

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on September 18th, 2011

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, September 18th, 2011, at ~1:05 PM EDT.
In attendance: Lee Fox (Treasurer), Sonja Furiya (Membership Chair), Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative & Communications Director), Christopher Kelleher (Vice-President), Benjamin Soencksen (Secretary & FGG Delegate), Mario Spenard (joined @ ~ 1:08 PM EDT) & Barbara Zoloth (President)

The President posted the following agenda on September 11th, 2011:

A. Standing Items

1. Record any polls since last meeting
2. Approve minutes from last meeting
3. Financial Report

B. Old Business

1. Proposed changes in NASSPDA Board Policies and Procedures —remaining questions
 - a. Definition of quorum and “super majority”
 - b. Committee to review and “rationalize” policy and procedure documents
2. Committee to define qualifications for judge
3. Coordination with other organizations
 - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
 - i. Report on searching for local organizers
 - b. IFSSDA
4. Website
 - a. Mechanism to add links to photos and videos from specific competitions: location for posting photos by event not yet created
 - b. Update on separate page for listing past Board members
 - i. Separate page for former Board members
 - ii. Add dates of service to former and current Board member info
 - c. Update on creating and posting timeline of NASSPDA history and history of same-sex ballroom
 - d. Add “donate” button
5. Membership initiatives
 - a. Newsletter report
6. Competition Rules
 - a. Rules issue from Vancouver Outgames experience: Requiring grading rounds to be split when a dancer enters a graded category with more than 1 partner
 - b. Compilation of things to look out for, clarifications needed, etc. Examples: dancers with more than one partner in the same graded category; carefully defined levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced, etc.) for one-dance categories. Will this be a summary of the rules? Will it be different for competitors, officials, and organizers? Who will create/maintain this information?
 - c. On offering \$5/competitor discount compensation: Have all sanctioned competitions been notified? Add to our competition rules? How to insure that all competition organizers are aware of this going forward?
7. Upcoming/recent competitions (including placement of NASSPDA ads)

- a. Ava Kaye's competition in SF Bay Area, Nov 12, 2011 (Liaison?)
 - b. Dancing in the River City, January 15, 2012, North American Championships
 - c. Philadelphia Liberty Challenge, March ??, 2012, United States Championships
 - d. Manatee Madness, April 2011 ?
 - e. April Follies, April 28, 2012, California Championship
 - f. Report on ordering additional medals for NA Championships
7. Non-Board committees
- a. Dance Camp committee
 - b. Queer Youth Outreach committee

C. New Business

- 1. Board to consider creating Chair of Social Dance & ask for input in next newsletter
- 2. Letter sent regarding Chaz Bono on "Dancing With the Stars"

D. Schedule next Board meeting(s)

A. Standing Items

to A.1.: Approved

Notes of NASSPDA's Annual Membership Meeting, July 2011, Vancouver

to A.2.: Approved

2nd Draft of Minutes & Notes 110828, previous Board meeting

to A.3.:

NASSPDA's account balance at the time of this meeting: \$4,314.05

B. Old Business

to B.1.a. & b.: Postponed

to B.2.:

Based on the recommendation of the Chair of the Judges Committee, the Board is considering an application process for judges, who wish to be recognized by NASSPDA, as well as asking the committee to identify what disqualifies judges in the application process, and for a time line as to when it seems feasible to require organizers of NASSPDA sanctioned competitions to engage only NASSPDA approved judges, or at a minimum a head judge.

to B.3.a.:

After some research, the Treasurer found that one organizer of a mainstream competition actually also lives in Cleveland, sighted competent and friendly. But first it was agreed to get in touch with the Cleveland organizers of the 2014 Gay Games and of the DanceSport competition during the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, in order to ascertain what has already been put into motion and what had been the experience in prior Games by an organizer here in the States.

Also, the FGG Delegate reported on the progress of the FGG's and GLISA's effort to have a joined event in 2018, and that DanceSport is might be upgraded to level of "core sport."

to B.3.b.:

At the time of this meeting no further update was available.

to B.4.a. to d.:

At the time of this meeting no further update was available, except that the time of service for all active and former Board members had been added.

to B.5.a.:

At the time of this meeting no progress report could be given on NASSPDA's eNewsletter.

to B.5.:

The Membership Chair pointed out that a process for membership renewal prior to year's end is not in place, which may effect those members who wish to be current in order to be eligible for garner a title at the North American Championships, held in January 2012 in Sacramento.

to B.6.a.:

For clarification, NASSPDA's definition of a Pro/Am couple is solely based on whether one partner pays the other to dance with. NASSPDA doesn't recognize mainstream definitions of a professional and amateur. Therefore, Pro/Am configuration, when not disclosed at NASSPDA sanctioned competitions and especially for multi-dance categories, can create a significant problem, because the "Pro" partner typically has multiple "Am" partners. IAGLCWDC, ESSDA and NASSPDA allow multiple partners within one event, but not within one category. However, it is not self-evident whether this holds up within a multi-dance category, which is sub-divided into "classes/grades," and are similar defined as a "category." New language will be drafted reflecting the Board's position that one dancer may not have multiple partners within one graded category, which is applicable to all multi-dance, 9-dance and 10-dance categories.

to B.6.b.:

The Board plans to compile and make available summaries of NASSPDA's Competition Rules focusing on the 3 major entities (competitor, officials and organizer) involved in a competition.

to B.6.c.:

The Board decided asking, throughout 2012, all organizers of sanctioned competitions to consider accepting a discount arrangement, as previously approved, and based on the resulting experience, make it part of NASSPDA's sanctioning rules and requirements in 2013.

to B.7.a.:

A mainstream competition in the Bay Area, organized by Ava Kaye, a longtime strong supporter of same-sex partner dancing, will feature a same-sex partner categories on Saturday of that event, which will be listed in NASSPDA's eNewsletter.

to B.7.b.:

At the time of this meeting no further update was available.

to B.7.c.:

The date for this competition has been confirmed as March 31st, 2012 -- no further update.

to B.7.d.:

This event has not set a definitive new date yet, and will therefore no longer be listed in NASSPDA's eNewsletter.

to B.7.e.:

At the time of this meeting no further update was available.

to B.7.f.:

NASSPDA's previous order in March 2009 from World Class Awards was for 150 medals in the amount of \$500.50. The price has not increased, but further inquiries have to be made whether a lesser number of bronze medals and a higher for gold ordered might alter the overall amount.

to B.8.a.:

At the time of this meeting no further update was available.

to B.8.b.:

At the time of this meeting no further update was available.

C. New Business

to C.1.:

The Communications Director volunteered to fulfill some of the functions of a "Chair of Social Dance," mainly through collecting data of social dance opportunities for same-sex dancers and publish the results in NASSPDA's eNewsletter. New address:

socialdance@nasspda.org

to C.2.:

The FGG, ESSDA and NASSPDA sent a letter to Chaz Bono in support of his appearance on "Dancing with the Stars," including an invitation to the Gay Games 2014 in Cleveland.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next conference call meeting will be on Sunday, October 23rd, 2011, at 4:00 PM EDT.