

IAGSDC NEWSLINE

Vol. 1, Issue 2

THE NEW YEAR REPORT

January 20, 1991²

PLEASE TRY TO GET THE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER OUT TO ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY INFORMATION ON THE 41ST NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



According to our Bylaws, one of the purposes of the IAGSDC is "to enhance the image of gay people, especially in the international square dance community." As Chairperson, and with the encouragement of many members of the IAGSDC, I have interpreted this purpose in the following ways:

The ad shown below has been submitted to run in "National Squares" and "American Square Dance Magazine" on an "every issue" basis. It will definitely begin appearing in "American Squaredance Magazine" beginning with the March, 1992 issue. This will at least let all of the square dance world know that we exist, and how to contact us. The 800 number is currently answered here in NY, but is transferable and can be answered anywhere in the US. (continued on page two)

IAGSDC OFFICERS 1991/1992

Chair:

Skip Rognlien
235 West 71st St. #41
New York, NY 10023
(212) 580-8785 (FAX also)

Vice Chair:

Darrell Ertzberger
P.O.Box 16361
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703) 820-0026

Secretary:

Bob Young
57 West 84th St. #3G
New York, NY 10024
(212) 362-9493

Treasurer:

Mary Rorabaugh
1562 Valley Crest Dr.
San Jose, CA 95131
(408) 453-8586

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS

584 Castro St. • Suite 483
San Francisco, CA 94114-2588
(800) 835-6462

(continued from Page One") As part of the 41st National Square Dance Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, there will be a "SUMMIT MEETING" of the heads of all of the National and International straight square dance groups. Included are *Legacy, Callerlab, United Square Dancers of America, and Single Square Dancers of America*; this year for the first time, the IAGSDC has been invited to attend. The meeting takes place the day before the Convention officially begins, and should be a very interesting affair. I feel that any dialogue between us and the straight square dance world will eventually help combat the homophobia that is occasionally present when our two groups get together.

Another event that is part of the 41st National is their *Hall of Ideas* – where many clubs and groups have informational materials and displays. We have applied for space in the *Hall of Ideas*, and are currently in the process of creating an attractive and informational table top display that will feature photos of gay and lesbian dancers. Production is also underway for the design of a tri-fold brochure which will contain more pictures and information about the IAGSDC and the member clubs.

If you have any pictures of dances, conventions, parades, etc. that are interesting in content and include printed signs or a recognizable landmark, building or site that will illustrate the idea that "**we are everywhere, and we square dance!**", please send the photo or the negative to me. *Just remember that it will be seen by thousands of straight dancers in Cincinnati.* There will be space for many photos, so **PLEASE** look through your archives, and tell your members to look through their photos. We hope that all areas of the country will be included. Call me if you have questions at (212) 580-8785, or use the 800 number that appears in the ad. We need these photos as soon as possible, as we must start printing the display piece and the brochure in April or early May.

The brochure will also contain some pictures and will be appropriate for us to send out to people who are trying to get square dancing started in other communities. A rough layout of the brochure is included as part of this newsletter.

Someone must be at the display during the hours that the area is open for the attendees to browse through. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to be there to hand out brochures and answer questions. It is not only a great way to spread the word about Lesbian and Gay involvement in the square dance world, its a great way to break down the homophobia.

Enclosed are registration forms. **Please try to get someone from your club to attend, it is very important that we make an impact.** We will dance in same sex squares and as same sex couples, as well as find partners in the singles hall. It is important that we have lots of people there. Bring your Club Shirts and IAGSDC Convention badges. **Lets show them how to WEAVE THE RING!!!!** There has been a bit of homophobic "attitude" from the management of the National concerning our display and brochure, and our request to run the ad in National Squares. This makes it even MORE important for as many dancers as possible from the IAGSDC Clubs to attend. **PLEASE GET THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR BOARD MEMBERS AND THE MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB.**

There will be lots of dancing and it should be lots of fun. Many IAGSDC club members currently dance with straight groups at regional conventions and at local dances. This will be the *first* time that we become visible in a major way at a *National* and the more dancers we can get there, the better it will be.

The convention is the weekend before Albuquerque, so start your vacation in Ohio, then trek on down to New Mexico for the week at **DIAMONDS IN THE DESERT** to round out a week long cross cultural square dance event that you will remember forever!!

SUPPORT THE
IAGSDC

Pay your
PAST DUE
club dues today!

ON TRACK WITH THE IAGSDC

Also, let him know about newsworthy square dance events in your club so that he can compile another article to submit to *American Squaredance Magazine*.

KEEPING TRACK OF NEW CLUBS

Several new clubs seem to be in the formative stages, New Haven, CT, Las Vegas, NV, Memphis, TN, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN have all indicated that clubs and classes have or will be started in some of these cities. Please keep us informed of any other clubs you might have heard about.

KEEPING TRACK OF OLD CLUBS

Our yearly Convention seems to be a good time for club members, officers and board members to get together to discuss the problems and concerns that sometimes arise in many of the clubs. Several IAGSDC members have suggested that we sponsor a panel discussion or seminar which will address these problems and, perhaps, by sharing our collective knowledge, offer some solutions. Freeman Stamper (Western Star Dancers) has agreed to be chairperson for the first of these discussions. If you are interested in being on the panel, please contact Freeman at 4076 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114-1977 (415) 431-6272.

Time and location for the meeting will appear in the DIAMONDS IN THE DESERT Program. Please arrange for someone from your club to attend. Creative solutions to common concerns can save time and avert problems that may arise in your club.

KEEPING TRACK OF THE DAYS

Please remember to communicate with Cricket Matheson before you lock in dates for your special events. Maintaining a calendar several years in advance helps to avoid conflicting dates, and helps members organize their future vacation and travel plans. The concept seems to be working, so please let him know what you are planning and when. Cricket can be reached at: 3253 Hillcrest Dr., San Antonio, TX 78201 (512) 733-8439.

KEEPING TRACK OF THE NEWS

Please make sure that LUIS TORRES is on the mailing list for your club newsletter: 3223 Whisper Lark, San Antonio, TX 78230, (512) 493-5805.

KEEPING TRACK OF THE DUES

Please pay your yearly dues, and forward any of the proceeds from the banner dances you have held. We will need to pay some of the production costs of the display and brochure, and need you to keep current on dues and banner dance donations in order to do this. Dues should be sent to the IAGSDC treasurer: Mary Rorabaugh, 1562 Valley Crest Dr., San Jose, CA 95131, (408) 453-8586. Mary will be sending out reminders to those clubs that have not paid their dues. Some clubs have not yet paid their 1991 dues!

KEEPING TRACK OF THE BANNER

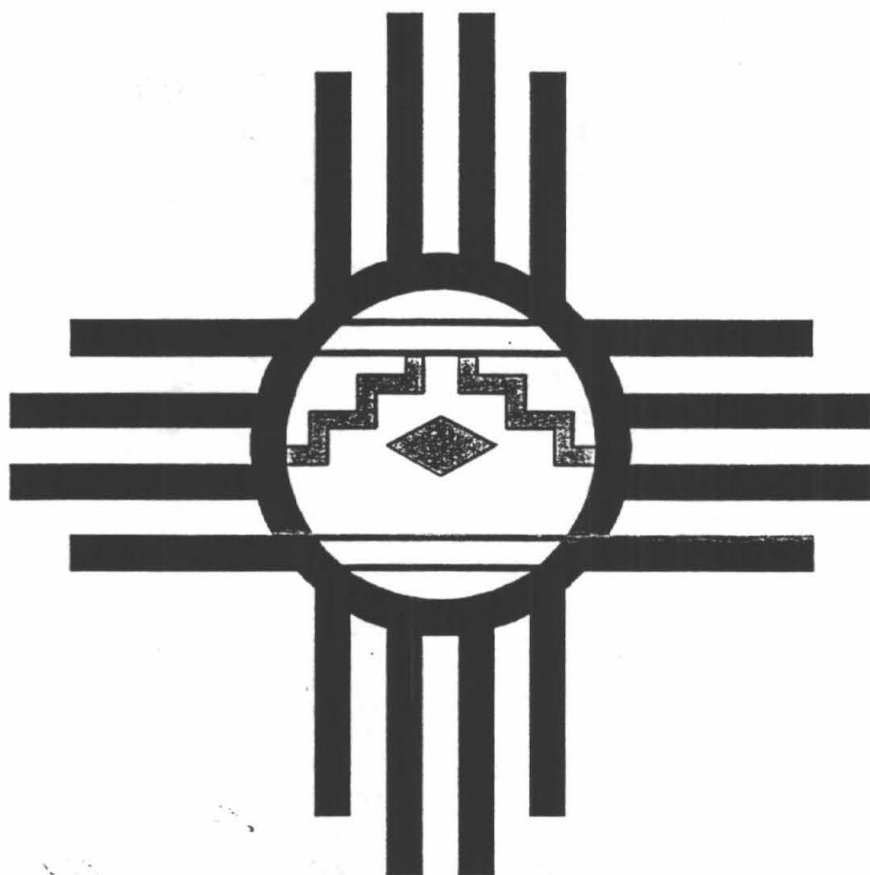
If you wish to have the IAGSDC Banner sent to display at your banner dances, contact either Anna Damiani at 132 Hartford Street, San Francisco, CA 94114-2553, (415) 621-0862 for WEST COAST CLUBS, or Skip Rognlien at 235 West 71st Street, #41, New York, NY 10023, (212) 580-8785 for EAST COAST CLUBS. One of them can get the banner to you -- do allow adequate time for shipping.

KEEPING TRACK OF THE FUTURE

Please start thinking now about nominations for officers of the IAGSDC. It is still a few months before the Convention, but it is never too early to think about running for office. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Bob Young, IAGSDC Secretary at 57 West 84th Street, #3-G, New York, New York 10024, (212) 362-9493.

KEEPING TRACK OF OUR FRIENDS

We are designing a quilt panel for all of our IAGSDC dancers who have died of AIDS; it will have the IAGSDC logo, and will have room for all of you to sign friends' names. We will have the panel available at the convention, after which it will be sent to The Quilt Project for inclusion in Washington, DC next year.



Diamonds in the Desert

The celebration continues . . .

July 3 - 5, 1992

*Convention Center and
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

Albuquerque '92, P. O. Box 81992, Albuquerque, NM 87108-1992

P L E A S E

INFORM YOUR MEMBERS THAT

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE NAME

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS

OR THE INITIALS IAGSDC

IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED

Prior to using IAGSDC in advertising or in other ways, please check with one of the officers of the Association or present your request to the Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting. Thank you for being sensitive about the unauthorized use of our name.

Sincerely,

Skip Rognlien
Chairperson