

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on November 14th, 2009

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Saturday, November 14th, 2009, at ~6:35 PM EDT.
In attendance: Winter Held (chair of “board governance” committee), Pat Hogan,
Citabria Phillips (election committee chair), Benjamin Soencksen (secretary) & Barbara
Zoloth (co-chair & treasurer)

Apologies: Sonja Furiya (membership chair) – *leave of absence*

Absent: Richard Lamberty (co-chair)

The following agenda was posted prior to meeting on November 2nd, 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
 - a. Argentine Tango and Country Western sections
2. Create mechanism that allows Board to send e-mails to members and possibly also non-members
3. Election Committee report
 - a. Update on nominees
 - b. Remaining timeline:

Vetting finished by Thanksgiving weekend

Voting opens Dec 1

Voting closes Dec 15

Results announced Dec 16

4. Clarification of the procedure to be used for identifying the recipient of a Rainbow Ballroom award

C. New Business

1. Scholarship fund for new memberships
2. Soliciting/receiving donations
3. NASSPDA involvement in Gay Games 2014 in Cleveland
4. NASSPDA Formation Team Championship
 - a. How many ribbons shall we provide?
 - b. Does Team membership purchased in 2010 entitle a Formation Team to compete for the both the 2009 and 2010 titles since both events will be held in 2010?
5. Should NASSPDA post results from all sanctioned competitions?

D. Schedule next Board meeting

A. Standing Items

to A.1.: All Approved

The Board has approved the following polls since the previous meeting:

- I. Process of determining which 3 slots of the 7 members of the Board of Directors are up for re-election, including those that are resigning, to adjust to staggered terms, yet still maintain continuity;
- II. Revised Board election schedule: Call for nominations: to go out ASAP; Deadline for nominations: Nov 8; Vetting to be finished: Thanksgiving weekend; Voting opens: Dec 1; Voting closes: Dec 15; Results announced: Dec 19;
- III. Latest draft of the “update letter” to members and non-members;
- IV. Choice for this meeting’s date and time:
Saturday, Nov. 14th, 2009, @ 3:30 PM PDT/5:30 PM CDT/6:30 PM EST;
- V. Nomination instructions;
- VI. “Announcement of the election” letter to members and non-members;
- VII. Candidate’s statement form;
- VIII. Application for Associate Membership with FGG (\$100.00) and as an Int'l Federation with GLISA NA (\$0.00).

to A.2.: Minutes & Notes 091018 (no quorum) Posted

to A.3.: Current checking account balance is \$828.53.

B. Old Business

to B.1.:

A newly proposed outline for reorganizing the 2nd workdraft of “NASSPDA’s Competition Rules” found approval, and will be implemented. Additionally, it was suggested to get a hold of the rules set forth by the FGG in the “Red Book,” which define the requirements for the competitions during the Gay Games.

to B.2.:

Mechanism is near completion. Other changes have been made to the administrative functions of the website.

to B.3.:

Nomination deadline was extended to Wednesday, November 11th, 2009. 5 candidates have been nominated to fill 3 open slots on the Board of Directors: Sonja Furiya (up for re-election), Gene La Pierre, Lee Fox, Kieren Jameson, and Christopher Kelleher. One more candidacy was submitted after the already extended deadline passed, and was rejected. Winter Held and Citabria Phillips will go off the Board as they finish out their terms of office at the end of this year. The following 4 Directors will not be up for re-election as their terms have been extended for one year to enact the overlapping terms requirement of the By-Laws: Pat Hogan, Richard Lamberty, Benjamin Soencksen, and Barbara Zoloth.

to B.4.: Postponed

There is a possibility that “Rainbow Ballroom” might be resurrected. Therefore, any further discussion was postponed.

C. New Business

to C.1. & 2.: Postponed

to C.3.:

One of the first steps to get involved with the Gay Games 2014 in Cleveland has been taken. Applications for membership in the FGG & GLISA have been submitted.

to C.4.b.: Approved

To present one trophy per team placing 3rd, 2nd and 1st in the annual NASSPDA Formation Team Championship was approved by the Board.

to C.4.a.: Approved

Along with granting the exception to the “Dancing in the River City” competition in January to hold the NASSPDA Formation Team Championship, the Board approved granting any team, which has registered and paid for a team membership in 2010, to be eligible for garnering both, the 2009 as well as the 2010 (in Philly), championship titles.

to C.5.:

The requirement to report results to NASSPDA for authorized titles awarded will be expanded to require reporting of results for all events held be sanctioned competitions. This change will not apply to past sanctioned competitions. However, it is optional to comply retroactively.

Added New Business

Two issues, one of which was deemed time sensitive, were added to this meeting’s focus:

I. Past weekend’s “California Dreaming” competition

Several issues were raised about this competition in the context of its NASSPDA sanctioned status. The competition’s website have listed all American Style graded events as championships, which is a violation for NASSPDA sanctioned competitions (not authorized to award titles), and the only mentioning of NASSPDA’s sanctioning appeared on the “Partner/Volunteer” page without a link to NASSPDA’s website. There had also been some critical reactions to the organizer’s claim of being the “largest same-sex partner dance competition in the US” (interpreted by some publications as “in the world”). The Board decided to formulate rules and penalties for future infractions of its established policies, and to ask the organizers this time for a corrective statement.

II. Value Statement regarding Profit

Simplified, this issue revolves around NASSPDA’s stand towards making an “undue” profit out of same-sex partner dancing in any way. The Board feels that such action/behavior does not reflect or speak to the values of the community. NASSPDA, itself a non-profit organization, has so far sanctioned competitions organized by for- and non-profit entities, and will continue to do so. But it also does not want to define or separate between “professional” and “amateur” dancers/competitors. The suggestion to possibly define, which configurations of profit making entities NASSPDA might accept to work with was rejected. But it was agreed that some kind of value statement from NASSPDA might be beneficial to formulate.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next meeting is scheduled as a conference call for Sunday, December 13th, 2009, at 6:30 PM EST.

This meeting adjourned at approx. 8:00 PM EST.