

Notes for In-person Meeting on April 27, 2008

In attendance: Richard, Barbara, Benjamin, Citabria, Sonja & Winter
Apologies: Pat

Notes from last meeting:

Vote: Approved: unanimous Yes. Web notes need to be re-formatted.

Discussion on how long the web notes should be and whether agendas should be published on web prior to meetings ensued:

Should the public be able to see more than just a brief outline of meetings? Some felt that as a transparent organization the public should know how individual members vote on issues. However this could possibly weaken board unity and could create friction between board members – would rather present one board voice. It was suggested that candidates' statements should provide the candidates' points of view.

There is an advantage in expressing how the discussion developed.

Suggestion to have a simple summary bullet point version to the web with each bullet linked to a more detailed version.

It was noted that most non-profit boards meetings are open. Publishing agendas allows the general membership to voice their opinion to individual Board members so that the board knows how the membership feels and can bring that voice to the table.

It was also stated that it is important for us to communicate with the membership to let them know how we are progressing.

There was consensus (but no vote) that we would not publish the agenda just yet – there was a feeling that we are too early in our development to do so but that we would re-visit this subject once we have “members”.

There was no agreement on how to publish the web notes.

Votes taken by email:

The only email vote was on the Mission statement which was approved with the following change:

“not-for-profit” to be changed to “non-profit”

We continued discussion of SANCTIONING Events:

Language change: We will “SANCTION” events and “AUTHORIZE” titles.

Sanction for events should be permanent as long as they comply with the NASSPDA rules. Titles give an event an advantage and to be fair to other events titles should be time limited.

Why would an event want to be sanctioned? Because it creates an incentive for the public to attend the event.

VOTE: Unanimous Yes

Policy on email address for board members and chairs of standing committees:

It was agreed that we would use the following structure for email addresses:
First initial and last name (flast@nasspda.org). If there are two individuals that have the same first initial and last name then a middle initial will be added (fmfirst@nasspda.org).
VOTE: Unanimous Yes

Non-profit info:

There is a difference between a Non profit and a not for profit. Exact differences no one knew.

The question was raised whether there is an advantage to incorporating in California?

Advantages are:

- California does not hold non-profit board members personally liable for the organizations finances. (Other states do requiring them to have board liability insurance.)
- It is likely that the board will always have a Californian board member.

We agreed on “non-profit” language because that’s the legal designation used by California. The Board agreed unanimously to incorporate in California.

Elections policies / board composition:

We agreed that all Yahoo Polls should be set up so that we know who voted and how, but we reserve the right to choose to have a closed poll at any time.

It was proposed that we created a Policy and Procedures section on the website with dates on each policy.

VOTE: Unanimous Yes

Membership discussion:

We reviewed the proposed membership categories:

- Individual
 - Honorary
- Organization
- Affiliate (non-voting)

Discussion was held on whether organization members should only be able to vote on certain things. No conclusion to this discussion.

Chapters were brought up: We are too small to have chapters at this time. The issue will be re-visited when the organization is larger and can support chapters.

What is an Organization Member?

- A dance club
- A dance studio
- An event organizing group
- Organizations must be represented by a designated individual who has the power to vote on behalf of the organization (Designated individual can also have an Individual membership in their own name.)

What is an Honorary Member? Someone who has:

- Made a significant and enduring contribution to the community
- Would receive the same benefits as an Individual Member but would have dues waived
- It would be a lifetime membership.

Affiliate members would be non-voting, non-dues paying individuals or organizations who wish to be affiliated with NASSPDA.

Discussion on Dues:

Dues brings up the following issues:

- Individuals who cannot afford the dues
- Organizations who can easily afford the dues
- Needing a Treasurer to track money

Discussion on individual membership dues amount:

Should there be a sliding scale or should we offer a waiver upon request? We agreed not to have a sliding scale or to offer dues waivers.

What does the money allow us to do? Should the dues amount be based on the purpose we want to use it for?

We agree that the initial dues should be attractive, affordable and accessible to potential members.

Since we don't yet have a budget to estimate dues amounts we need a "magic number". \$25 and \$30 were suggested as the "magic number".

As the extra \$5 from \$30 dues would bring in a considerable amount of money but would not make a significant difference to an individual, it was proposed that we use \$30 for the "magic number" for individual dues.

What is the magic number for organizations? \$100 and \$150 were suggested.

Discussion ensued: For-profit organizations, i.e. Dance studios would easily afford \$150 – event organizations and dance clubs could not.

Should there be different categories of organization members – there was some concern that profit organizations get benefits at too low of a fee. Counter-argument: If the threshold is low, then there is more possibility of profit organizations supporting us as they see how much interest in NASSPDA there is. It is better to create a larger base to start with.

We agreed NOT to split the organization membership category.

VOTE on basic membership structure as outlined above: Unanimous Yes

VOTE on Individual Membership dues of \$30: Unanimous Yes

VOTE on Organization Membership dues of \$100: Unanimous Yes

Discussion moved on to the Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities of each category:

Individuals:

- A vote
- Access to the NA Title
- Promotes and furthers same-sex dance
- Optional white pages listing on website
- Other as yet unstated
- Possible discounts on NASSPDA benefits such as a yellow-pages type listing

Organizations:

- A vote
- Access to the same-sex dance community
- Events can be sanctioned

Further discussion on Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities is needed. Sub-committee to deal with this is needed.

Report on status of 5 Boros comp: Nothing to report

Report on status of website: Up and running.

Set up next meeting:

Saturday May 10 at 4pm EDT, 3pm CDT, 1pm PDT

Sunday June 1 at 6pm EDT, 5pm CDT, 3pm PDT