

## **Meeting of NASSPDA Board on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

### **MINUTES:**

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at ~4:03 PM EST.

In attendance: Lee Fox (Treasurer), Sonja Furiya (Membership Chair), Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative & Communications Director), Christopher Kelleher (Vice-President), Benjamin Soencksen (Secretary & FGG Delegate), Mario Spenard & Barbara Zoloth (President)

The President posted the following agenda on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

#### **A. Standing Items**

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

#### **B. Old Business**

1. Proposed changes in NASSPDA Board Policies and Procedures —remaining questions
  - a. Definition of quorum and “super majority”
  - b. Committee to review and “rationalize” policy and procedure documents
2. Creating application process and criteria for judges
  - a. Additional non-Board member for the committee
  - b. Process approved last month to be implemented starting with 2013
3. Coordination with other organizations
  - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
    - i. Report on searching for local organizers
    - ii. Have Gay Games organizers contacted anyone in Cleveland about venue or organizing the DanceSport competition?
  - b. IFSSDA
4. Website (wish list for NASSPDA website)
  - a. How to manage website? How to make it more user-friendly?
  - b. Add links to photos and videos from specific competitions
  - c. Separate page for former Board members
  - d. Separate page for competition rules
  - e. Timeline of NASSPDA history and history of same-sex ballroom
  - f. Donate button
  - g. When an event is posted, an email is supposed to be sent notifying NASSPDA for review and approval -- this seems not to be working correctly
  - h. Page/location for archiving NASSPDA newsletters
  - i. Ability for all members to see list of other members
  - j. Create a music library with more “contemporary” songs
5. Membership initiatives
  - a. Newsletter report
  - b. Membership renewal
6. 2012 Board Elections
7. Upcoming/recent competitions
  - a. Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge (PLDC), March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, US & PA Championships
  - b. April Follies, April 28, 2012, CA Championship

8. Non-Board committees
  - a. Dance Camp committee
  - b. Queer Youth Outreach committee

**C. New Business**

1. Medals for winners of lower grades; participation medals. Report on financial impact. Whether to require both partners to be NASSPDA members.
2. Request for written history of same-sex ballroom dance; judging rules; grading criteria; how judges are selected; why are men and women judged separately; what is equality dance; how are formation team and show dance judged; etc.
3. Request for additional rules/regulations for Argentine Tango
4. Sell ads in our Newsletter to studios, coaches, etc?
5. Honorary membership for Richard Lamberty?

**D. Schedule next Board meeting(s)**

**A. Standing Items**

to A.1.: N/A

to A.2.: Approved

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to A.3.:

Account balance at the time of this meeting: \$5,070.98; Constant Contact subscription renewed.

**B. Old Business**

to B.1.a. & b.: Postponed

to B.2.a. & b.:

Language to be added to NASSPDA's Competition Rules, which will regulate the application and selection process for NASSPDA's list of endorsed adjudicators, is being worked on. A list for selecting one additional member to the Judges Committee has been created, considering gender and/or geographical representation.

to B.3.a.:

No updates on any progress for Cleveland 2014, but negotiations between the FGG and GLISA for the jointly planned event in 2018 are continuing.

to B.3.b.:

No updates on the progress of establishing IFSSDA as a legal entity.

to B.4.a. through j.: Postponed

The Board agreed, based on research and recommendation presented by the Membership Chair, to temporarily hire a web savvy person for switching web hosting to a company called "Bigtent," which is a free on-line service, seems to be user friendly and features the functions needed.

to B.5.a.:

February's eNewsletter was opened by 130 of 206 recipients, a very higher margin. The next issue is targeted to go out in the middle of April.

to B.5.b.:

A second renewal notice was sent to all members with a lapsed membership. Currently, NASSPDA has 54 Individual, 4 Organizational and 4 Team memberships active for 2012, with 3 additional Individual memberships still pending.

to B.6.:

The election to re-elect three Board members running unopposed is in process, with 20 members having cast their vote(s). The election will close on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, and results will be announced by Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**to B.7.a.:**

The Board contacted the organizer of PLDC with the request to correct/address several issues. Membership has since been renewed.

In addition, the Board reiterated that anyone may participate in the US NASSPDA Championships, regardless of residency and membership status, but couples are only eligible to garner a title, if (a) at least one partner (half the members of a formation team) is a resident of the US, and (b) within 2012 this couple/team doesn't represent the country/nation of the other partner (half the members of a formation team) in another national championship.

**to B.7.b.:**

The organizers of April Follies have all judges confirmed, but a scrutineer has yet to be secured. Since registration has opened, about 50 participants have registered, including from Australia, Copenhagen and Vancouver.

**to B.8.a.:**

Dance Camp Committee: no update

**to B.8.b.:**

Queer Youth Outreach Committee: no update

**C. New Business**

**to C.1.:**

Awarding medals to all winners of all grades/classes at future annual North American NASSPDA Championships is being considered along with requiring both members of a medal awarded couple to carry an active membership with NASSPDA.

**to C.2.:**

One topic from the list of summaries/explanations of the various procedures used within a competition for audience and competitors will be selected per future eNewsletters.

**to C.3.:**

A response by the Board to the request of a NASSPDA member for a better and stricter standard of Argentine Tango in NASSPDA sanctioned competitions will be send out shortly.

**to C.4.:**

A proposal to consider selling ad space on NASSPDA's eNewsletter and/or website to dance studios, coaches, vendors of dance articles, etc. is under consideration, as well as making printouts of the eNewsletter available at events.

**to C.5.:** Approved

The Board unanimously approved to award Richard Lamberty a lifetime honorary membership.

**D. Schedule next Board meeting**

The next conference call meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, at 4:00 PM EDT. A NASSPDA Community Meeting is scheduled on the next day following April Follies.