



Arch Comments

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

Post-Convention Issue: June 2015

BECAUSE LACLEDE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE WAS GETTING INTO WHEN HE LANDED HERE.

OK, We Lied!

We said that the previous issue was the last issue; we should have said it was the last *pre-convention* issue. *This* is the last issue of *Arch Comments*, wrapping up all the news that's unfit to print from *Swing Me In St. Louis!*

Hotel Happenings!

We filled all but 20 rooms of the St. Louis Union Station Doubletree for our convention! If you saw any folks shrinking back into the corner of the elevator after the leather or bear tips, they were probably one of the very small number of folks *not* from our group.

Even though the non-IAGSDC guess from the two wedding events held in the lobby had all the free booze they could drink at their party, for some reason several wedding guests chose to pay for drinks and sit with us in our public bar area.

So there's a new slogan for IAGSDC square dancing that should probably never be used: *We're a lot more fun than a boring wedding reception for someone you can't stand.*

Fun Badge Tour

We had a great time on the Fun Badge Tour, dancing at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour Center and Biergarten, City Museum

(where a number of brave IAGSDC'ers went down a two-story slide!), and in the middle of the closed-off street at LaClede's Landing!

Our callers were Aaron Wells and Sandie Bryant, and they did a fabulous job!

Registration!

We had 829 registered attendees in St. Louis this year! Thaaaaank you!

Virgins!

We're still compiling the numbers, but it appears that 22 first-time dancers took advantage of the "greenhorn" rate! We were (and are) so proud to have been those dancers' first IAGSDC convention!

HTQ Scandal!

Despite our beloved Olive de Bottom's frenzied and furious attempts to hold onto her crown ("I was elected last July! I have four more months of ruling time coming to me!), a new Honky Tonk Queen was chosen anyway.

Details on page 3.

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE...

Chairman's Message

I can't believe that we're less than... Page 2

Convention Planners Meeting Notes

Are you on a future convention committee? ... Page 2

Photo Dish!

Our fabulous convention photographer was... Page 2

2015 Honky Tonk Queen Contest

The 2015 HTQ Contest was arranged by... Page 3

New IAGSDC Club!

One of the most exciting moments at... Page 4

New Faces!

As mentioned earlier, we had 19 attendees... Page 4

2015 Golden Boot Award

IAGSDC Chai Phil Davis, who was the 2014 ... Page 5

GCA Caller School

The Gay Callers Association staged their... Page 5

Convention Group Photo

Here's a low-res version of our group photo... Page 6

Next Year in Toronto!

Sadly, this really *is* the last newsletter from... Page 6



Chairman's Message

My voice is still only up to about 50%, but my heart is 100% full of the love, warmth, and happiness that can only result from a weekend reunion spent with one's chosen family.

THANK YOU for making our Convention weekend such a success!

Also, THANK YOU to the IAGSDC, All Join Hands, and the Gay Callers Association!

As you unpack your bags and share your stories and photos on our Facebook web page (all three of them!), please join me in looking forward to our next gathering in Toronto, Canada, for *Maple Leafs Regroup*, to be held 14 long months away in July 1-4, 2016!

(As a now former convention chair, I betcha the Toronto committee, is probably saying "14 short months" away.)

Aaron

Convention Planners Meeting Notes

Are you on a future convention committee?

The **Convention Planners Meeting** notes are available from **Justin Crawshaw-Lopton**.

Please email him at jacrawshaw@gmail.com for a copy.

Justin can also provide access to the Convention Planners' section of the IAGSDC website.

Photo Dish!

Our fabulous convention photographer was **Carrie Meyer** of **Insomniac Studios** in St. Louis.

Carrie and Aaron have known each other for *years*. In fact, as seen at right, Carrie was Aaron's high school prom date! (Or perhaps Aaron was Carrie's date; neither one is quite sure who was leading at the dance.)

Carrie has made all of our convention photographs available as either prints or in digital format.

It's not too late to order print or digital copies of any of the group photos from Carrie's website.

(Sorry, prints of the prom photo are *not* included in this offer.)



Above is Carrie with her husband Jeff, as she appears today. To order prints or digital copies of any group photo, go to: <http://www.insomniacstudios.net/> and click on the **Events link** for *Swing Me In St. Louis*.

As of May 28th, all orders have been sent, either via email or mail. Prints should arrive by next week.

You can order the Full Convention & Group photos online now at: <http://insomniacstudiosdancersey.smugmug.com/Swing-Me-In-St-Louis-2015>

A number of more casual shots are available as well. See them at <http://insomniacstudiosdancersey.smugmug.com/Swing-Me-In-St-Louis-2015/Around-The-Convention-Photos/>

Photo order questions or want to order some of the casual shots? Please email Carrie directly at: carrie@insomniacstudios.net.

2015 Honky Tonk Queen Contest

The 2015 HTQ Contest was arranged by 2014 HTQ **Olive de Bottom**, and featured a tasteful (or not) Wizard of Oz storyline, right down to Ruby Stiletto Slippers.

As seen at right, a stupefying number of Old Queens participated (including a brief appearance by Iona Doublewide).

A video of the contest has been posted online at: https://youtu.be/PXd8p_s6C4w (or search YouTube for "2015 Honky Tonk Queen Contest").

The contestants this year were Horny Boo Boo, Freeda Everyone, and the winner, **Mary Juana** (accompanied by the Hunky Trunk Boys), who performed a live song called *All About That Bud*, sung to the tune of *All About That Bass*.

Congratulations, Mary Juana!



Photos by courtesy of Kelly Shortandqueer.

New IAGSDC Club!

One of the most exciting moments at Convention this year was the induction of **Knot So Squares**, from Kansas City, MO, into the IAGSDC as a full member club!

In July of 2012, two of the club's members visiting the GALA Festival in Denver, Colorado discovered a square dance class hosted by the IAGSDC with caller Bear Miller...and they got hooked.

By September of 2012, Knot So Squares had formed a GLBT-friendly club and hired a straight caller—Wade Morrow, well known as the former office manager of the CALL-ERLAB Home Office!—to teach them.

Wade's first-time adventures in GLBT calling were published in the GCA Call Sheet, and the club has worked very hard to recruit new members and fulfill the requirements for IAGSDC membership.

Welcome to the family, Knot So Squares!

<http://knotsosquares.com/>



Photo courtesy of Bob Jackson of Knot So Squares.



Photo of Mandi and John courtesy of Ross Lopton-Crawshaw.

New Faces!

As mentioned earlier, we had 22 attendees take advantage of the Greenhorn (first-time convention-goer) rate...though when we asked first-timers to stand up, everyone could have sworn it was over 20 people!

At right are **Mandi Griffin and John Wang from Temple Squares in Salt Lake City**, showing off the club's snazzy new uniform of black leather vests over rainbow tie-dyed anything!

Thank you,
and yellow
rocks to...



2015 Golden Boot Award

IAGSDC Chair **Phil Davis**, who was the 2014 Golden Boot Award winner, presented the 2015 Golden Boot to **John O'Grady and Leo Champagne of Suncoast Squares**.

Unfortunately, John and Leo couldn't attend convention this year, so the award was made via phone...a first for the Golden Boot Award!

The full text of Phil Davis' award speech may be found on the IAGSDC History Wiki at:

http://www.iagsdchistory.org/historywiki/index.php?title=Golden_Boot_2015

Congratulations, John and Leo!



Source for photo of Bob Hazen and Phil Davis unknown.



Photo by JR St. Jean of Take Pride Photography, <http://www.jrstjeanphotography.com>

GCA Caller School

The Gay Callers Association staged their annual caller school at Swing Me In St. Louis. 11 brave souls attended the school, which was taught by CALLERLAB Certified Caller Coach **Betsy Gotta**, assisted by **Ken Sale**.



Photo courtesy of Bill Eyler.

Convention Group Photo

Here's a low-res version of our group photo. Go to <http://www.insomniacstudios.com> to purchase a high-res version without the huge watermark:



Next Year in Toronto!

Sadly, this really *is* the last newsletter from *Swing Me In St. Louis*. It's been a blast getting y'all to Convention and back, and we thank you again for the best square dance family reunion ever!

Now it's time to get those passports ready and stay tuned for newsletters from *next year's* convention hosts, Triangle Squares, as they invite you to *Maple Leafs Regroup* in beautiful Toronto, Ontario!

Get more information on *Maple Leafs Regroup* at <http://toronto2016.com/>

MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



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