



North American Irish Dance Federation (NAIDF) announces new Irish Dance organization

MAY 28, 2009

The North American Irish Dance Federation (NAIDF) is proud to announce the launch of a new Irish Dance organization.

Based in the United States, the organization is dedicated to the continuing growth and development Irish Dance and Culture by cultivating and nurturing better Irish Dance schools, teachers, and dancers. NAIDF promotes Irish Dance through competitions, workshops, performances, community service, events, and teacher and adjudicator education and examinations. Our goal is to promote new ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm through NAIDF organized events and individualized school feiseanna. Through Open Platform competitions, NAIDF intends to reach out to the global Irish Dance community by offering restriction-free entry and participation.

NAIDF promotes a set of guidelines and standards for all its members to obtain and uphold, yielding a well-rounded organization built on the values of fairness, honesty, achievement, camaraderie, and leadership. Membership in NAIDF is offered to teachers, instructors, and adjudicators.

We offer NAIDF certification programs for teachers who would like to further their dance education and standing. The certification programs include Certified Irish Dance Performance Teacher, Certified Irish Ceili Teacher, Certified Irish Dance Teacher, Master Irish Dance Teacher, and Licensed Adjudicator. Our membership includes teacher and student forums, school feiseanna and organizational championships, teacher training and mentoring, teacher continuing education requirements, student NAIDF associate memberships, quarterly NAIDF Irish dance publications, school advertising and additional materials for our teachers and students to use.

Primary in our goals is the promotion of the love of the Irish Dance form. We strive to create strong teachers, strong competitors, and strong performers, as well as strong individuals and citizens, creating all around dancers. We encourage confidence and the pursuit of excellence in performance that can be shared with the outside community. We value dancers and teachers, and believe in fostering the growth of the organization as a whole.

Founded by four Irish Dance schools currently operating in the United States, the board of directors of NAIDF includes the five founding members from these four founding bodies: Chairperson: Sharon Stidham, Achill Academy of Irish Dance; Co-chair: Patricia Silver, Mist of Ireland; Secretaries: Dawn Parker and Jacque Parker, Irish Stars Parker School of Irish Dance; and Treasurer: Kate Marshall, Emerald Isle Academy of Irish Dance.

We actively welcome inquiries and requests for membership. To become a member of NAIDF or for further information, please contact Sharon Stidham, NAIDF, Chairperson, at achillacademy@yahoo.com.

www.naidf.com