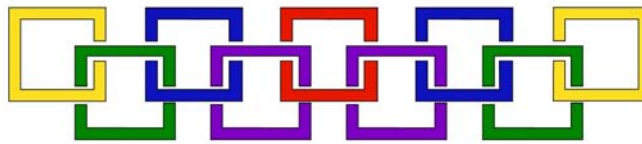


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Volume 1 * Issue 2

Winter 2003

OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS®

A Lesbian and Gay Organization

Newsletter A Success

Comments from Newsletter Recipients.

~ Thank you for the IAGSDC® newsletter! I found it very interesting and informative. I think it's a wonderful idea and would welcome more in the future!



~ Toronto

~ What a wonderful surprise to get the IAGSDC® newsletter in the mail! Most of the members of our club have absolutely no idea of how the IAGSDC® influences our club, or anything much about it except for convention. The newsletter is, to me, a very welcome addition. Thanks!

~ Chicago

The 2003/04 IAGSDC® Board

Chairperson – Scott Parker
Vice-Chairperson – John McKinstry
Secretary – Scott Philips
Treasurer – Brian Smith
Club Liason Officer - Bob Hazen

For complete details and other information on the IAGSDC®, please check the web site at:

<http://www.iagsdc.org/>

Contact Information

International Association of Gay
Square Dance Clubs
P.O. Box 87507
San Diego CA 92138-7507
(800) 835-6462

All Join Hands Foundation

All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the funding of projects that will preserve and promote Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) square dancing and other associated dance forms. The projects will protect the heritage of the activity and contribute to its growth, emphasizing the social, physical, and mental benefits of square dancing. All Join Hands Foundation will also increase public awareness, educate and inform the general public about preserving the art of square dancing, educate the public on GLBT square dancers, and educate the public about square dancing as an art form.

The idea for All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd. came from a brainstorming session by a group of dedicated square dancers who attended the Make Magic convention in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2001. In 1995, Joe Petersen, a member of the Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus in Denver, left provisions in his will to give money to the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC®). The Petersen Fund was created as a result. Others have since inquired about how they could help further gay & lesbian square dancing.

All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd. was formed in 2002. It is registered with the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

In October 2003, All Join Hands Foundation's first project was realized when it donated two additional travelling displays to the IAGSDC®. One will remain in Canada and the second will join the original display in travelling around the United States. The IAGSDC® also received a grant to cover the expense of transporting the display.

Currently All Join Hands Foundation is focusing its efforts on marketing and

promotion. Other projects include educational seminars, informative brochures, and public service announcements, but the progress does not need to stop here. Funding such projects is only the beginning of ways All Join Hands Foundation can positively influence GLBT square dancing. The possibilities are endless!

The key words to our goals are Preserve, Promote, and Educate! Please contact All Join Hands Foundation with ideas for specific projects that it can fund to advance its goals.

You can keep track of all the latest developments at All Join Hands Foundation's web site,

<http://www.alljoinhands.org/>.

Make a donation to All Join Hands Foundation.

Wouldn't you like to give something back to the activity which has given you so much pleasure? You now have that opportunity. All Join Hands Foundation operates through private contributions, public grants, and endowments. Goals and objectives can be met only if funds are made available.

Donations to All Join Hands Foundation are deductible to the extent provided by the law for those who itemize their deductions on United States federal and state income tax returns. If you live in Canada or another country, please contact a tax professional about whether your donation is deductible.

Through December 31, 2003, all contributions up to \$5,000 will be doubly matched thanks to two generous benefactors. What this means is that for every dollar All Join Hands Foundation receives, two more dollars will be donated. Your contribution will be tripled!

2 IAGSDC® WINTER 2003

There are many ways to donate to All Join Hands Foundation:

- * Make a cash donation.
- * Donate 50/50 or silent auction proceeds.
- * Add \$1.00 to the admission fee for dances, festivals, and weekends.
- * Add a standard codicil to your last will and testament, bequeathing funds to the Foundation.
- * Send your old, working cell phone to All Join Hands Foundation, to turn it into a cash donation. The donation amount depends upon the model and condition of your phone.
- * Make a donation of stock. If you have stock that has appreciated in value, a stock donation has very attractive tax consequences. You can deduct the full current value from your taxes, and you do not have to pay taxes on the gain. Contact All Join Hands Foundation for information you'll need to transfer your shares.
- * Many employers have matching gifts programs that will match charitable donations of cash and stock. Some match gifts from retirees and employee spouses, and some even offer double and triple matches. There are some that do not have formal programs, but will still match donations. Be sure to ask your employer for a matching gift!

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

For more information, call or fax
All Join Hands Foundation at
602-674-3239, send email to
info@alljoinhands.org, or visit our web site
at <http://www.alljoinhands.org/>.

All Join Hands Logo Contest

The newly formed organization, *All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.*, is in search of a logo and we would like to ask for your assistance in accomplishing this extremely important and vital task. To that end, we would like to invite all creative individuals to submit a potential logo. This logo will be used on all Foundation documents including advertisements, letterhead, reports, etc. We are looking for a logo that depicts the mission and purpose of *All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.* This logo should convey some or all of the following images and ideas:

- Professionalism
- Solid Foundation

- Stability
- Square Dancing
- Fun
- Growth
- Diversity
- Union or togetherness

In addition to these qualities, the logo should be usable in both black & white and color format. Avoid small detail that can be lost when the logo is used in different forms.

You may submit any form that expresses your idea. Drawings, a computer-done designs, or draft sketches are acceptable. Initial submission do not need to include different sizes, or both black & white and color versions. One sample is acceptable.

Please send your contributions and ideas to:

All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.
Attn: Logo Contest
PO Box 9942
Phoenix, AZ 85068-0942

For information contact All Join Hands at
602-674-3239 or info@alljoinhands.org

All entries become the property of *All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.*

All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd. is under no obligation to utilize any or all of the submitted logos..

~ Scott Parker

Highlights of the General Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting July 6, 2003 ~ San Diego, CA

Call to Order and State of the Association Address

The meeting was called to order at 12:56 PM by Chair Scott Parker. Scott welcomed the General Membership and presented his State of the Association Address, which included the following highlights:

- Thank you to *Anchors Aweigh with a Half-Sashay*, *Finest City Squares*, and staff of the Sheraton for an incredible convention
- Introduction of Executive Board Officers, Archivist and former Treasurer
- Strong financial status of the Association and approval at Executive Committee

Meeting of the Annual Budget and Membership Dues reported; thank you for support through Banner Dances

- Welcome to new Member and Affiliated Organizations
- *Mass Comm Fusion Squares*, from Hartford, CT
- *All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.*, Phoenix, AZ
- Stable Club Membership status
- 55 Full Member Clubs
- 3 Associate Member Clubs
- 8 Affiliate Member Organizations
- *Rocket City Rainbows* of Huntsville, AL folded
- *Cloverleafs and Maple Leafs* Financial Report
- The leaders of the following programs were thanked: the Bradley Bell, the Convention Advisory Committee, the Club Development Committee, the Travel Guide, the Peterson Fund Committee, the Banner Dance, the 10 and 20 Year Medallion, the Events Calendar, the Archives, the Rainbow Trust, the IAGSDC® Newsletter, the Website
- Future Conventions
 - 2004 Phoenix, AZ
 - 2005 Santa Clara/San Jose, CA
 - 2006 Anaheim, CA
 - 2007 Denver, CO
 - 2008 Washington, DC; Cleveland; Seattle; Hawaii (bids closed)
- Rainbow Trust Report
- Interest in new clubs expressed from St. Petersburg/Tampa, Montreal, St. Louis, New Orleans, Austin
- Report from Callerlab
- All Join Hands Foundation Report
- Petersen Fund Committee Activity

Proposed Amendments to the IAGSDC® Bylaws and Election Report

Four amendments to the IAGSDC® bylaws were proposed by the IAGSDC® Executive Committee for the General Membership's consideration. Two speakers pro and con were recognized to speak to each proposed bylaws change and the membership voted.

- The proposed amendment creating the position of Club Liaison Officer was passed.

3 IAGSDC® WINTER 2003

- The proposed amendment eliminating the roll call at the Executive Committee Meeting was defeated.
- The proposed amendment changing the IAGSDC® convention licensing fee was passed.
- The proposed amendment to eliminate the role of the General Membership deciding Bylaws amendments was defeated.

Scott Parker then introduced the new IAGSDC® officers, including the new Club Liaison Officer.

(Please see Minutes of the 2003 IAGSDC® Executive Board Meeting for further details.)

Club Liaison Officer

Let me introduce myself

I'm Bob Hazen, a member of the Grand River Squares in Grand Rapids, MI and at the IAGSDC® convention in July I was elected to the board of the Association as YOUR Club Liaison Officer. This is a new position on the board and the roles are still being defined. Some of the projects that I am in charge of are; Club Development, with the help of Michael Spayd, Clubs at Risk, and improving the lines of communication between the clubs and the Association. What I hope the new office can provide is to bridge the gap between the clubs and the Association, and build a support network for our clubs.

As with all correspondence you can send it to: information@iagsdc.org

If you need me to address a problem or issue please make sure you put Club Liaison Officer in the subject line so that it can be forwarded on to me.

First off, there is a new resource for the clubs that I would like see more members utilize. It is a Yahoo group named: **IAGSDCpromote**. It has a message posting that can be used to post ideas and answer each others questions (similar to the list server), add reminders to upcoming events on the calendar that can be emailed to members, and store files, such as advertising templates, dance ideas, and promotional fliers.

Let me address each of the issues to let you know where I'm coming from and why I think it is a good tool for the clubs to use.

-The message post is a great way to read threads of a messages so any replies to that post are kept with the originating message. If you have a problem, the solutions will be right

there, without having to search through emails to know who has replied to the issue. And there is a search feature, if you want to find out if a club has had a similar problem you can search the archive to find what solutions they received. Let's admit it... we do tend to reinvent the wheel every time we have a problem, instead of using past experiences to help us through.

-The calendar feature is up and running and I have already placed upcoming rodeo events and pride events in the calendar. I'm hoping that this calendar will not necessarily be used to promote current club events but to remind clubs of promotional opportunities that they may be taking part in.

-The last feature is the file storage. How many times have we had to make up brochures for an event and no one knows where the last one came from or the first steps in coming up with a new one. I'm hoping that in time a log of dance fliers, promotional material and informational handouts will be on-line for clubs to check out, download, manipulate and use as their own. Take a template out of a file change the dates, location and club and viola a new handout in no time. Also good for clubs starting up to see what has been used and what information is good to have available.

If you want to join the IAGSDCpromote group use the following link <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iagsdcpromote/>

(To avoid spam on the network I may need to verify who is trying to join before I accept a new member.)

To put together the promotional area of the group I need to collect items from our clubs. These include electronic files of brochures that have been produced, pictures that can be used for promotional purposes (need to have a release on file for subjects, forms are available in the Yahoo group), and any Internet links that can help clubs with ideas or promotional opportunities.

I am interested in finding out what YOU think my role should be. How can I help you out and what is it that has been missing in the communications between the clubs and the Association? Is there other resources that I should be aware of, or that you have found useful.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I'm looking forward to working with all of you. Please share this information with your clubs and officers, discuss what your club issues are and what we can do as an Association to work together to solve them.

Bob Hazen
IAGSDC® Club Liaison Officer

A Note of Thanks to our Community

On behalf of the IAGSDC® we would like to thank the individuals that have contributed to the recent dialog regarding how the IAGSDC® can help their individual organizations. The input and insight that has been provided is invaluable and is a necessary tool to assist with the growth and development of our member clubs as well as our association.

We would also like to take this opportunity to present the programs and projects that the IAGSDC® is currently working with and/or administering. We present this information not in defense of our actions, but as an opportunity to further publicize what resources are currently available.

Petersen Fund - Grants are made available to help support club growth and development activities. To date, \$61,382.00 has been distributed to IAGSDC® clubs.

Bi-Monthly Mailing Service - A free mailing service to assist with distributing club information to all member organizations.

Web Site - Provides general information about the IAGSDC® and its member clubs.

IAGSDC® Calendar - A listing of IAGSDC® events

Web Site Hosting - Free space is made available for clubs that wish to house their web site with the IAGSDC®.

Banner Dance Program - IAGSDC® banners are made available to promote the awareness of the IAGSDC® at individual club events and activities.

Traveling Display - A professional Traveling Display made available to clubs for recruitment purposes.

Convention Advisory Committee - Provides support and information sharing for clubs interested in hosting future conventions. Also provides support for current convention planning committees.

Club Development Committee - New committee designed to assist with club development issues including existing organizations as well as identifying potential new geographic areas.

IAGSDC® Officers - Volunteer staff to assist with administering the business of the IAGSDC® including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and the NEW Club Liaison Officer - Focus is to help and support clubs.

IAGSDC® Newsletter - New project intended to increase communication with individual club members. The first issue was mailed in Spring 2003.

All Join Hands Foundation, Inc. - A non-profit 501 c (3) organization dedicated to the support and preservation of GLBT Square Dancing.

Travel Guide - An annual resource guide to GLBT Square Dance locations.

Bradley Bell - A directory of dancers.

Medallion Project - A recognition program for convention attendees.

These projects and programs are the result of many volunteer hours of work from dedicated square dancers. When other similar organizations face a drastic decrease in participation numbers (including both straight square dance organizations as well as other GLBT organizations), we feel that our volunteers are directly responsible for maintaining and increasing the number of GLBT square dancers and square dance activities throughout the world.

In closing we would like to once again express our thanks for the information that has been brought to our attention. Your concerns have been noted and will be passed along to the appropriate individuals and/or committees. We would also like to encourage any and all volunteer efforts to insure that we continue to develop our favor pastime, Square Dancing. Please send inquiries to the IAGSDC® at: information@iagsdc.org or visit our web site at: www.iagsdc.org

Sincerely,
The 2003-2004 IAGSDC® Officers

IAGSDC® Event Calender

November ~ 2003

28-30

PACE Extravaganza, Oxnard, CA.
Callers: L.Bellini, V.Ceder, R.Howell,
D.Wilson. Info: Sheldon Raizes (310)
541-7140. E-mail: raizes@flash.net.

28-30

Weave the Rain (20th Anniversary),
Squares Across the Border,
Vancouver, BC. Callers: S.Bryant,
A.Uebelacker. Info: Jay Stewart (604)
254-5555. E-mail:
info@squaresacrosstheborder.org.

January ~ 2004

16-18

Promenade Down Peachtree III,
Hotlanta Squares, Atlanta, GA.
Callers: G.Monday, J.R.St Jean,
A.Shore. Info: Richard Pflieger (678)
777-3030. E-mail:
rpflieger@mindspring.com

February ~ 2004

13-15

**ACDC V, East Coast Gay A&C
Weekend**, D.C. Lambda Squares,
Washington DC. Callers: R.French,
B.Gotta, G.Jedlicka, E.McAtee. Info:
Michael Martin (703) 931-1849. E-
mail: acdc@dclambdasquares.org.

For additional events in 2004 to to:
www.iagsdc.org/cgi-bin/calendar

What the Future Holds

2004

Remake the Heat Wave
21st Annual IAGSDC® Convention.
July, 1-5, 2004
Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa
Phoenix, AZ.



2005

Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy
22ND Annual IAGSDC® Convention
July 1-4, 2005
Santa Clara Marriott
in the heart of Silicon Valley, California

2006

When You Wish Upon A Thar



The 23rd Annual IAGSDC Convention.
Friday, June 30 - Monday, July 3, 2006
The Anaheim Marriott Hotel
Anaheim, California



20 Year Convention Attendees

Imagine having gone to every single convention since they first started way back in 1984 in Seattle, with only a few hundred people in attendance. Out of those few hundred only 14 have made it all the way to 2003 without missing a convention. This is quite an achievement!



Feedback

Comments, ideas, letters to the editor, articles for future issues? We welcome your input.

IAGSDC® NEWSLETTER
#211-788 Beatty Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 2M1 Canada

5 IAGSDC® WINTER 2003

Editor: Brian Smith

Email: IAGSDC@HOTMAIL.COM