

## WASCA's 64th -- Duck & Dive in 25 Festival

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Hello All WASCA Festival Solo and Single Dancers!

Happy New Year and welcome back for another fantastic WASCA Square and Round Dance Festival! If you were unable to attend last year you missed a wonderful festival, but this coming year's festival (64th) is going to be just as spectacular and will not disappoint you as we see "Duck and Dive in 25," March 20 - 22, 2025 at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon, VA. It should be a fabulous festival with many fun activities and great entertainment planned, plus dancing to some of the best Callers and Cuers in the country!

There will be free parking and free shuttle service to the IAD Airport, Metro & Dulles Steven Udvarhazy Center (Smithsonian Air & Space Museum). Unfortunately, we have had to change some of our activities previously planned exclusively for our solo dancers. Thursday night, as usual, there will be a Solo Dance Party at 11:00 p.m. in Belmont Ballroom section 4 (Lobby Level of the hotel) with Mike Sikorsky calling for a fantastic hour of mainstream and plus dancing. This will be followed by a "FREE" Ice Cream Social at 12:00 am; however, this had to be relocated to a suite and the room number will be coming out in my next email. We will not be permitted to distribute our food in any of the Halls, so we will not be having a Pizza Luncheon this year. We are trying to make arrangements for all our Solos and Single dancers to go over to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. The admittance is free, and the Tours start at 10:30 a.m. and are also free! However, you will need to bring a bag lunch or buy lunch at the museum. The hotel has offered discounted bag lunches for those that are interested—you will need to handle that yourself. The hotel will not be able to shuttle 50 people at one time, so I'm hoping to find volunteers to drive. If we can put five people in each vehicle, it would only cost everyone \$3.00, since parking is \$15.00 per vehicle.

Again, this year we will have a Solo Hospitality Lounge in the Red Fox Room located on the second Level, left of the lobby. This room will be open and available throughout the entire festival for you to enjoy while you relax, visit, mingle and even work on the festival puzzle (Theme related of course!) if you are so inclined.

For those of you who need to find dance partners, you should get an "Ask Me To Dance" ribbon when you arrive and pick up your registration packet. You should attach the ribbon to your badge and also get one or more colored adhesive "dots" which will let everyone know what sex and level of dancing you are capable of doing. You should place the letter "M" for Mainstream or the letter "P" for Plus in whatever color dot or dots are appropriate for you. There will be signs in the various dance halls to explain what the colors mean. In addition, there will be specific locations set up in the Mainstream and Plus Dance Halls this year designated for solos who want to connect with a partner. Look for the large banner and seating reserved just for you! Lastly, there will be computer squares in DBD, Advanced and Challenge halls that will be supportive of solo dancers. You'll be able to find more information about the festival in the Jan/Feb and Mar/Apr 2024 editions of the Calls 'n' Cues. The link is <http://callsncues.cragg.info/>.

I welcome any volunteers who would be willing to help with transportation to the museum to please respond to this email. You can also connect with me in the lobby when you sign in or later in the solo hospitality room on Thursday evening. We will also need volunteers to help serve the ice cream!

If you have any questions relative to our solo program, please contact me at [vfromel51@comcast.net](mailto:vfromel51@comcast.net) or [FestivalSoloProgram@wascaclubs.com](mailto:FestivalSoloProgram@wascaclubs.com). I'm looking forward to seeing and meeting you at the WASCA Festival. Happy Dancing!!

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