

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on September 27th, 2009

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, September 27th, 2009, at 6:33 PM EDT.
In attendance: Winter Held (chair of “board governance” committee), Pat Hogan, Richard Lamberty (co-chair), Citabria Phillips (chair of election committee), Benjamin Soencksen (secretary), & Barbara Zoloth (co-chair & treasurer)
Apologies: Sonja Furiya (membership chair)

The following agenda was posted on September 21st, 2009, edited and posted again on September 26th, 2009:

A. Standing Items

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

B. Old Business

1. Creation of unified rules and structure requirements for sanctioned competitions
2. Create mechanism that allows Board to send e-mails to members and possibly also non-members
3. Election Committee: updates
4. Clarification of the procedure to be used for identifying the recipient of a Rainbow Ballroom award

C. New Business

1. ESSDA issue raised by Membership Chair
2. Scholarship fund for new memberships
3. Soliciting/receiving donations
4. NASSPDA preference for Gay Games City 2014

D. Schedule next Board meeting

A. Standing Items

to A.1. & A.2.: Minutes & Notes 090830: Approved

to A.3.: Current balance in checking account is \$742.04.

B. Old Business

to B.1.:

The Secretary posted to the Board a 2nd Workdraft of NASSPDA’s Competition Rules, which incorporates all the changes discussed in the previous meeting as well as any grammatical editing that various members had proposed.

Due to time constraints, the Board didn’t continue on the work it had started in the previous meeting, but rather listened to a report on some research that had been done in regard to customary rules adapted for Argentine Tango competitions. Those competitions rules differ from the customary set-up in International and/or American Style competitions. This seems to also apply to Country Western dance competitions. It was therefore suggested to include in NASSPDA’s set of rules a summary of these findings as a recommendation to organizers, but not as a requirement for those categories.

to B.2.:

The creation of some kind of mechanism, which would allow NASSPDA to send e-mails directly from its database through its website, proves to be difficult. In the meantime, the Board will have to continue communicating to NASSPDA members and non-members through direct e-mail from an individual Board member's account. Related to this, an "Update Letter" will soon be sent to NASSPDA members and non-members, NASSPDA's membership policies will be updated with the added level of "Team Membership," and the language of the automated "Welcome Letter" to new joining members will be updated.

to B.3.:

Prior to this meeting, the Chair of the Election Committee posted an update on the process and actions taken by the committee to the Board. The Board thanked the Chair for this update, and agreed unanimously that it doesn't see any conflict regarding the Chair functioning as proposed, since the Chair has already declined to be re-nominated for continued service on the Board. It was also agreed that all current positions on the Board are up for election, since each Board member has served already 2 years.

to B. 4.: Postponed

The members of Rainbow Ballroom, who have proposed a donation to NASSPDA contingent on establishing an award for extraordinary contribution(s) to the community, are continuing working on a more distinct proposal in regards to the process, but haven't reached yet conclusive results to be presented to the Board.

C. New Business

to C.1.:

The Membership Committee Chair reported from the Outgames in Copenhagen that the European community is seeking to bring the Outgames (GLISA) and Gay Games (FGG) back together into one event recurring every 4 years, which is supported by ESSDA. Seeking a closer relationship, ESSDA has become an "Affiliate Member" with NASSPDA, and NASSPDA has applied for "Associate Membership" with ESSDA. NASSPDA will also look into the benefits and necessary procedures to become a member with the FGG and GLISA, which ESSDA has already completed. The Board agrees with the effort of ESSDA and other organizations to get GLISA and the FGG having at the very least a continued dialogue, and establish some form of cooperation, and encourages NASSPDA's members to voice their opinions on the issue.

to C.2. & 3.: Postponed

Due to time constraints, these 2 items on the agenda have been postponed.

to C.4.: Approved

Being an Associate Member of the FGG, ESSDA requested a recommendation from NASSPDA in which direction to steer the final vote regarding the hosting city of the Gay Games 2014. Out of the 3 cities in the final running, Boston, Cleveland, and Washington, DC, the Board recommended Boston.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th, 2009, at 6:30 PM EDT. This meeting adjourned at ~7:55 PM EDT.