

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on January 4th, 2009

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, January 4th, 2009, at ~6:35 PM EST.
In attendance: Sonja Furiya (membership chair), Richard Lamberty (co-chair), Winter Held, Pat Hogan (joined at ~6:38 PM EST), Citabria Phillips, Benjamin Soencksen (secretary), & Barbara Zoloth (co-chair & treasurer)

The following agenda was posted on December 29th, 2008:

A. Standing Items

1. Approve minutes from last Board meeting.
2. Log online polls taken since last Board meeting:
 - a. Google Check-out vs. Paypal

B. Old Business

1. Membership:
 - a. Issuing membership cards?
 - b. "No refund" policy on dues?
 - c. How will NASSPDA respond to payments of dues?
 - d. How is data on new members recorded/sorted in NASSPDA's database?
 - e. How is access to the full benefits of the website for members activated?
 - f. Will there be a time lag between once members have processed their dues and when activation takes place? If so:
 - i. Inform new member of time lag, and
 - ii. Create process for a standard welcoming e-mail.
2. Logo Development
3. Location for North American title event of 2009
4. Discussion on summarized report from Governance Committee
5. Establish date and time for NASSPDA's next meeting.

A. Standing Items:

to A. 1.: Minutes & Notes 081221: Approved

to A.2.: Use Google Check-out as the on-line payment processor on NASSPDA's new website to collect membership dues rather than Paypal : Approved

B. Old Business:

to B.1.a.: Issuing membership cards?: Postponed

It was suggested to possibly issue membership cards at the moment that new members join NASSPDA and have paid their respective dues. This would enhance the new member's experience of joining NASSPDA, since the member would receive something very tangible in hand, and could use this card to speed up the process of proving membership. Several Board members voiced concerns in regards to the production cost of such an undertaking, and whether organizing this could be achieved in time with

launching the new website, which also starts the membership drive. Membership could easily be verified through any internet connection.

to B.1.b.: “No refund” policy on dues?: Approved

This issue had already been decided by approving the “Membership Policies” (see point IV. OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS (8/24/08), 5th bullet point: “NASSPDA's membership year is the calendar year. Dues are not refundable and are not prorated for partial year membership.”).

to B.1.c., e. & f.i.:

Anyone can create a login to enter NASSPDA’s new website. However, only enrolling as a member by paying one’s yearly dues will give that person full access to all the functionality of the website. The plan is, that once payment has been received, membership and its full benefits will have started. Google Check-out will return a message to our treasurer after received payment. The treasurer will work out coordination of this process with the website developer, so that the website and new member will instantly receive this confirmation.

to B.1.d.:

The data on this new website is set up to be sorted and searched by the chosen “Nickname,” entered at initial creation of login. Since not everyone has and would like to use a nickname, this function will default to the person’s first name.

to B.1.f.ii.:

The new website is capable of sending out a standard welcome letter to newly joining members. The Membership Chair will write up a draft, and present it to the Board for further discussion.

to B.2.:

The Board agreed to the direction the development of the logo is taking. All comments were immediately forwarded during this meeting via e-mail to Kieran, who is currently NASSPDA’s consultant on the graphics of the website project.

to B.3.: Location for North American title event of 2009: Approved

Since Vancouver is planning to have the North American Championships in 2011 along with a North American sporting and cultural event, “April Follies” was approved to hold this year the 2009 North American Championships.

to B.4.: Discussion on summarized report from Governance Committee: Postponed

This meeting was purposely called to discuss the launching of the new website and along with that any issues with the membership drive, therefore discussion of this summary was postponed to the next scheduled meeting.

to B.5.:

The date and time for the next meeting was confirmed, which had already been set at the previous meeting for Sunday, January 25th, 2009, at 6:30 PM EST.

Meeting adjourned at ~7:35 PM EST.