



North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association

Embracing and Welcoming All Dance Couples and Dancers

## From the President

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A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

NASSPDA's Board of Directors hopes that you all had a good start into this New Year! May this year bring us all joy and peace!

This year will after a long hiatus thankfully feature some NASSPDA sanctioned events once again. To start with, Boston Open Dancesport will host the '2023 Boston Open DanceSport Championships' on April 1, 2023, which will also feature this year's USA Championships

(<http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/competition.html>). Following that, the Bay Area Same-Sex Dance Association (BASSDA) will bring back 'April Follies' with an afternoon of performances and social dancing on April 29, 2023,

(<https://www.aprilfollies.com/grand-event>) and 'Floorplay LA'

(<https://www.floorplayevents.com/>) will have an event in June of 2023, with exact date and location to be announced.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Gay Games will be hosted this year in November by two cities, Hong Kong (China) and Guadalajara (Mexico). Dancesport will solely be offered in Guadalajara from November 5 through 8, 2023, (<https://gggd2023.org/en>) with more details, such as venue and a schedule for each day still to be worked out. This will be the first event that will be governed by IFSSDA's Competition Rules, aside from the Red Book for Dancesport from the FGG.

The following lists some of what NASSPDA's Board of Directors is working on in 2023:

NASSPDA's numbers of active members that pay annual dues have dwindled over the past two years, clearly as a result from the pandemic and the subsequent lack of training and events. Membership had always been driven by a discount offered to members at registration for competitions as well as the ability to garner NASSPDA championship titles. Naturally, this situation has also resulted into zero applications for NASSPDA's scholarships and activity grants in 2022. Taking all this into account, the Board decided to temporarily place on hold both the Scholarship and the Activity Grant Programs and institute instead for 2023 an Event Sponsorship for recurring sanctioned NASSPDA events, namely 'April Follies,' 'Floorplay LA' and 'Boston

Open DanceSport Championships.' These events are well established and have a proven track record as well as have been established to serve NASSPDA's community without the intent to make a profit, but are struggling to stay afloat. In turn, these events will be required to offer NASSPDA members a registration or entrance discount of no less than \$10 and promote NASSPDA leading up to and throughout the event. It is the Board's hope that this measure will help revitalize the alternative dance scene for our community, in line with NASSPDA's mission (<https://nasspda.org/mission-statement/>), after which it makes more sense again in 2024 or even prior reinstating the two aforementioned programs. NASSPDA will also take this as an opportunity to look into restructuring both programs, in order to attract more applications and to directly benefit members and increase membership.

As every year, the two-year terms of some Board members will expire by mid-May and most have agreed to stand again for reelection. Due to an increased workload for achieving his goal, a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at York University (Canada), Ruffi Oswald has announced his resignation from the Board. This was his first term serving on the Board. NASSPDA and its constituency is grateful for that contribution, and his valuable input during that time will be missed. Other Board members standing for reelection are Emma DiFrancesco, Susie Hoskins, Erik Jaeger, Jo Popadynetz and Benjamin Soencksen. If you know of anyone, especially from Canada, that you could recommend for serving on NASSPDA's Board of Directors, including yourself, and who might have a specific set of skills that could be valuable to the work NASSPDA does (any questions about that, please contact me directly at [bsoencksen@nasspda.org](mailto:bsoencksen@nasspda.org)), please visit the page on NASSPDA's website that informs you about the process and links to two required Google forms to be submitted (<https://nasspda.org/board-member-election/>).

NASSPDA's Board continues to also actively look for candidates for the Ambassadorship Program developed by the Promotion Committee. This program seeks individuals and/or couples that will spread the word about and impart the values of NASSPDA at events other than sanctioned by NASSPDA. This ambassadorship comes with a stipend to cover some expenses and the provision of promotional material. Should you be interested or know of anyone being interested and qualified, you can find more details on NASSPDA's website along with the application form (<https://nasspda.org/nasspda-ambassador-program/>).

If you are currently an active member of NASSPDA, the Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support, hopes that you spread the word about what NASSPDA does and encourages you to contact us with any thoughts, comments and/or suggestions you might have at [board@nasspda.org](mailto:board@nasspda.org).

Please stay well, safe and healthy throughout this year!  
HAPPY DANCING!

Benjamin Soencksen



## **Ambassador Program**

In need of broader visibility, better promotion in the DanceSport world and advocating for same-sex competitive dancing, NASSPDA is looking to engage Ambassadors.

As many North American DanceSport organizations have changed their definition of a dance couple, we are witnessing interest and participation of newly formed same-sex, reverse role, and gender-neutral couples at their events. Many of those couples haven't been introduced or exposed to NASSPDA as an organization; hence, they also do not know the benefits of being a member of NASSPDA.

[Please use this link to access description and details as well as the application form](#)

(\* please contact us if you encounter problems with accessing this form. A Gmail account login is required)



## **Online Donations?**

*Recently, NASSPDA's membership and payment platforms have been under malware attack and as a preventive measure we have taken down the feature from the website temporarily, while we are working on it, that allows to donate,*

*join or renew membership. Any help from our community with advise and knowledge how to permanently resolve this issue would be greatly appreciated.*

***Thank YOU!***

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## Competition Calendar

- **NASSPDA Sanctioned Competitions in 2023**

**2023 United States Same-Sex Championship** and Boston Open Dancesport - April 1st, Boston- Dedham, Massachusetts  
[www.BostonOpenDanceSport.com](http://www.BostonOpenDanceSport.com)

- **IFSSDA Sanctioned Competitions in 2023**

**The XI Gay Games** - DanceSport events are November 5 - 8, 2023, Guadalajara, Mexico

- **NON NASSPDA Competitions in 2023**

Southeastern Dancesport Championships, February 17-19th Atlanta GA

Rio Grande Dance Classic, April 13-16th Albuquerque, NM

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### **Join us at the 2023 United States Same-Sex Ballroom Dance Championship!**

Save the date Saturday, **April 1, 2023 in Dedham - Boston.**

This competition is the only all-inclusive ballroom dance contest in New England and of the 2 competitions in United States for this year.

We are welcoming everyone and supporting the LGBTQ+ dance community. Offering now an additional discounts for current NASSPDA members (we will honor ESSDA members as well). **Early Bird** Pricing will end on **February 26th.**

[Registration](http://www.BostonOpenDanceSport.com) and schedule are up on [www.BostonOpenDanceSport.com](http://www.BostonOpenDanceSport.com).

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## **April Follies is back for 2023!**

BUT, in lieu of a competition, we are hosting "A Grand Event" to be held:

- April 29, 2023, 2pm-8pm
- Just Dance Ballroom in Oakland, CA

This will include:

The opportunity to showcase all the dances you have been working on (and may be preparing for the Gay Games in Guadalajara, Mexico , November 2023).

--All the usual competitive partner dances are welcome:

International Ballroom

International Latin

American Smooth

American Rhythm

Argentine Tango

Country Western

--Just tell us what dances you want to perform, and we will have music to run "heats" for you, (you might share the floor with a few other couples, just like at regular competitions)

--Formation Teams and Showdances

You bring the music and we will give you time and space to show your routine!

Additionally:

- Lots of social dancing
- Several "Luck of the Draw" dances
- Line Dances...stay tuned for details
- Dance Lesson(s)

Dinner will be available for purchase

AND...a Fabulous evening show: Platforms 20-30

Produced by Photis Pishiaras and Ron Jenkins

Price will be \$40 in advance, and \$55 at the door.

**For updated info, please go to [www.AprilFollies.com](http://www.AprilFollies.com)**

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## **Southeastern Dancesport Championships**

The SDC is coming up soon, and we would love to have you there! This year, the competition is a USA Dance National Qualifying event, which means that by attending, you have the opportunity to qualify for the USA Dance National Championships held in March. Like all of the events we organize, the Southeastern

Dancesport Championships are completely gender-neutral. All couples of a given level and age division compete against each other. We love to see traditional, same-sex, and reversed-role couples out on the dance floor, and we hope to have more non-traditional partnerships participate this year.

In addition to our regular events, this year we are offering fun switch-role events in smooth and rhythm. In these events, we will ask couples to switch who is leading and who is following partway through the song. We think this is a great way to allow ballroom dance to expand beyond the historical paradigm and showcase a unique skill set, and we hope to see many members of NASSPDA participate in this event and in the competition. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us directly at [tbd.dancesport@gmail.com](mailto:tbd.dancesport@gmail.com).

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## Membership Information

### Membership Directory

Have you checked out the [NASSPDA Membership Directory](#)?

This is a resource to allow NASSPDA members to connect with others in the community. Please contact Webmaster and their email [webmaster@nasspda.org](mailto:webmaster@nasspda.org) if you'd like to be added to the directory (being added is a privilege available to NASSPDA members only).

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### Dance Partner Connections

We understand how hard it can be to find a dance partner. Therefore we'd like to help by offering this connection service where individuals in our community interested in searching for a partner can proactively post an ad and/or passively review ads.

If you'd like to post an ad, [please complete this form](#). It does not cost anything and you can share as much or little information as you want.

Here is the Dance Partner Connections webpage: [nasspda.org/dance-partner-connections](http://nasspda.org/dance-partner-connections)

## Outreach and Media



### **New partnership with The National Academy of Health and Physical Literacy (NAHPL)**

NAHPL is a diverse organization that seeks to advance health and physical literacy in our society, especially in K-12 schools, higher education, and in dance and sport venues. NAHPL seeks to grow and advance professional leaders who will interact and network on regional, national and global levels to expand health and physical literacy opportunities for all children and adults.

As a member and mission centered organization, NAHPL encourages and facilitates active participation by all members, advocating for health and physical literacy.

NAHPL leadership and members plan and implement professional learning opportunities and events at the regional and national levels, and advocate for health and physical literacy in Pre-K-higher education and across society.

<https://nahpl.org>

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