



**The Connecticut Convention Center has the Luck of the Irish**  
*Facility Secures 4-Year Commitment for Regional Irish Dance Competition*

**HARTFORD, CT (February 10, 2015)** – The Connecticut Convention Center will be the stomping ground for the Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America – New England Region. The association will bring the New England Oireachtas to Hartford for the first time in 2017. The regional Irish Dance competition will bring thousands of dancers, teachers and spectators to Hartford utilizing close to 2,300 overnight rooms at several hotels each year of the event.

The New England Oireachtas attracts the best dancers in the region ranging in ages from under 8 to over 20 years old. The three-day competition, which draws dancers representing all of the New England states, is a stepping-stone for the All World Irish Dance Championships. The Oireachtas will take place the weekend before Thanksgiving and will include a variety of events, including solo and group performances.

“The New England Irish Dance Teachers are excited to return to Connecticut in 2017 for our most prestigious event of the year,” said Iris Gray Sharnick, regional director of the New England Irish Dance Teachers Association. “This is the premier showcase for the top New England dancers and they will all put their best foot forward in this world qualifying event.”

The competition has been hosted by various cities in Connecticut and Massachusetts and most recently Providence, RI. Irish dancing is alive and growing and the New England Oireachtas has seen tremendous growth requiring it to move into larger venues. The 2017 Oireachtas is expected to be even larger making the Connecticut Convention Center’s size and versatility an ideal venue for this growing event.

“We are very excited to host the New England Oireachtas for the first-time in 2017,” said Michael Costelli, general manager for the Connecticut Convention Center. “We look forward to a long-term relationship with the New England Irish Dance Teachers Association and seeing the event continue to grow.” The group has committed to holding the event at the venue through at least 2020.

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**About the Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America – New England Region.**

The New England Irish Dance Teachers Association is one of seven regional branches of the Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America (IDTANA). The association operates in tandem with An Coimisiun le Rince Gaelacha in Dublin, Ireland. The emphasis of the IDTANA-NE Region is the promote Irish Dance throughout the New England region. For more information, please visit [NEIDT.org](http://NEIDT.org).

**About the Connecticut Convention Center**

The Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford is the state’s premier meeting venue and the largest full-service convention facility between New York and Boston. Overlooking the beautiful Connecticut River, it features 140,000 square feet of exhibition space, a 40,000-square-foot ballroom and 25,000 square feet of meeting space, as well as ample sheltered parking. The venue is professionally managed for the State of Connecticut by Waterford Venue Services, an affiliate of Waterford Hotel Group. For more information, please visit [CTConventions.com](http://CTConventions.com).