



Arch Comments

Official Newsletter of
Swing Me In St. Louis
IAGSDC Convention 32
May 22-25, 2015

Issue 1: Feb 2014

FROM ST LOUIS, THE ONLY CITY IN AMERICA THAT'S STAPLED TO THE GROUND

IN THIS ISSUE

Greetings, One and All!

On behalf of Dance to the Middle, Inc., and Gateway Squares, we invite you to the 32nd annual IAGSDC convention, to be held over Memorial Day weekend (May 22-25) in 2015.

We had a great time at *Weave Your Heart in San Francisco* as we kicked off our convention last July, leaving SF with an astonishing 400 advance registrations, and a Fun Badge Tour that's 75% sold out!

Our website's up and running at <http://www.SwingMeInStLouis.com>. Please dance on over and check it out periodically for updates.

Registration

Our primary mode of registering people for convention is via the IAGSDC website. Surf to <http://www.iagsdc.org>, and find us under **Events/View Event Calendar**.

To register, you'll first need to have a profile on the IAGSDC web site, but getting one is free, quick, and easy. If you have any problems with the process, please contact us and we'll help you figure it all out.

Payment

You can choose to pay using either check or credit card. The IAGSDC page uses PayPal to accept credit card payments, which works even if you do not have a PayPal account.

Paying by check? Please make it payable to **Dance To The Middle, Inc.**, and mail it to:

Swing Me In St. Louis
c/o Aaron Wells
8341 Weber Trail Drive,
St. Louis, MO 63123

Rates

Currently the rate is \$205 and this is good through July 6, 2014. After Salt Lake City, our rate goes to \$230. Non-dancer registration is \$125 throughout.

Tours and Other Stuff

The Fun Badge Tour, as we mentioned, is already 75% sold out. \$50 gets you hours of dancing, dish, and mobile camaraderie on Memorial Day. Sign up for it via the IAGSDC registration system.

We're working with a great tour company who will help you get the most out of your pre- or post-convention time in St. Louis.

For tour details, meal choices, and specifics on ordering T-shirts or polo shirts: Watch This Space!

Volunteer!

Want to volunteer? Ask how you can help by emailing us at:

swingmeinstlouis2015@gmail.com

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the first step on the Road To St. Louis! (Sounds like a Hope/Crosby film, doesn't it...)

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Dance! Drag! Callers! Attractions!

We know you're coming to St. Louis to dance, dance, dance, watch a bad midnight drag show, and dance...

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Our Host Hotel

Our hotel's magnificent setting opened in 1894 as one of the world's largest railroad stations, truly...

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Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the first step on the Road to St. Louis! (Sounds like a Hope/Crosby film, doesn't it?)

I want to personally thank each of you who have given your support and registered in San Francisco. I've not encountered such energy as I did that weekend.

Prior conventions have left us some big shoes to fill, but we hope that by the end of our convention, you will leave with sincere feelings of enjoyment.

Convention brings us together as a family once a year so that we can embrace the activity that we hold near and dear to us. It isn't only about dancing; it's about seeing old friends, making new friends and being part of the IAGSDC "family".

I look forward to seeing you all in Salt Lake City this summer, and in St. Louis next year!

GOING "GREEN"!

Our convention is taking an unconventional "twist" by doing our best to go "green". Our program book and schedule will be available online for you to access. We're also working on getting an app for those of you with smart phones. More details to follow!

Questions?

Email: swingmeinstlouis2015@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.SwingMeInStLouis.Com>

Dance! Drag! Callers! Attractions!

We know you're coming to St. Louis to dance, dance, dance, watch a bad midnight drag show, and dance. After all, we have the calling talents of: **Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Bill Eycler, Betsy Gotta, Dayle Hodge, Deborah Jones, Mike Kellogg, Gary Monday, and Anne Uebelacker!** We also have **two callers to be announced**, so stay tuned!

And the venue is simply faaaabulous! It'll be hard to tear yourself away! So think about booking an extra day or two to do enjoy what our wonderful city has to offer you besides dancing.

There's the Arch, of course, with the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath and those

funky Jetsons-style elevator pods to jostle you up to the observation level. (Those curved legs—think about it—on second thought, maybe don't think about it.)

We've got major league baseball, brewery tours both macro and micro, art museums, history museums, Forest Park, riverboat casinos, and the mighty Mississippi itself.

We'll be telling you about these and many other attractions and events in future newsletters.

You can get a head start by looking at the Convention Bureau's list of 25 Things to Do in St. Louis, at: <http://tinyurl.com/stl25>



Our Host Hotel

St. Louis Union Station Hotel ("Doubletree by Hilton")

1820 Market Street

St. Louis, MO 63206

(314) 621-5262 (Reservations number: 1-800-410-9914)

<http://www.stlunionstationhotel.com>

Our hotel's magnificent setting opened in 1894 as one of the world's largest railroad stations, truly a Gateway to the West. A century later it was reworked into a restaurant/mall/hotel complex. The Grand Hall, with its gold-leafed barrel vault and Tiffany stained-glass windows, still serves to welcome visitors from around the world. Take a look at the photos at <http://www.stlunionstationhotel.com/history.htm> – she's a beauty. And free Wi-Fi in both public spaces and sleeping rooms!

Standard rate: \$145/night (for up to four guests sharing, depending on room type), this rate available from 5/17 through 5/29. Our room block opens for reservations as of July 1, 2014. Our room block name is "Swing Me In St. Louis".

Note: There is no public self-parking at the hotel; **if you are bringing a car, be prepared to pay \$15 per day for valet parking.** That includes unlimited in/out privileges for each 24 hour period. Alternatively, some metered public parking is available nearby but not guaranteed. Rates are \$2 an hour for public on-street parking.

There is light rail service available from the airport, and we'll publish that information in a future issue.