

Kalamazoo, MI
 Summer 1976



Where Do Square Dancers Come From? Letter from the Chair

By Bob Hazen | chair@iagsdc.com

Over the last few months, I have been thinking a lot about how we get started square dancing. My parents introduced me to it. Every Sunday, I went to class at the elementary school in Coloma, Michigan. My parents had taken the class the year before, and my sister and I went together. We dressed up in matching outfits that my mom sewed for us — Western shirts and bolo ties for me and skirts and crinoline for her. Dancing was something we did as a family. When my parents divorced, I stopped dancing, but I found it again after college when I moved to Grand Rapids. It's been with me ever since.

For me, square dancing has never been defined by age, it's about participating an activity that is fun and exciting. We accept

dancers with a multitude of abilities and disabilities and it's up to us to find ways to open up the activity and make it achievable for anyone who wants to participate. As the demographics of our square dance community change, we may see more and more nontraditional families in our midst. What's a better way to help than to facilitate an activity in which the whole family can participate?

We saw a great example of this evolution at the Vancouver convention where Rick Hawes presented 10 year-old Jaxon with his 10 year medallion. Isn't it great that he's growing up knowing that the IAGSDC is his family as well?

It has come to my attention that some clubs are struggling with allowing young dancers to be

part of their classes and clubs. It goes without saying that all member clubs should be open to dancers of any age. The IAGSDC bylaws state that club memberships must be open to anyone regardless of race, religion, ethnic background, age, gender, or sexual orientation. I think it is imperative that we look past the urge to restrict clubs to an adult only activity. The seeds of greatness are sown early in life — don't we want to create the fertile ground for them to grow?

TELL YOUR STORY
 (500 words or less)
 Submit to the newsletter!

New Charitable Status

All Join Hands Canada Is Now A Reality

By Pam Clasper

In March, All Join Hands Canada was granted charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency. This means that Canadians can now receive a tax deduction when they donate to help LGBTQ* square dancing in Canada.

Our first big fundraising effort was at Dance Up A Storm in Vancouver, and did the community ever respond! We raised over \$2000 thanks to your generosity. All those loonies, toonies and other coins we collected at the closing ceremonies made for a hefty deposit into our account.

We have even more exciting news! An anonymous benefactor has issued a challenge to all Canadians. Every dollar donated by Canadians until December 31 will be matched, up to \$1000. We've already had a couple of donations and it would be a shame to miss this challenge, so if you were thinking of donating, now is the time. Cheques should be made payable to All Join Hands Canada Society Foundation.

AJH-Canada shares in the mission of its American counterpart, so if you know of a group trying to get a club going, or have other ideas for promoting LGBTQ* square dancing in Canada, let us know and we may well be able to help. Donations and requests for funding assistance should be sent to:

**All Join Hands Canada
c/o Pam Clasper
165 Kingslake Rd
Toronto, ON M2J 3G4**



Photo by Drew Faber

A Convention Setback...

Philadelphia Pulls Out

The convention bidding process has hit another setback. During the delegates meeting and the annual general association meeting held in Vancouver, the IAGSDC accepted the 2017 convention bid from Philadelphia's Independence Squares. Unfortunately upon return to Philadelphia, the club decided to withdraw the bid for hosting the 2017 convention. Norma Beard delivered the news to the IAGSDC officers and is working with the core

convention committee, which is still interested in hosting a convention at a future point, but at this time the club will not be able to fulfill the current proposal. The officers will address the alternate bids for the 2017 convention over the course of the year and the bidding process will be reopened for new proposals in San Francisco, along with confirming a bid for the 2018 convention.

FUTURE EVENTS

WEAVE YOUR HEART
IN SAN FRANCISCO
July 4-7 2013
sanfrancisco2013.org

SQUEEZE THE HIVE
Salt Lake City, UT
July 3-6 2014
squeezehive.com

SWING ME IN ST. LOUIS
St. Louis, MO
May 22-25, 2015
swingmeinstlouis.com

...And A Hearty Welcome

New Dancer Program Continues At Next Convention

Weave Your Heart in San Francisco is delighted to announce that the All Join Hands Foundation has extended its New Dancer Program to first-time Convention-goers in 2013. Dancers completing a Mainstream- Plus program with an IAGSDC club and attending their first IAGSDC Convention in 2013 will be able to register for Weave Your Heart at the lowest offered rate of \$165, a \$60 discount over the current rate of \$225. To take advantage of this program, a new dancer should contact an officer of their IAGSDC-affiliated club and ask for a statement on the club's

letterhead affirming that he or she completed Mainstream or Plus with the club and that it is their first Convention. Enclose the letter with your registration check and receive a generous discount courtesy of All Join Hands!



DANCE UP A STORM

Vancouver, BC June 29-July 2, 2012



All Photos by Byron Godfrey



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Mass Appeal Rethinking The Brand

By Phil Davis

What makes a brand? It's not just in the name. For all of our IAGSDC members, friends, supporters and fans, it's the heart, the spirit, the actions, the purpose and the perception of who we are as an organization that determines our brand. At the Vancouver convention, the general membership approved broadening the curb appeal of our beloved family.

By expanding our overarching organizational description, in a traditionally inclusive way, we recognized that the make-up of our member clubs varies. This change allows and supports each club to further its mission as they maintain, recruit and, hopefully, grow.

The IAGSDC will be updating all of our promotional materials to be in line with our new identity, but we want to approach it in a cost effective and thoughtful way. Now is a perfect time to highlight our new focus and strengthen our appeal in the form of an updated logo, website, social media presence and traditional collateral – like our brochure. There are many creative people in our organization and the IAGSDC would like to tap that creative, marketing, and promotional know-how. The officers will meet in early February and would like to have a team of volunteers to help with this new branding. The team will need to determine a timeline and communications plan to support the future direction of our branding and marketing. As a volunteer organization we need your help to craft this exciting new path.

IDEAS? HOW YOU CAN HELP

REDESIGNING THE LOGO

WEBSITE DESIGN

WRITING FOR THE
NEWSLETTER

SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR
THE NEWSLETTER

DEVELOPING MEDIA AND
PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES

INTERESTED?

Contact:

Bob Hazen, Chair
chair@iagsdc.org

Phil Davis, Club Liaison Officer
liaison@iagsdc.org

A Letter Makes A Difference Our New LGBTQ Status

By Bob Hazen

IAGSDC has come to crossroads in which we needed to reflect and redefine ourselves. Currently defined as a gay and lesbian organization, the IAGSDC has come to a point where the makeup of our membership has grown much broader. Members felt like we needed to acknowledge that growth within our clubs memberships.

At the delegates meeting and the general membership meeting held at the annual convention, the IAGSDC adopted an amendment to the association's bylaws that expanded the

definition of the IAGSDC to be a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer and Questioning Organization, in short LGBTQ*. The delegates and membership felt that this accurately reflects the members and dancers that take part in IAGSDC activities and will help broaden our base in LGBTQ communities.

While it will take sometime to implement all the necessary changes to our brand, this change is necessary and will better reflect the communities in which we dance and live.



Photo by Drew Faber



30th Annual IAGSDC Convention San Francisco July 4-7, 2013 sanfrancisco2013.org

Schedule of Events (Tentative)

Friday, June 28	Transgender March	
Saturday, June 29	Dyke March	
Sunday, June 30	Gay Pride Celebration	
Monday, July 1	GCA Callers School Starts	
Tuesday, July 2	Sister Bingo - All Join Hands benefit	7:30 PM
Wednesday, July 3	Beach Blanket Babylon	7:00 PM
Thursday, July 4	Caller School Dance	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
	Delegate Meeting	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
	GCA Meeting	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
	Trail-in Dance	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Friday, July 5	Fun Badge Tour	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
	Dancing Starts	9:00 AM
	Opening Ceremonies	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
	Grand March	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, July 6	Banquet	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Sunday July 7	Brunch	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
	Closing Ceremonies	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

SAN FRANCISCO
PRIDE sfpdridge.org
trans★march



Administrator Wanted

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for an administrator for the IAGSDC club hosting system. This person will be responsible for:

- * Providing initial web space setup for clubs and associated organizations
- * Maintaining/resetting passwords for club/associate accounts
- * Setting up email forwarding/new email accounts for hosted clubs/organizations
- * Ensuring security of all hosted sites
- * Interfacing with our ISP on issues related to the club hosting

Ideally, you will have a background in:

- * PHP
- * MySQL
- * DNS (MX records)
- * Website development and security

You will not be developing web content for the clubs, but you will be helping them set up their own sites, and installing approved packages if they request them (WordPress, Joomla, etc). A focus on security is key. Familiarity with cPanel, phpMyAdmin and other common administration tools is a plus.

Contact: Webmaster@iagsdc.org



Club Mailing Service Returns!

Increasing Your Event Visibility and Advertising

By All Join Hands

The mailing service is a system for distributing newsletters, announcements or any other information to all IAGSDC clubs and forming clubs.

The club mailing service was provided as a service of the IAGSDC until January 2010 when it was discontinued in favor of an electronic version. Since that time clubs have expressed an interest in the physical mailing being reinstated.

Therefore, effective November 1, 2012, All Join Hands will resume the mailing service. Materials will be collected by AJH, stuffed and mailed on a bi-monthly basis according to the schedule listed below. The mailing will be sent by the 10th of the month either first class or priority mail depending on the weight. We feel that this will improve the flow of information between clubs and dancers alike.

If the service gets popular and there is a need for a monthly mailer instead of bi-monthly, we'll let you know.

What does it cost?

All Join Hands will pay for the cost of the mailer which is made possible by charitable contributions to AJH.

Can we mail only to selected clubs?

No, the service will always mail everything to all clubs on our list. We cannot do regional mailings nor do we exclude clubs from receiving materials.

Who receives the mailing?

All IAGSDC member clubs, affiliates, forming clubs and other dance organizations.

Can individuals receive the mailing?

At this time no, however, we are considering making an

electronic version to individuals who opt-in and make any size donation to AJH that calendar year.

Here are the guidelines:

We will distribute anything that is on 8 1/2 x 11 (or A4) pages or smaller. We will not distribute any unfolded paper sizes larger than 8 1/2 x 11. Note that this service is not restricted to club newsletters. You can send fly-in flyers, general announcements or whatever as long as you provide us with the appropriate number of copies.

How many copies are required?

You must send 50 copies of whatever you want distributed. This number will be revised as our mailing numbers change and you will be informed of this change. The service will NOT make copies for you from an original master. We'll mail up to 5 copies of whatever you send us to each of the 50 clubs on our list. Therefore 50x5 = 250 copies.

When is the mailing sent?

Materials *must* be received no later than the 5th — and will be mailed out on the 10th — of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Where to send the materials for distribution?

All Join Hands Foundation
1323 E Golden Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85020

If sending via UPS, Fedex or USPS Express DO NOT require a signature for delivery. Canada should send using Airmail Printed Matter rates.

IGSDC BOARD

Bob Hazen, **Chairman**
Keith Gehrig, **Vice-Chairman**
Kent Tolkeson, **Secretary**
Michael Pemberton, **Treasurer**
Phil Davis, **Club Liaison**

Contact Information

International Gay & Lesbian Square Dance Clubs
P.O. Box 9176
Denver, CO 80209-0176
www.igsdsc.org

Comments? Questions?

Email us at info@igsdsc.org

The limited paper version of this newsletter is funded by All Join Hands Foundation, Inc.

The electronic version may be seen at:
www.igsdsc.org/main/resources

For more information, call or fax All Join Hands Foundation at 602-674-3239, send email to info@alljoinhands.org, or visit the website at www.alljoinhands.org

Send donations to:
All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.
Box 9942
Phoenix, AZ 85068



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