



North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association  
Embracing and Welcoming All Dance Couples and Dancers

## NEWS

### Recap of NASSPDA's 2023 USA & Massachusetts State Championships - Hosted by Boston Open DanceSport

After a year without any NASSPDA sanctioned events due to the effects of the Pandemic, the organizing team of Boston Open Dancesport led by Kalin Mitov held its annual event on April 1, 2023, once again in Dedham, MA. The previous event, held in October of 2021, was the fourth named 'New England Open' and hosted NASSPDA's North American Championships.

This year the team decided to revert to the previous name of 'Boston Open Dancesprt Championships,' hosting this time NASSPDA's USA and Massachusetts State Championships. The venue in Dedham, MA, was as in 2021 the large hall of the St. John of Damascus Church, beautifully lit and decorated by the organizing team. Especially welcome, since the day started very cloudy and damp, which though later changed to bright sunshine, noticeable through a skylight, brightening up the space even more. Lots of free snacks and pizza during the break delighted in particular the participating youth at this event.

In comparison to 2021, the number of participants almost doubled, resulting in a quarter more entries. The judging panel, Eddie Alba, Sarah Billings, Lee Fox, Richard Jones and Patti Panebianco, led by head judge Benjamin Soencksen, all NASSPDA approved, adjudicated a wide variety of events, including the USA & Massachusetts State Championships. The title winners, Justin Miller & James Repetti, in Men's A-Class of American Style Smooth & Rhythm, International Style Standard & Latin as well as Showdance (Couples) and Holly Stone & Michael Winward in Open-Role Showdance (Couples) are high level and proud representations of NASSPDA's dance community.

CONGRATULATIONS to all listed in the following results:

#### **USA & Massachusetts STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

##### **American Smooth**

A-Level (Male/Male) – Both Title Winners

1. Justin Miller & James Repetti, New York, USA  
C-Level (Female/Female, Student/Teacher)

1. Elizabeth Kahn & Kristie Mullins, Massachusetts, USA

**International Standard**

A-Level (Male/Male) – Both Title Winners

1. Justin Miller & James Repetti, New York, USA

**American Rhythm**

USA CHAMPIONSHIPS & Massachusetts STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A-Level (Male/Male) – Both Title Winners

1. Justin Miller & James Repetti, New York, USA

C-Level (Female/Female)

1. Elana Izelova & Jillie Santos, Massachusetts, USA

Massachusetts STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

B-Level (Reverse-Role)

1. Douglas Dombrowik & Maya Rao, Massachusetts, USA

**International Latin**

A-Level (Male/Male) – Both Title Winners

1. Justin Miller & James Repetti, New York, USA

B-Level (Female/Female)

1. Emily DiFrancesco & Kendall Schneider, Massachusetts, USA

**Showdance (Couples)**

USA CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Male/Male) – Title Winners

1. Justin Miller & James Repetti, New York, USA

(Open-Role) – Title Winners

1. Holy Stine & Michael Winward, Massachusetts, USA

Massachusetts STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Open-Role)

1. Douglas Dombrowik & Maya Rao, Massachusetts, USA

2. Holy Stine & Michael Winward, Massachusetts, USA

3. Justin Miller & James Repetti, New York, USA



The terms of NASSPDA's Directors of the Board, Benjamin Soencksen, Emma DiFrancesco, Erik Jaeger and Rufi Oswaldo, serving on the Board are expiring. With the exception of Rufi Oswaldo, all others are running for another term (Thank you, Rufi, for your invaluable services!!!). Everyone is welcome to run for these positions, whether self-nominated or nominated by others (see <https://nasspda.org/board-member-election>).

**The timeline for this year's election is as follows:**

**- Candidate nomination deadline is April 22**

**- Ballots will be sent first by May 1**

**- Voting will end on May 14**

If you are a NASSPDA member with an updated membership, please be therefore on the lookout for your ballot in May and make your voice heard by casting your votes for the listed candidates.

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## **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)*

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### **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!*

## **Competition Calendar**

- **NASSPDA Sanctioned Competitions in 2023**

**2023 North American Same-Sex Championship** at Floorplay, LA  
on July 22, 2023 in Dance Around the Clock, Monrovia, CA  
<https://www.floorplayevents.com/>

- **NASSPDA Sanctioned Non-Competitive Events in 2023**

**2023 April Follies - Queer Dancing Grand Event - 20th Anniversary and Very Last Dance**  
on April 29, 2023, in Oakland, California  
<https://www.aprilfollies.com/grand-event>

*\*No tickets required*

- **IFSSDA Sanctioned Competitions in 2023**

**The XI Gay Games**

From November 5 - to 8, 2023 in Guadalajara, Mexico

<https://gggd12023.org/en>

- **NON NASSPDA Competitions in 2023**

**Rio Grande Dance Classic**

Fom April 13 - to 16th in Albuquerque, New Mexico

<https://riograndedanceclassic.com/>



**LAST April Follies!**

Yes it's true, this will be April Follies 20th Anniversary and VERY LAST YEAR.  
Please help us go out with a bang!

We want you to come party with us on April 29th as we say farewell. Here is what the day will look like:

And as a thank you for your support over the last 20 years, we invite you to be our guest and bring your friends!

**NO TICKETS REQUIRED!**

(those who have already bought them have been offered a refund)

We do still need you to register if you are dancing in heats, showdances or formation teams

Heats:

- Any partner dance of your choice.

- No need for fancy clothes, unless you want to wear them

- No judging, just showing us what you are working on/having fun with.
- Register by April 14th
- Remember the Guadalajara Gay Games are coming up this November

**Show Dances:**

- For dancers with choreographed pieces to share, no matter how polished
- Register by April 14th

**Formation Teams:**

- We are excited to welcome four fabulous teams already!
- Team members, be sure to Register by April 14th

If you are coming to social dance or simply to watch the fun, no registration or ticket is required. Just come and bring your friends.

**Social Dancing:**

- Open dancing (Country Western, Ballroom, Salsa, Argentine Tango, East and Westcoast Swing)
- Line dancing
- Luck of the draw (so many dances!)
- Lessons (beginning Salsa and Night Club 2step, taught by the awesome Emily Coles)
- No registration required.

**The GRAND SHOW**

- Produced by Photis Pishiaras and Ron Jenkins.
- Always a terrific finale to the day
- 7pm start time
- No registration required.

- Doors open at 2pm and the Grand Show starts at 7pm with so much merriment in between, including hot food for purchase between 5 and 7pm

We can't wait to see you on the dance floor.

**Masks will be required.**

**ADA accessible**

<https://www.aprilfollies.com/>

April Follies Committee

Bridget Scadeng

Susie Hoskins

Ellen Levitt

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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](https://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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2023 USA Champions in Latin, Standard, Rhythm and Smooth, A class, 1st Places:  
James Repetty and Justin Miller, NY



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