

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on January 18th, 2014

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Saturday, January 18th, 2014, at ~3:32 PM EST.

In attendance: Lee Fox (Treasurer, Finance Committee Co-Chair & Judges Committee Chair), Garret Gerritsen (Membership Co-Chair & Finance Committee Co-Chair; had to leave at 4:00 PM EST), Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative, Membership Co-Chair & Communications Director), Christopher Kelleher (Vice-President), Benjamin Soencksen (Secretary & FGG Delegate), Kathy Wildman (joined at 3:40 PM) & Barbara Zoloth (President)

The President posted the following agenda on January 11th, 2014, with important sections to address highlighted in red, and added item B.7.a. on January 14th, 2014:

A. Standing Items

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

B. Old Business

1. Items temporarily on hold –
 - a. Proposed changes in NASSPDA Board Policies and Procedures —remaining questions
 - i. Definition of quorum and “super majority”
 - ii. Committee to review and “rationalize” policy and procedure documents
 - iii. Election of Board members/officers
 - b. Request for history of same-sex ballroom dance (for website) and explanations of rules and procedures (for eNewsletter)
2. Adjudicator Application Committee’s report
3. Coordination with other organizations
 - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
 - i. **Coordination with Rob Smitherman, Sports Director for Gay Games 9**
 - ii. **Report on venue**
 - iii. **Professional staff updates**
 - iv. **NASSPDA’s 2014 scholarships**
 - v. **Finalize competition schedule**
 - vi. **Designing certificates**
 - vii. **Partner Exchange**
 - b. IFSSDA
4. Website
 - a. **Report on bid for redesigning website**
 - b. **Addition of student membership to website**
5. Membership initiatives
 - a. Newsletter report
 - b. Membership renewal process
 - i. **Reminder e-mails for individual, organizational and affiliate members**
 - c. Youth membership category
6. Upcoming/recent competitions
 - a. Dancing in the River City, Sacramento, CA State Championship, January 19, 2014

- b. Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge, PA State Championship, March 29, 2014
 - c. April Follies, Oakland, US National Championship, April 26, 2014
 - d. Rainbow Dance Championship, Montreal, Canada, June 14, 2014
 - e. Gay Games 9, Cleveland, World Championship, August 12-15, 2014
 - f. Boston Open, MA State & North American Championship, October 11, 2014
 - g. North American Outgames, St. Louis, Memorial Day Weekend 2016:
Requested for 2016 NA Championships
 - h. World Outgames, Miami, Week of Memorial Day 2017 (incl. IAGLCWDC Conv.?)
 - i. Gay Games 10, Paris, 2018
7. Competition Rules
- a. **Open judging at the GG9 -- source of number paddles?**
 - b. **Separation of Formation Teams at GG9 into two categories?**
8. Non-Board committees
- a. Dance Camp committee
 - b. Queer Youth Outreach committee
9. Scholarship Committee
- a. **Increase percentage allocated to fund in 2014?**
 - b. **Publishing availability of 2014 scholarships**
10. 2014 Board election
- a. **Nominations deadline January 31st, 2014**

C. New Business

D. Schedule next Board meeting(s)

A. Standing Items

to A.1.: n/a

to A.2.: Approved

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to A.3.:

NASSPDA's current account balances:

operating account \$8,042.46; savings account earmarked for the scholarships fund \$1,286.18

B. Old Business

to B.1.a.i. through iii. & b., B.2.: Postponed

These agenda items were postponed due to lack of updates and time.

to B.3.iv. & B.9.a. & b.: Approved

25 % NASSPDA's operating budget are added to NASSPDA's scholarship funds, which results in a total of \$3,296.79 available for 2014 for scholarships. Based on this number, 5 scholarship recipients will be awarded for a total of \$360 for the World Championships at the Gay Games (comprised out of NASSPDA's annual dues, \$30, Gay Games' sports registration fee, \$130, and the fixed amount of \$200) and \$295 for the North American Championships at the Boston Open (comprised of NASSPDA's annual dues, \$30, Boston Open's entry fees, approx. \$65, and the fixed amount of \$200). Scholarship recipients, who may apply for both events, will only be awarded one scholarship for one of the two events. The submission deadlines are for the World Championships at the Gay Games May 12th, 2014, and the North American Championships at the Boston Open July 11th, 2014.

to B.3.a.i. through vii. (except B.3.iv.; see above):

In addition to Rob Smitherman, the Sports Director of GG9, Deb Landig will from now on be the GG9 DanceSport Organizing Committee's liaison.

A general schedule for the 4 days of competition has been posted on GG9's website. An exchange through GG9's website, which is aimed to help single dancers to find a partner for this competition is being planned.

Work on the overall budget is a continuous effort, and involves finalizing costs added by the operator of the venue, the cost for a dance floor and risers, expenses for officials, etc.

Certificates for all finalists, for which a pro-bono designer is still sought, will feature the logos of all 3 founding associations, ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA, since IFSSDA doesn't have a logo yet, as well as the GG9 logo.

to B.4.a.: Approved

A \$5,000 bid to redo NASSPDA's website had been received, which was deemed reasonable, but currently not affordable. The issue is less a matter of what the website offers and how it looks than how difficult it is to make changes and implement updates on the backend, which translates to wanting to replicate the functionality on a more recent and more user-friendly platform. The Board decided to allocate \$4,000 from the current operating funds to this project, hoping to find a designer that is willing to make the desired change within this budget.

to B.4.b.:

Adding to NASSPDA's website the newly created membership level for students, for which the annual dues had been set at \$20, has been initiated.

to B.5.b. & c.:

In order to promote the new discounted "Student Membership" a letter will be drafted for distribution within that community.

to B.6.g.:

St. Louis's same-sex dance community requested granting the DanceSport Competition at the 2016 NA Outgames held in St. Louis the titles of that year's NA Championships.

to B.7.a.:

The Treasurer reported that there seems to be no source to borrow number paddles and volunteered to fabricate the needed paddles.

to B.7.b.:

An inquiry from a Country Western Formation Team about having a mainstream defined opposite-gender couple (male leader and female follower) in their team, which is prohibited by NASSPDA's Competition Rules, but allowed by the rules from IAGLCWDC, both rules being jointly applicable for this category (the only category this applies to at GG9), triggered a lengthy discussion on the interpretation of how to define the applicability of both rules, when one contradicts the other. The Board determined that the original intent was to focus on what the rules allow rather than prohibit and decided to add on GG9's website under Competition Specifics for DanceSport under the headings of "Open Style Division" and for "Formation Teams" right after the definition that reads "Any routine that is performed as couples" the follow: "(same-sex gender or mixed gender)."

to B.3.b., 5.a., & 6.a. through i. (except B.6.g.; see above), & 8.a. & b.: Postponed

These agenda items were postponed due to lack of updates and time.

to B.10.a.:

The deadline for nominations to the upcoming elections for Board members, whose term is expiring, is January 31, 2014. Board members Lee Fox and Pat Hogan are up for reelection, and other candidates have expressed an interest, who have been notified of the deadline.

C. New Business

There was no new business brought forward.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next conference call meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 16th, 2014, at 3:30 PM EST.