4:45pm
Workshop C - International Rumba by Patti Panebianco, 09/29 at 4pm
Workshop D - Salsa, by Martin Rivera, 09/29 at 4:45pm

*Workshops are free (actual price of \$20) for all registered NASSPDA members.

*Discounted rate of registration for active NASSPDA members.

The NEW ENGLAND OPEN also include:

- Single Dances
- Championships
- Scholarships
- kids, pre-teen, youth and junior divisions
- Country Western Championships
- Mainstream Professional divisions, Pro-Am and Amateur divisions
- GALA Dinner with social dancing

Visit the website for registration package and information



Upcoming World Championships:

Gay Games 11- HONG KONG 2022
36 sports and 11 cultural events



Unity In Diversity
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GAY GAMES XI
HONG KONG
2022

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