



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

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings to all of NASSPDA's loyal members and community at large!

Finally, the Pandemic is officially over, and it seems that the entire world of partner dancing is eager to bounce back. Many places where we could hone our skills were forced to close down, but others have opened up most recently. No doubt, it will take time to recover fully.

NASSPDA's next sanctioned event will soon take place in Los Angeles. 'Floorplay LA' (<https://www.floorplayevents.com/>) will take place on Saturday, July 22, 2023, and hosts NASSPDA's 2023 North American Championships. All categories in American and International style are offered for all configurations of a couple, age group and student/teacher couples in accordance to NASSPDA's Competition Rules (<https://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NASSPDA-Competition-Rules-220206.pdf>). Each partner of the first three placed couples in each grade of the multi-dance graded events will receive NASSPDA's medal in bronze, silver or gold, as long as both partners reside within North America and one partner has an active membership with NASSPDA at the time of this event. NASSPDA is also financially sponsoring the event this year (see announcement in the January 2023 eNewsletter <https://nasspda.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/january-2023-newsletter.pdf>), which requires the organizer to offer a minimum discount of \$10 to any NASSPDA member registering. It is exciting to have this event back on NASSPDA's roster!

The next and biggest event for our community every 4 years will be IFSSDA's 2023 World Championships held at the 11th Gay Games hosted in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico. Originally slated for 2022 and to be hosted by the city of Hong Kong, due to the aftereffects of the Pandemic

and the political climate in Hong Kong both cities will co-host these games. However, Dancesport will solely be offered in Guadalajara from November 5 through 8, 2023, (for more details go to <https://gggdl2023.org/en/disciplines/dancesports>). This marks the first time that IFSSDA's Competition Rules will be applied, aside from the Red Book for Dancesport from the FGG, which is why IFSSDA is working closely with the organizing team in Guadalajara. Since this team stepped in late in the game, so to speak, it took a while to get things moving. The venue in the center of the city is fully confirmed, LARVA, a cultural center for the arts ([https://sic.cultura.gob.mx/ficha.php?table=teatro&table\\_id=681](https://sic.cultura.gob.mx/ficha.php?table=teatro&table_id=681)), and a great space to host Dancesport. The event's registration is also now fully up and running, which allows selecting from all grades and age groups for International Latin and Standard, American Rhythm and Smooth, Argentine Tango, Bachata and Salsa as well as all Showdance categories. Among the already received registrations are two formation teams from the Bay Area and a couple from the Philippines, who will once again dazzle us with their amazing skills, as the community witnessed at the 2018 Gay Games in Paris. Officials are still in the process of being confirmed and plans for the closing gala are being made. It will be great to see our entire community from all over the world coming together again to participate at this important event!

As every year, the two-year terms of some Board members expired by mid-May, as announced previously. The subsequent election recently held and organized by NASSPDA's Election Committee Chair, Eddie Alba, and the then following election of officers by the Board of Directors produced the following result:

All 5 candidates up for election, Emma DiFrancesco (Massachusetts, USA), Susie Hoskins (California, USA), Erik Jaeger (California, USA), Jo Popadynetz (California, USA) and Benjamin Soencksen (New York, USA) were reelected by 64%, of NASSPDA's membership, which is much higher than the usual 33%, with each receiving over 80% of the votes cast.

NASSPDA's Board of Directors is therefore now as follows, including the elected positions of officers:

**Benjamin Soencksen, President**

**Jo Popadynetz, Vice-President**

**Lee Fox, Treasurer**

**Erik Jaeger, Secretary**

**Eddie Alba**

**Debbie Esparza**

**Emma DiFrancesco**

**Susie Hoskins**

**Kalin Mitov**

Many heartfelt thanks to all those members of NASSPDA that cast their votes and NASSPDA's Chair of this year's Election Committee, Eddie Alba!!!

NASSPDA's Board continues looking for candidates for the Ambassadorship Program developed by the Promotion Committee, chaired by Kalin Mitov. 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, President**



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## **NASSPDA Inclusivity Statement**

In light of recent aggressions targeting specifically transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming folks in several states in the USA and Canada, NASSPDA wishes to make its position explicitly clear. We welcome all gender identities and expressions, including specifically folks who have transitioned or are transitioning and gender non-conforming individuals. NASSPDA has zero tolerance for harassment or discrimination of any of its members.

To create a safer space for trans- and gender non-conforming folk, we invite NASSPDA-sanctioned event organizers to implement the following actions:

Use each dancer's self-disclosed pronouns.

Provide gender-inclusive washrooms, or make reasonable efforts to reserve certain washrooms for all genders in venues that do not have them.

Similarly, provide gender-inclusive change rooms, if applicable.

Offer dancers means of reporting harassment or discrimination safely and anonymously.

Consider developing security protocols that address the physical safety of the event. This could include identification verification during registration, incident response plans at events, evacuation plans, maintaining lists of emergency contacts, etc.

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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/>

- **IFSSDA Sanctioned Competitions in 2023**

**2023 World Championship at The XI Gay Games**

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

<https://gggdl2023.org/en>

**Guadalajara**  
MÉXICO

IFSSDA'S  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**DANCESPORT**  
VENUE  
LARVA

TRAINING	COMPETITION/GALA	SPORT FEE*
NOV 4	NOV 5-8	1,600 : 850 \$ MXN : \$ MXN GENERAL : MEXICANS

\*THE FEES WILL BE PER PERSON AND ACCORDING TO THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE MEXICAN PESO AT THE TIME OF THE SPORT'S REGISTRATION.

REGISTER AT: [GGGDL2023.org](https://GGGDL2023.org)

CODE DEPORTES Y OIVERSIDAD JALISCO GAY GAMES GUADALAJARA

# 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).



## 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



**National Academy**  
of Health and Physical Literacy

**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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