

IAGSDC NEWSLINE

Vol. 1, Issue 1

THE MIAMI REPORT

August 1, 1991

IAGSDC OFFICERS 1991/1992

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CONVENTION NOTES

The Annual Meeting of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs was held at the Fountainbleau Hotel in Miami Beach, the minutes of the meeting are enclosed with this newsletter. The new officers of the IAGSDC are listed above.

Congratulations to the SOUTH FLORIDA MUSTANGS for hosting a very enjoyable convention. "Cast a Shadow in the Sun" was lots of fun, their promise of "Sandy Beaches, Blue Skies, Sunshine" really did come true! Running a convention requires a great deal of dedication, and it represents a great lot of work, Kenny Di Genova, each of the committee members and every one of the MUSTANGS deserve a big round of applause for a job well done.

CORPORATE ADDRESS FOR THE IAGSDC

The IAGSDC now has an official and permanent address: 584 Castro Street, Suite 483, San Francisco, CA 94114-2588. Although it is a San Francisco address, mail sent there will be relayed to the appropriate person. If you wish to contact any of the Officers of the IAGSDC directly, please do so. Correspondence regarding this newsletter should be directed to Skip Rognlien.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The IAGSDC can become a vital and important part of our square dance world, but only if the delegates and member clubs get involved and contribute their time and talents to the organization. It is too easy to assume that some one else will do the work and make things happen. The IAGSDC can grow *only* with your help and input.

Several ideas will be put forth in this newsletter. They can become reality only with your individual help and involvement. Please respond, please get involved, please volunteer, please help make the IAGSDC all that it can be.

We must let our voice be heard in the straight square dance world, we must help start new gay and lesbian square dance clubs, we must grow and expand our vision. But it can only be done with help and commitment on the part of all of us.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The IAGSDC is going to start, and maintain a yearly calendar of club events, so all member clubs can know what events are being planned several years in advance as a means to avoid conflicting dates. As soon as a club

has decided upon a date for a Fly-in or special event, please contact:

Cricket Matheson
3253 Hillcrest #257
San Antonio, TX 78201
(512) 733-8839

Cricket will be able to advise you of any possible conflicts with events planned by other clubs. If each club informs Cricket of their schedule a year or more in advance it will become possible to get the calendar of events out to all of the Clubs so that vacations and other travel plans can be arranged in advance and conflicting dates will not be a problem. The first such calendar is included with this newsletter. **PLEASE CONTACT CRICKET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO LIST ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CALENDAR.**

SEMINARS MAY BE OFFERED

Members of several clubs have asked that the IAGSDC consider sponsoring a series of seminars in conjunction with OUR annual Convention. It has been suggested that the seminars be held on the Friday just before the convention starts. Several topics could be considered, such as Club Organizational Problems, "How To" and "Help" seminars for Newsletter Editors, Club Officers, Angels, Fund Raisers, etc. If there is interest in this idea, it would be possible to get something arranged in time for the 1992 Convention, but planning would have to begin VERY soon. Please talk this over with your Boards and Members and determine if there is interest. If you have any topics that you would like to suggest for discussion, please let me know. I attended the "40th National Square Dance Convention" in Salt Lake City, Utah [see "Skip Goes to Salt Lake City"], and there were many, many educational seminars. Please let me know your thoughts on this matter. If there is some feedback SOON, we will try to get some more concrete schedules developed. **WE WOULD NEED A VOLUNTEER TO HEAD THIS UP, AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR CLUBS WOULD HAVE TO VOLUNTEER TO CHAIR THE VARIOUS SEMINARS.**

WE NEED BANNER DANCES!

Please encourage your club to sponsor an *annual* Banner Dance. It is suggested that 1/3 of the proceeds be allocated to the sponsoring Club, 1/3 to the host club

sponsoring the next Convention, and 1/3 to the IAGSDC. Please contact either Anna Damiani or Skip Rognlien and we will make sure that you get the IAGSDC Banner in time for your dance.

NEW CLUB FORMING

There will be a beginners Barn Dance with demos by the TIMES SQUARES in New Haven, CT, on August 10th. The hope is that there will be enough interest to get a class started in the fall in New Haven, and that a new club will be formed.

For information contact, Jim Rosipko, PO Box 638, Watertown, CT 06795 (203) 274-4380. Other clubs may be starting in Huntsville, Alabama; Houston, Texas; and Asheville, North Carolina. If you have friends in these areas, write or call for more information. If anyone knows of other areas interested in getting square dancing started, let us know.

IAGSDC TO GET PUBLICITY

The October issue of American Square Dance Magazine will contain an article by Luis Torres about lesbian and gay square dancing.

Enclosed is a subscription form for the magazine. If any of the IAGSDC dancers want to subscribe AFTER reading the article, it would send a positive message to American Square Dance. If you already are a subscriber, it would be a good idea to write to the Editors, congratulating them for publishing the article. There is a good possibility that there will be a certain amount of anti-gay Letters to the Editor, so please encourage your dancers and friends to write to the magazine. Luis is also planning to write several additional articles during the year for American Square Dance, and has requested that he receive ALL of the Club Newsletters. **PLEASE ADD LUIS TO YOUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.**

Luis Torres
3003 Whisper Lark
San Antonio, TX 78230
(512) 493-5805

Darrell Ertzberger (DC LAMBDA SQUARES), Freeman Stamper (WESTERN STAR DANCERS), and Harry Simmons (TIMES SQUARES) have volunteered to assist Luis in gathering information for the articles. If you have any suggestions, or wish to help out on this project, please contact Luis.

SKIP GOES TO SALT LAKE CITY

I attended the 40th National Square Dance Convention -- I was there with 20,000 square dancers from all over the World!! Karl Jaeckel, from Denver's ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAINBEAUS and Marlin Criddle (formerly of TINSELTOWN SQUARES and currently living in Salt Lake) were there also representing the gay and lesbian clubs. I attended several Seminars, introduced myself as Chairperson of the IAGSDC, met the editors of American Square Dance Magazine, The National Directory of Square Dance Clubs, spoke to the officers of CALLERLAB, LEGACY, and other organizations. Most of them were interested to know more about the Gay Clubs and were intrigued that there was an International Association.

I danced with several "solo" women at the convention, and had a great time. The night I wore my TIMES SQUARE shirt, several people recognized the shirt, and came up and said that they had enjoyed dancing with TIMES SQUARE members at other dances. One New Jersey woman came dashing across the singles hall the moment she sighted the shirt, and said that the minute she saw my shirt she knew she was assured of a great partner! There did not seem to be any overt hostility to me, I wore a pink triangle button and my IAGSDC Badge, introduced myself as a representative of the IAGSDC. It was a lot of fun, I have enclosed a registration form for the Cincinnati convention and urge as many of our dancers as possible to attend. We are planning to have an information booth at the convention so that more people will learn about the IAGSDC and our Member Clubs.

One of the highlights of my stay in Salt Lake was marching in the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. There were about three hundred of us marchers, it was a very positive and moving experience.

Reprinted from The New York Post:

SQUARE DANCE MASHER GETS BASHED

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - A man was beaten unconscious after he apparently was caught lifting women's skirts at a square dance, police said.

The unidentified 35 year old man was in serious condition at LDS Hospital yesterday with a skull fracture, officials said.

Police said the man apparently was beaten by two male dancers and dumped in the bushes outside the Salt Palace convention complex, where a square dance convention was being held. Security guards found him Saturday night.

During the convention, the public was invited to participate, and the man apparently lifted women's skirts and "forced himself" on several dancers, police said.

[Ed. Note: Is it time to drop "Take a Peak and Trade the Wave???"

PARTING THOUGHTS...

Karl Jaeckel maintains the mailing list for this newsletter. Please contact him if there are any changes or additions. Karl also maintains a list of callers interested in calling for lesbian and gay clubs. If you wish a copy, write or call him:

Karl Jaeckel
1519 S. Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80210-2621
(303) 778-1937

If you have information to be included in the next issue of the IAGSDC NEWSLETTER, please mail or Fax it to Skip Rognlien at the address listed on page 1:

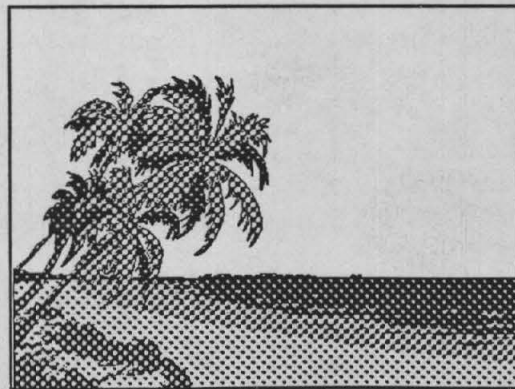
We are embarking upon an advertising campaign to spread the word about gay and lesbian square dancing. The next issue will contain more details about this campaign.

Luis Torres needs information for a history of the Lesbian and Gay square dance movement, more details will be in the next newsletter.

If you have not already sent a copy of your Bylaws to IGGY, please send a copy to either Scott Carey or to Skip Rognlien for inclusion in the data base.

HEY, MIAMI...

THAAAANK
YOU!



The enclosed information, lists, registration forms, etc. are for your information and do not necessarily imply any endorsement of any kind by the IAGSDC. Please copy any of this information you wish and pass it out to your members.

MEMORIAL PROJECT

A special feeling that occurs from square dancing within our community, comprised of men and women from all across the U.S.A. and Canada, is connectedness. Frequent meetings ultimately give us a sense of family. Each and every individual is an important and viable being in the life of our square dancing community. Whether it be in our own clubs or cities, our region, or on an international level, each individual contributes to the whole of gay and lesbian square dancing.

Loss in a family of friends is difficult. There has always been death within our community, but none so great and so devastating as the loss we have experienced to AIDS. About as long as organized lesbian and gay square dancing has been in existence we have been hard hit by this pillaging disease.

This crisis has caused many of us to face issues of our own mortality very early in life. In gathering support and information for this project, Freeman Stampor said it best when he wrote, "I have this deep belief that one of the greatest fears of dying is that we will have lived our lives in vain. To die means that one must give up their own public relations work for themselves and be forgotten. Only a handful of people achieve the ability to be recorded in world-wide history and be memorialized for eternity. However, in each of our own small worlds (which make up the bigger world), we are important. We contributed to the masses of people that we know. We will not have died in vain, but we fear it." We all the need to be remembered.

It is important to acknowledge the loss of individuals within our dancing community. A forum for achieving this goal will be provided to everyone through the IGGY catalogue. In order for this to happen, it is important each and every club participate as fully as possible. I am requesting each club investigate within it's own history and list names of men and women who have died. If you wish, you may write a short paragraph of memorial. (Editorial rights are retained.) State dates as best as you can. To assure periodic updates, if names occur to you later, or you experience a death in your club, please forward this information to me for the next publication.

I appreciate very much your support and assistance in this sensitive process. It will not work without your help. I hope you find the publication a valuable tool in the process of grief we all continue to experience. The focus is not solely on AIDS, but loss by death. Remembering is for us, the living, to acknowledge our loss of friends. The Memorial gives us assurance we will not be forgotten amongst our large family of gay and lesbian square dancers.

Please state:

- * Name of deceased
- * Year and/or month of death
- * A brief memorial. Include relevant square dance information. If the person danced with other clubs, name those clubs.
- * Your club name, a contact person, and your club address.

Please send information by **DEADLINE August 15, 1991** to:

Lynn McCasland
c/o Wilde Bunch
P.O. Box 40393
Albuquerque, NM 87196
(505) 265-3127