

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on July 11th, 2010

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, July 11th, 2010, at ~6:31 PM EDT.

In attendance: Lee Fox (Treasurer; joined at ~6:33 PM EDT), Christopher Kelleher, Richard Lamberty (Vice-President), Benjamin Soencksen (Secretary & FGG Delegate) & Barbara Zoloth (President)

Apologies: Sonja Furiya (Membership Chair), Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative & Communications Director)

The agenda was posted on July 2nd, 2010:

A. Standing Items

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

B. Old Business

1. Update on rules issuance
2. Response to comments from members, non-members
 - a. Can we generate an automatic response to members?
 - b. How do we want to respond to non-members—tell them they have to join, invite them to join, other?
3. Update on a mechanism that allows Board to send emails to members and possibly also non-members
4. Update on Membership renewal
5. Having Affiliate Memberships expire annually -- update
6. Communication with competition organizers:
 - a. “California Dreaming”

C. New Business

1. Update on website
2. Information about “Ning”
3. Upcoming competitions
 - a. “California Dreaming” next competition
 - b. Proposal to make authorization of U.S. Championship to “April Follies” recurring.
4. Scholarship fund for new memberships
5. Update on coordination with FGG/ESSDA/GLISA and Gay Games attendance
6. How to resolve disputes when someone says another couple is one in which one dancer is paying the other
7. Fiscal sponsorship

D. Schedule next Board meeting

A. Standing Items

to A.1.: N/A

to A.2.: Approved: Minutes & Notes 100613

to A.3.: Account balance at \$2,456.66.

B. Old Business

to B.1.:

The Membership Chair has e-mailed the draft version “100623” of NASSPDA’s Competition Rules to all current members on July 5th, 2010, for comments. Any members, who have joined or renewed their membership after this date and prior to September 1st, 2010, which is the final date for comments, will be e-mailed this version from the Membership Chair as well.

to B.2.a.:

Members, who will send their comments to the presented rules to rules@nasspda.org, will receive an automatic response letter from NASSPDA’s Secretary, thanking for the welcomed input and assuring its consideration. So far, no comments have been received!

to B.2.b.:

The Secretary will check each response against NASSPDA’s membership list first, in order to determine whether a member or non-member send in a comment. If it was send in by a non-member, this person will be thanked for the effort to contribute and strongly encouraged to join NASSPDA, in order to strengthen the mission and goals of this organization.

to B.3.: see C.2.

to B.4.:

Current status of membership:

Active Individual Members:	46
Active Organization Members:	5
Lapsed Members:	27
Affiliate Members:	24

to B.5.:

It was agreed to change the status of “Affiliate Membership” to a renewable membership, which means that type of membership will expire as well. As soon as this change has been implemented in NASSPDA’s system, the Membership Chair will contact all affiliate members encouraging them to renew or upgrade to a full membership.

to B.6.:

It is unclear whether “California Dreaming” will in fact take place this year and who exactly will be the organizer. Unconfirmed rumors seem to indicate that the organizers are unfamiliar with NASSPDA and might not understand the importance of NASSPDA’s support. Continued efforts to get clarification and to establish contact will be made!

C. New Business

to C.1.:

The Board agreed that NASSPDA’s website is at this point embarrassingly out-of-date, which therefore will take priority directly following this meeting.

to C.2. & B.3.:

At the previous meeting, it was suggested to look into an Internet service called “Ning” (www.ning.com), which could possible replace the current website system. Research though concluded that this system might not be capable to accommodate/identify

different membership levels, which is why this social networking service may not be a good match for NASSPDA. Additionally, it was agreed that the current campaign soliciting comments on the proposed competition rules prohibits immediate change.

to C.3.a.: see B.6.

to C.3.b.: Postponed

to C.4.:

Having postponed a discussion and decision on this agenda item for quite a long time, the Board agreed that there isn't enough support amongst its Directors for this idea, and therefore to discard the agenda item.

to C.5.:

The FGG's Annual Assembly of delegates will take place on Sunday, August 8th, 2010, in Cologne following the Gay Games. As an affiliate member, NASSPDA has no voting rights. The Board agreed that participation doesn't seem necessary, and based on several other factors the Board will not ask NASSPDA's delegate to attend.

The Chair of the Red Book Committee reported a continued lack of progress based on the unresponsiveness of ESSDA. Though eventually it was promised to address this issue at ESSDA's annual membership meeting on Monday, August 2nd, 2010, in Cologne.

NASSPDA's representative to GLISA reported that the dates for the Dancesport event, which will also be NASSPDA's Annual Championships, at GLISA's 2011 North American Outgames in Vancouver are Thursday, July 28th, and Friday, July 29th, 2011, and that it will include Country Western.

to C.6.:

NASSPDA's rules regarding the classification and definition of a Pro-Am couple is based on an honor system through self-identification. Should fellow competitors and/or organizers though question/dispute a couple's definition (for example: because they have overheard some reference to the fact that one dancer is paying the other to dance with -- it is unlikely that tangible proof can be presented), the Board agreed that the only resolution available to the head judge is questioning personally and directly the alleged the couple.

If the couple denies the allegation, no further action shall or can be taken, and if confirmed, the couple will not be excluded (unless that competition has a specific separate category for Pro-Am couples, and it was made clear by the organizer prior to the competition that all other categories exclude the participation of self-defined/-identified Pro-Am couples), but identified as not eligible to garner any title, based on the current version of NASSPDA's competition rules.

to C.7.:

Since there are no current requests for such sponsoring, and since much seems to depend on the individual case scenario, further discussion on the issue was tabled.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next conference call meeting was confirmed for August 22nd, 2010, at 6:30 PM EDT. This meeting adjourned at approx. 7:55 PM EDT.