



From the President

Hopefully, you had so far an excellent start into 2024!

The Chair of NASSPDA's Promotion Committee, Kalin Mitov, skipped the issuance of a February eNewsletter, as was done last year. That made sense, since we knew that some upcoming important decisions will make for a more newsworthy March 2024 issue of NASSPDA's monthly eNewsletter.

As reported in the January 2024 issue, Boston Open Dancesport is taking a hiatus for 2024. The annually held Floorplay LA (<https://www.floorplayevents.com/>) will therefore be NASSPDA's next sanctioned event, which is shaping up to be quite exciting for our community. Initially planned for June or July, the organizer, Eddie Alba, also a Member of NASSPDA's Board, has secured the hotel 'The Atrium' as the venue for the event on September 21, 2024. This venue is conveniently located across the street from the Orange County Airport (SNA) and only 35 minutes away from the Los Angeles airport (LAX). NASSPDA's Board awarded subsequently this event the hosting of the 2024 North American Championships. In addition, IFSSDA just granted the sanction of a new title, IFSSDA's 2024 International Trophy to be hosted by Floorplay LA. Initially, as previously indicated in the January eNewsletter, the hosting of IFSSDA's 2024 World Championships was considered, but with the European Championships held during the Eurogames just two months prior in Vienna, Austria, a compromise was reached among IFSSDA's members (IFSSDA's 2026 World Championships are already set to take place during the 12th Gay Games hosted by Valencia, Spain). This marks the first sanctioning of an event by IFSSDA outside of the quadrennially held Gay Games and previously also the Outgames. In 2020, another event was going to have that honor, the 2020 World Pride Cup held in conjunction with the annual sport event named Pride Cup in Orlando, which was though cancelled due to the pandemic.

It is once again time for the election of NASSPDA's Directors of the Board. As reported in the January 2024 eNewsletter, the two-year terms of some Board members will expire by this year's Board elections. This applies to Eddie Alba, Lee Fox and Kalin Mitov, who will stand for re-election. Debbie Esparza will not again seek another term, along with Susie Hoskins and Jo Popadynetz, who both resigned in the previous months, NASSPDA and its constituency is very grateful for the years of service of all three former Directors of the Board! This will leave the Board with 6 members, provided that Eddie, Lee and Kalin will be reelected, unless more candidates will step forward.

If you know of anyone, especially a candidate that would contribute to the gender,

race and geographical diversity of NASSPDA's Board of Directors and that 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), including yourself, please visit the page on NASSPDA's website that informs you about the process and provides links to two required Google forms (statement from the candidate and support statements from two members of the community) to be submitted (<https://nasspda.org/board-member-election/>).

The timeline of Board Elections has in the past been developed around the largest sanctioned event of the year, April Follies, which always took place on the last Saturday of April. Typically, this event contributed to an increase in membership and therefore increased the voice of NASSPDA's constituency. Following that logic, the Board considered refocusing the timeline around the next upcoming sanctioned event, Floorplay LA, which was planned for June or July. Now that Floorplay LA will take place in September and the Board has decreased in size successively, the Board decided not to delay and schedule elections for the spring of this year, as usual. The following timeline has been subsequently approved by the Board:

- *Sunday, April 14, 2024 - Nomination Deadline*
- *Monday, April 22, 2024 - End of Vetting Period*
- *Monday, April 29, 2024 - Issuing Ballots*
- *Friday, May 3, 2024 - First Reminder to Vote*
- *Wednesday, May 8, 2024 - Second Reminder to Vote*
- *Sunday, May 12, 2024 - Poll Closes at Midnight PDT*
- *Sunday, May 19, 2024 – Board of Directors Meeting to elect Officers*
- *Followed by May 2024 eNewsletter to Announce Election Results*

If you are currently an active member of NASSPDA, the Board of Directors thank you so much for your continued support! Please be on the lookout for that ballot around the end of April to cast your vote. And if you aren't yet a member or need to renew your membership, having it let lapse, we encourage you to join or renew, in order to show your support and be able to cast your vote in this upcoming election (<https://nasspda.org/membership-levels/>).

NASSPDA always recognized IAGLCWDC as the governing body for competitions and related rules in Country Western dancing and therefore hadn't incorporated explicitly that style in its Competition Rules, next to International Style, American Style, Argentine Tango and the Showdance categories. When IFSSDA formalized its Competition Rules, after consulting IAGLCWDC, which is also a founding member of IFSSDA, Country Western dancing was naturally included, which for the first time defined the required dances for a graded/classified event. This year, IAGLCWDC agreed that NASSPDA should follow suit and the Board voted unanimously to revise its Competition Rules accordingly, which will be published by the middle of this year. We think that this is exciting news for all Country Western dancers in our community, expanding eligibility for NASSPDA titles!

And again, NASSPDA's Board continues looking for candidates for the Ambassadorship Program as well, 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 \$250 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/>).

Please stay well, happy and healthy throughout this year!
ENJOY YOUR 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)*



Competition Calendar

NASSPDA & IFSSDA Sanctioned Competition in 2024

Floorplay LA

NASSPDA North American Championships

IFSSDA International Trophy

September 21, 2024

Irvine, CA, USA

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

ESSDA Sanctioned Championship in 2024

Eurogames 2024

ESSDA European Championships

July 19-20, 2024

Vienna, Austria

<https://eurogames2024.at/eurogames2024/sports/dancing/>

IFSSDA Sanctioned Championship in 2026

The XII Gay Games (Dancesport)

IFSSDA World Championships

May 30-June 7, 2026

Valencia, Spain

<https://gaygamesvalencia2026.com/>

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 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



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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