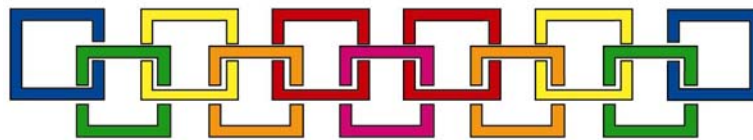


# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Volume 1 \* Issue 3

Winter 2004/5

## OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS® A Lesbian and Gay Organization

### The 2004/05 IAGSDC® Board

Chairperson – John McKinstry  
Vice-Chairperson – Keith Gehrig  
Secretary – Scott Philips  
Treasurer – Brian Smith  
Club Liaison Officer - Bob Hazen

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

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

(Watch for the new IAGSDC® interactive Website – Coming in 2005)

### Contact Information

#### International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs

P.O. Box 9176  
Denver, CO 80209-0176  
(800) 835-6462

### All Join Hands Foundation

This newsletter is proudly funded by All Join Hands Foundation, Inc.

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

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

### Banner Dances

As an association, there are very few income streams coming into the IAGSDC® other than the yearly membership of \$1 per member to cover the costs of the organization's activities.

In the past, clubs would also host what are referred to as banner dances. In short, the association would send a member club the official IAGSDC® Banner to hang at their dance, the proceeds of the dance are then donated to the association. Over the last few years the number of banner dances has decreased, therefore limiting the donations coming into IAGSDC®. Last year there were only 4 donations from banner dances. We would like to thank those clubs for their hard work and contributions.

This year we would like to encourage more banner dances through the IAGSDC® clubs. It's easy to request the IAGSDC® banner for a dance. You can send me an email at [rtc869@yahoo.com](mailto:rtc869@yahoo.com) to schedule the banner to be shipped to your club. After the dance you can ship the banner back along with any donation to the IAGSDC®. We also have a special incentive this year! Bob Young has agreed to donate \$50 (US of course) for every banner dance held and \$75 for any of the our new member clubs that host a banner dance.\* This is a great opportunity that I hope that you all take advantage of.

I look forward to hearing from all the clubs and scheduling our banner to be out there proudly displayed at your events.

Bob Hazen

\*Up to \$500 for the 2004/2005 operation year

### New Officers

What a great time we had in Phoenix at "Remake The Heatwave". Despite very hot temperatures ("It's a dry heat don't you know!) it was a very "Cool" convention. The members Of Desert Valley Squares and T Squares are to be congratulated on an outstanding event. It was so smooth.

There were two officers elected to positions this year. Keith Gehrig from Puddletown Squares in Seattle was elected to the position of Vice Chair, John McKinstry of Squares Across the Border in Vancouver Canada was elected to the Position of Chair, while Scott Philips (Rosetown Ramblers), Brian Smith (Squares Across the Border) and Bob Hazen (Grand Rapids Squares) kept their positions as Secretary, Treasurer and Club Liaison Officer respectively.

The 2004-2005 board has many projects to consider over the next couple of years. We left Phoenix with the feeling that although there was plenty to do, it seemed that there were many people interested in participating in the "Process".

This is important because the organization needs everyone's help in making it work for all of us. Already there are several people working on projects for the IAGSDC®. Projects that will make our organization more relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Many dancers have communicated their desire to see some positive changes and we as officers are counting on those people to provide us with their input as to what direction they see the IAGSDC® moving in. We are very excited by this challenge and we hope with your support to affect some change.

See you in Santa Clara.

John McKinstry  
IAGSDC® Chair

### Highlights of the General Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting  
July 4, 2004 ~ Phoenix, AZ

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### *Call to Order and State of the Association Address*

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM by Chair Scott Parker. Scott welcomed the General Membership and presented his State of the Association Address, which included the following highlights:

#### Introduction of current IAGSDC® Officers

Thank you to Remake The Heat Wave, Desert Valley Squares, T-Squares and the staff of the Arizona Biltmore for a fantastic convention.

Treasurer Report. The IAGSDC® financial picture is very stable, thanks in large part to the generous donation from Andy Shore as part of his matching challenge for Callerlab Foundation. Banner Dances are down. Bob Young offered to match up to \$50 for each banner dance held in the next year. He raised that match to \$75 for each of the four new clubs.

Membership report: 57 Full member clubs; 2 Associate member clubs; 9 Affiliate member organizations.

Welcomed four new full member clubs into the Association:

Gateway Squares, St. Louis, MO  
Seaway Rainbow Squares, Cornwall, ON  
Spin Cycle Squares Eugene, OR  
Suncoast Squares, St. Petersburg, FL

Total membership slightly down this year. We encourage clubs to utilize: Club Liaison Officer; Club Development Committee & the Traveling Displays.

#### Future Conventions:

- 2005 Santa Clara/San Jose, CA
- 2006 Anaheim, CA
- 2007 Denver, CO
- 2008 Cleveland, OH
- 2009 Chicago, Washington DC  
New York (bids closed)

#### Rainbow Trust

Current value: \$66,336. Total amount given to Petersen since inception: \$90,066.

Petersen Fund Committee: awarded 17 grants this past year in the amount of \$13,194.

All Join Hands Foundation funded several projects this past year including:  
2 new traveling displays;  
Paid shipping costs for displays;  
GCA Caller School at Phoenix;  
Trail-In Dance at Phoenix.

Club Development Committee  
Outreach efforts to gay & lesbian festivals, rodeos, etc., with the hope of attracting new clubs.

ARTS Dance. IAGSDC® invited to become one of 11 national dance organizations on the Governing Board of ARTS. It is doing marketing and research on how to increase numbers of dancers.

Petersen Fund Committee  
Elected 3 new committee members:  
2 year terms: Bob Young and Randy Clarke;  
1 year term: Darrell Erzberger

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 by the outgoing chair Scott Parker

### **From: An Average Person**

Subject: How to help out the IAGSDC®

Not everyone can win the Golden Boot award, but then, not everyone wants to! With no offense to those people who have given extraordinary efforts to help GLBT square dancing, I've got other things to do with my life. But, I have come up with a few simple things that anyone can do to help out the IAGSDC®. These don't take up much of your time, and don't cost anything. But, the power of many people doing a little can add up to a big difference.

1) Dance at least one tip in the Mainstream hall during convention -- and not just for a specialty tip like the Leather or Bear tip! I know that lots of you go to convention to dance at your "best" level, or to dance with your friends. But, think of the Mainstream dancers who are "stuck" dancing in only the one hall. Put a little effort into making their convention a fun one, and they'll be more likely to come to the next, and they'll tell their friends that square dancing is fun.

2) Dance to a GCA caller. It's great that our conventions can attract so many "top name" callers, and I certainly enjoy going to convention to dance to them. But, in the same way that it's good to support the newer dancers, it's also good to support the newer callers. Don't look at the schedule and say "it's just a GCA caller, I'll skip that". Yeah, it's unlikely that the GCA caller will be as polished as Anne, or tweak your mind like Vic does, but they have potential or they wouldn't even be there. Another thing to keep in mind: many club callers started out as GCA callers. That GCA caller that you support might go on to become the club caller for a new club and help keep square dancing alive.

3) Dance to a caller you don't know. The convention committees put a lot of effort into choosing their callers. With the geographic diversity of the IAGSDC®, it's a good bet that you won't know all the callers on staff. If there's one you haven't danced to before, put in a little effort to dance to that caller. (I was totally blown away recently when Mike DeSisto was in town for a dance, and I learned that the straight community around here didn't even know who he was. It made me wonder how many fun callers there are that \*I\* haven't heard of.)

4) It probably isn't in your thoughts while you're at convention, but the host hotel is trying to make a profit, and that the more benefit that the hotel sees, the more likely it is to make concessions to the convention. The Phoenix convention committee reported that there was a big change in attitude with the hotel staff during planning time once a certain number of hotel rooms were reserved. Once the hotel realized that people really were serious about being at the convention, the hotel was more amenable to helping out in various ways. So, if you can, make your room reservation early. This gives the hotel a "warm feeling" and can help with the convention committee as they work with the hotel.

5) Finally, and this will piss off a few of the people reading this, remember that the convention is held in a public hotel and act accordingly. Sure the Leather Tip is fun, and some people wear revealing outfits. But, think twice before you parade through the main lobby mostly naked. I'm not talking about what you are "legally" allowed to do;

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I'm talking about what is "reasonable" given a public venue. You may not be aware of it, but the Biltmore received complaints about some of the people walking through the lobby to the leather tip. The hotel has to be very worried about their public appearance, especially when they have "fancy" restaurants that they want to attract customers to, or other hotel guests. You may feel like it's your "right" to wear whatever you want as long as it is legal. That may be true, but think about this: future hotels who are thinking about bidding on IAGSDC® conventions will find out about the complaints the Biltmore had, and some of those hotels will choose not to bid on a convention. Fewer hotels bidding means that the remaining hotels don't have to compete as much, and, most likely, the cost of having a convention goes up. Here are your choices: wear something "street reasonable" & change/take things off once you get to the hall, or be ready to pay more for conventions in the future. The choice is yours.

And lest you all think that I'm being hypocritical with this advice (given what I've worn while walking through hotel lobbies on the way to the leather tip), I'm as "guilty" as many others of not doing the above items -- because I never really thought about it. I'm asking you all to join me and to think about some little things that you can do. Don't put the entire burden on the Golden Boot recipients. Take a bit of the responsibility on your own shoulders and together we will keep IAGSDC® square dancing fun and active for many years to come.

Tim Learmont  
Midnight Squares

#### Promotion & Development

As spring approaches, we all start to get busy cleaning the yard, painting the house, and planning our summer getaways. It's also a time to start planning for square dancing promotions. If we want to grow square dancing as an activity we need to get out show what fun it is. June is packed with Pride celebrations, does your club take part? It's a prime time to recruit new members, show what square dancing is all about, and to take part in your community. Check with your community centers, gay.com and on the IAGSDCpromote calendar for information

about dates for upcoming Pride celebrations and other events that your club might attend.

While were talking about summer, don't forget about the International convention in Santa Clara in July. As part of the convention, the association takes care of a lot of business while we are together. It's a time when we can share ideas and brainstorm on problems that we encounter within our own clubs. I want you to be aware of a couple of meeting that are planned to help facilitate these discussions.

The Club Development meeting helps new and existing clubs talk about everything from the basics of building a club to recruitment and promotion.

The other meeting, which grew out of the Clubs @ Risk meeting in Phoenix, is the "Town Hall". It will be a time for clubs to discuss issues that they are dealing with and get feedback from other clubs on how they have dealt with similar problems.

I know there are clubs that have faced issues in the past and once they solved them, came out stronger. That knowledge being passed onto our other clubs insures that we have a stronger association. This is one of the few times that we are all together, it's important to share the ideas and knowledge that each of us brings to square dancing.

These meetings will once again take place at the 2005 convention.

Check your convention schedule for the location of each of these meetings.

Bob Hazen  
IAGSDC® Club Liaison Officer

#### Golden Boot Award Phoenix 2004

The Golden Boot award is our way of recognizing special, lasting, or significant contributions to the gay and lesbian square dance community. The presentation of the Golden Boot is eagerly awaited each year at convention.

Here is Rick's presentation statement for the current holder of the Golden Boot award:

Well, folks, I should start off by saying... the Golden Boot is not an award of or by the

IAGSDC® or the convention committee. The Boot is recognition of extraordinary dedication and service to the gay square dance world.

The criteria for and the selection of a recipient are solely the responsibility (and pleasure) of the current holder of the Golden Boot. The recipient receives a Golden Boot dangle and a personal token of appreciation. In addition, this year, thanks to Betsy and Roy Gotta, there is a handsome plaque listing all of the former recipients with space left to enshrine the names of future recipients.

I would like to take a moment here to again thank Andy Shore for awarding the Golden Boot to me last year. I was truly shocked to be selected, but I feel very honored to have received it from someone for whom I can honestly say I have a boundless respect. Thank you, Andy.

The person I have selected to receive the Golden Boot is well known to all of you.

- As a dancer from Basic thru "C"-umpteen
- As a club organizer and founder
- As an organizer and chair of fly-ins and convention
- As an instructor and caller across North America and in Europe
- A person of awe-inspiring enthusiasm for all things "square dansual"
- Hard as nails, soft as butter
- the possessor of a flinty glare that can measure, freeze, slice and dice at 20 paces
- A person who, when referred to as the "east coast Rick Hawes" took it as a compliment
- A person sweet as sin, my twin:

Ett McAtee

#### IAGSDC® Event Calendar

##### March

11-13

[Rain Festival--Wet Dream](#), Puddletown Dancers, Seattle, WA. Callers: S.Bryant, M.DeSisto. Info: Justin (425) 687-8652. E-mail: [seattleorbust@hotmail.com](mailto:seattleorbust@hotmail.com).

21-23

[32nd Annual Callerlab Convention](#), Louisville, KY. Info: Jerry Reed (321) 639-0039. E-mail: [info@callerlab.org](mailto:info@callerlab.org).

##### April

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1-3

[Philadelphia Freedom Fly-in XIII--Grand Swing Thru' the Woods](#), Independence Squares, Lake Harmony, PA. Callers: M.DeSisto, K.Jensen, T.Miller. Info: Nancy Hewish (215) 357-2528. E-mail: [flyin-reg@independencesquares.org](mailto:flyin-reg@independencesquares.org).

1-3

[Pass the Sea XII](#), Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA. Callers: T.Crawford, M.Dee, A.Shore and TBA. Info: Santo Aloisi (619) 602-8979. E-mail: [santobear@att.net](mailto:santobear@att.net).

#### April

14-17

[Pass Thru the Alamo--ACW's Quinceanera](#), Alamo City Wranglers, San Antonio, TX. Callers: B.Eyler. Info: Mikael Jacobson (210) 342-3624. E-mail: [admin@acwringlers.org](mailto:admin@acwringlers.org).

15-17

[Ropin' the River](#), Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids, MI. Callers: A.Shore and TBA. Info: John Legge (616) 890-7249. E-mail: [info@grsquares.org](mailto:info@grsquares.org).

29-1

[Peel Off in Palm Springs IX \(for men\)](#), Cathedral City, CA. Callers: D.Gallina. Info: Gordon Macaw (602) 674-3239. E-mail: [peeloff@earthlink.net](mailto:peeloff@earthlink.net).

29-1

[Pass the Ocean, Hon!](#), Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth, DE. Callers: D.Carroll-Jones, D.Hodge, M.Jacobs, A.Shore. Info: Michael Deets (410) 206-6857. E-mail: [passtheoceanhon@hotmail.com](mailto:passtheoceanhon@hotmail.com).

#### May

20-22

[Stumptown Stomp](#), Capital City Squares, Guerneville, CA. Callers: TBA. Info: George Fox (916) 929-8697. email: [CapitalCitySqr@aol.com](mailto:CapitalCitySqr@aol.com).

27-29

[Scoot Across the Border--Queen Victoria's Secret Garden](#), Triangle Squares, Toronto, ON Canada. Callers: T.Crawford, N.Martellacci. Info: Holly or Joanne (416) 762-9257. E-mail: [holl2jo@sympatico.ca](mailto:holl2jo@sympatico.ca).

### What the Future Holds

**2005**

#### Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy

22<sup>ND</sup> Annual IAGSDC® Convention

July 1-4, 2005

Santa Clara Marriott

In the heart of Silicon Valley, California



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

**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



**2007**

#### Red Rocks & Purple Mountains

The 24th Annual IAGSDC® Convention

Friday, May 25 - May 27, 2007

Denver, Colorado

**2008**

The 25th Annual IAGSDC® Convention.

Friday, July 3 - 6, 2008

Cleveland, OH

### IAGSDC® Mailing Service

With the change of officers, I have taken over the duty of sending out the IAGSDC® Bi-Monthly mailings. The next 3 mailing deadlines are: April 01, June 3, & August 5. Please make note of these three very important details.

1. DO NOT send materials to the Association's PO Box in Denver. They will not end up in the mailing if you do so. Mail all materials you want included in the mailing to:

Scott Philips  
IAGSDC Club Mailing

8229 SW 42nd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97219

2. To be included in the mailing, materials need to ARRIVE at my address by the above deadlines. Anything arriving past the deadline will be held for the next mailing.

3. You need to send 80 copies of whatever you want mailed. WE DO NOT DO THE COPYING FOR YOU! If you want more than one copy included in each envelope, send enough copies (e.g. - for 3 copies per envelope: 3 x 80 = 240). (There is a maximum of 3 copies of any single item per mailing.)

IAGSDC® member clubs/organizations can take advantage of this mailing service to send out such things as club newsletters, fly-in brochures, convention information, etc.

Scott Philips  
IAGSDC® Secretary

### Remake The Heatwave



#### A resounding success!

Here's what some of our customers had to say:

"I had a great time at your convention. Thought that everything ran exactly to schedule. The Venue was absolutely wonderful and everything about the convention was FIRST CLASS. Congratulations to your committee for a great organizational job" -AI

"Remake the Heatwave was the best! My first convention and it was fabulous! Thanks to your club for a job well done!" -Nancy

"Folks, thank you for a wonderful convention - I had a fabulous time dancing, laughing, and being with like minded friends! I appreciate all you hard work." -TD

"What a great weekend I had in Phoenix. Truth be told I always have a great weekend in Phoenix. This was more special than the others. Great hotel, dancing (did I dance?) food, pools, the list is endless. And of

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course the best part is (as Lois says) the friends we all have in our extended Square Dance community. Thanks to Gordon, Seth, John, Desert Valley Squares and T Squares for a truly memorable weekend. See you all in "The Silicon Valley" next year." -jm

### **Feedback**

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

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