

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on July 7th, 2012

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Saturday, July 7th, 2012, at ~3:35 PM EDT.

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

Guest: Rob Smitherman, Sports Director for Gay Games 9, Cleveland (joined ~4:42 PM EDT)

Absent: Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative & Communications Director)

The President posted the following agenda on June 13th, 2012, and reposted a revised version on July 6th, 2012, with requested additions by Board member Mario Spenard from June 18th, 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
 - c. Election of Board members/officers
2. Adjudicator application process update
3. Coordination with other organizations
 - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
 - i. Report on searching for local organizers
 - ii. Possible conversation with Rob Smitherman, Sports Director for Gay Games 9 Cleveland + Akron
 - iii. Have Gay Games organizers contacted anyone in Cleveland about venue or organizing the DanceSport competition?
 - iv. Scope of competition (Country Western?; Argentine Tango?)
 - b. IFSSDA update
4. Website
5. Membership initiatives
 - a. Newsletter report
 - b. Membership renewal
6. Upcoming/recent competitions
 - a. April Follies, April 28th, 2012, CA Championship
 - b. La Fiesta of Montreal, June 2nd, 2012
7. Non-Board committees
 - a. Dance Camp committee
 - b. Queer Youth Outreach committee
8. Newsletter classified ads
 - a. How often can members post?
 - b. Maximum length?
 - c. Can affiliate members post or just dues paying members?
 - d. Can members advertise for dance partners?

- e. What do organizational members get to do? Can individuals post info about competitions or should it be just the organizational members who do this?
- f. How many different events can one member post?
- 9. Request for additional rules/regulations for Argentine Tango
- 10. Stickers for NASSPDA medals

C. New Business

- 1. 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.
- 2. Competition Rule D2. Rule 1.A: Inquiry about length and tempo of music during competition, and required announcement about length for classification rounds
- 3. Outdance.org calendar: Add Canadian cities and provinces?

D. Schedule next Board meeting(s)

A. Standing Items

to A.1.: Approved

N/A

to A.2.: Approved

Minutes & Notes 120520

to A.3.:

Account balance at the time of this meeting: \$5,482.24.

B. Old Business

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

to B.2.:

Three organizers that hold annually NASSPDA sanctioned competitions were mailed a copy of NASSPDA's Competition Rules Version 111030 with the 5th and 6th Amendments as well as a copy of the Adjudicator's Application Form. A list of approved adjudicators shall be available to everyone through NASSPDA's website.

to B.3.a.i. through iii.:

Contact has been made with Sports Director Rob Smitherman, who is part of the organizational team of the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, and who agreed to join this meeting. Negotiations currently under way to secure the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland, which features a two-tier grand ballroom with a permanent built-in wood floor, sound and lighting system, and is centrally located. Many of the 36 sports represented at these Games will have to rely on support from local mainstream sports organizations, and the response so far has been extremely positive. General registration for the 2014 Gay Games already started online, but specific registration for individual sports will be phased in step by step. The Board and the Sports Director thanked each other for this opportunity to start this dialog and assured each other full cooperation.

to B.3.a.iv.: Postponed

IAGLCWDC has already expressed a strong interest in adding and being involved in Country Western dancing at these Games.

to B.3.b.:

No further update is available, but an in-person meeting is planned in Europe around September/October. Also, the IAGLCWDC has voted for giving funds to IFFSDA as well.

to B.4.:

Transferring NASSPDA's website to a new host had been delayed, but will move forward.

to B.5.a.:

The e-Newsletter was sent on June 21st, 2012, and opened by 42.7% with most clicks-throughs to the new same-sex dance calendar at Outdance.org. The next issue is planned for mid-August.

to B.5.b.:

No further update on membership issues.

to B.6.a.:

Judges' scores from April Follies are posted on NASSPDA's website, but not from PLDC, since participants names and numbers are still to be submitted.

to B.6.b.:

La Fiesta de Montreal was held on June 2nd, 2012, poorly attended, and organizers had not sought sanctioning from NASSPDA this year or renewed membership.

to B.7.a. & b.:

No updates from Dance Camp Committee and Queer Youth Outreach Committee.

to B.8.a. through f.:

Active NASSPDA members may in the future be able to post a brief "classified" ad in NASSPDA's e-Newsletter. Samples will be shown in a future issue giving parameters of what a classified may contain and accompanied by a disclaimer that these shall not be considered an endorsement by NASSPDA.

to B.9.: Postponed

The response letter on this issue is still waiting to be fully approved by all Board members.

to B.10.: Postponed

Stickers for the medals of the annually held North American NASSPDA Championships, instead of individualizing the ribbons, have not yet been researched.

C. New Business

to C.1.:

It is planned to address these topics more at length on the newly hosted website, once transferred, and the e-Newsletter will feature "teasers" with reference to the new website.

to C.2.:

The Board had decided not to reinvent the wheel; especially since the tempi restrictions cited by the various mainstream organizations are universally applied. Additionally, regarding infractions about length of music played during sanctioned competitions, the Board's stand, for the time being, has been so far to give the acceptance of and adherence to NASSPDA's Competition Rules some time. Notices of infractions will and have been shared with organizers.

to C.3.:

The website www.outdance.org is up and running, featuring a calendar for same-sex dance events. This website has been initiated and is maintained by the organizers of April Follies, BASSDA. It currently features 6 US cities on the home page, and it has been requested to add St. Louis and Canadian cities.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next conference call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 26th, 2012, at 3:30 PM EDT.