

## **Meeting of NASSPDA Board on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

### **MINUTES:**

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at ~1:08 PM EDT.  
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 August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011:

### **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. Committee to define qualifications for judge
3. Coordination with other organizations
  - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
    - i. Oct 23-25 Toronto FGG meeting—has the agenda been posted? Do we know enough to decide whether a NASSPDA Board member should attend?
  - b. IFSSDA: Request for 100 Euros from both NASSPDA and ESSDA to fund the beginnings of IFSSDA.
4. Website
  - a. Mechanism to add links to photos and videos from specific competitions: location for posting photos by event not yet created
  - b. Update on separate page for listing past Board members
    - i. On a separate page?
    - ii. Add dates of service?
  - c. Update on creating and posting timeline of NASSPDA history and history of same-sex ballroom
  - d. Add “donate” button
5. Membership initiatives
  - a. Newsletter report
6. Report on NASSPDA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, July 30, 2011
7. Upcoming/recent competitions (including placement of NASSPDA ads)
  - a. North America Outgames July 28-29, 2011
    - i. Need a few additional trophies
    - ii. Can we get additional ribbons for “unused” medals?
    - iii. Report on competition rules issue
  - b. Manatee Madness, September 17, 2011
  - c. Dancing in the River City, January 15, 2012, NASSPDA Championship
  - d. Philadelphia Liberty Challenge, March ??, 2012: USA Championship?

- e. April Follies, April 28, 2012: USA Championship?
- 7. Non-Board committees
  - a. Dance Camp committee
  - b. Queer Youth Outreach committee

**C. New Business**

1. Board to consider creating Chair of Social Dance & ask for input in next newsletter
2. Authorize expenditure of 100 Euros to IFSSDA as requested
3. NASSPDA ad in Sundance Stompede program

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

**A. Standing Items**

to A.1.: N/A

to A.2.: Approved

2nd Draft of Minutes & Notes 110717

to A.3.:

The Treasurer reported NASSPDA's account balance at \$4,385.22, which includes a donation and membership fees as well as expenses for an ad placement and NASSPDA's Annual Meeting.

**B. Old Business**

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

It is hoped and planned that this committee will be able to take up the work within the next month and report to the Board.

to B.2.:

The "Judges Committee" has also not yet started its work. The Chair of this committee suggests though that the criteria manifested in NASSPDA's Competition Rules are sufficient, and that the next step should be creating an application process similar to IAGLCWDC.

to B.3.a.:

Since the main focus for FGG's Annual Meeting in Toronto will be on election and proposals for changing by-laws and procedures, which will include the adoption of the proposed new format and revised contents of the Red Book for Gay Games 2014.

Because of the work done by ESSDA's and NASSPDA's joined Red Book Committee, participation doesn't seem necessary.

NASSPDA has no members in the area of Cleveland/Akron, and is therefore though seeking for connections to or knowledge of same-sex and/or mainstream dance groups in that area.

to B.3.b.: Approved

The Board approved to contribute 100 Euros, in order to legally set-up up IFSSDA, which had been proposed to each participating association, ESSDA, IAGLCWDC and NASSPDA.

to B.4.a.:

No further update on this item was available at the time of this meeting.

to B.4.b.i. & ii.:

On NASSPDA's website, under "About Us," former Board members will be listed separately from current members, along with their year(s) of service.

**to B.4.c.:**

The creation of a timeline of NASSPDA's history and the history of same-sex partner dancing is getting closer to completion. This project is worked on by a former Board member with the help of a friend on formatting.

**to B.4.d.:**

The necessary information to create a "donate" button on NASSPDA's website has been collected.

**to B.5.a.:**

NASSPDA's 3<sup>rd</sup> eNewsletter went out on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and was opened by 40.4%. The Board congratulated the Vice-President and the Communications Director on this success. The next eNewsletter is scheduled to be sent out by October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**to B.6.:**

NASSPDA's Annual Membership Meeting (General Meeting), held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Vancouver, was relatively well attended.

The idea of a NASSPDA sponsored dance camp, as discussed at the Community Meeting at April Follies 2011, was liked, and some signed up to join the formed committee. Also, two questions/concerns were raised and discussed:

- A. Concerns about the interpretation of NASSPDA's Competition Rules referring to the judging role-switching with a dance were voiced (page 15, Section C.2, Rule 4.3: under "Technical performance" & NOTE A) However, the Board confirmed that the rules adequately reflect its stand, which requires judges to include role-switching in their markings, since it is a higher risk and should be rewarded, if executed successfully.
- B. NASSPDA's Competition Rules outline possible level requirements of single dance categories (page 17, Section D.1, Rule 2.6), but don't determine which an organizer has to choose, and the Board feels that much of how an organizers sets criteria for their single dance events has to be dependent on the local dance scene. The focus of NASSPDA's Competition Rules is on authorized titles, which relates to multi-dance categories. In the future, once these categories significantly expand, NASSPDA might consider implementing a point system.

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

NASSPDA's North American Championships were held successfully on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Vancouver, for which the Board thanks the organizers.

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

Two missing championship medals have since been mailed out to the respective recipients.

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

NASSPDA is low on medals for its North American Championships. Cost for new medals reflecting the change in the championship's name to "NASSPDA's Annual *North American* Championships" will be researched.

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

After the competition, the second runners-up of male Standard Championship raised concerns on two issues:

- A. A couple got graded "A" without having danced in a grading round (though it remained unanswered, whether the couple danced in the grading round with the women)
- B. One partner of that couple registered with two partners to be graded for the same multi-dance event, and NASSPDA's Competition Rules seemingly prohibit one dancer to have two dance partners of two different levels within one graded multi-dance event.

to A.: Grading actually took place with the women's grading round, which could be an infraction of NASSPDA's Competition Rules, but was overruled by the head judge.

to B.: The Board determined that NASSPDA's Competition Rules, specifically the related rules of Section A., Rule 2.3 "Definition of a Category" and Rule 2.7 "Definition of Partners," requires clarification, and not clearly prohibits two partners. Generally, based on the still low numbers in attendance and the possibility of "non-self-identified" Pro/Am entries, it is deemed advisable to allow for such a variance within the rules.

In summary, no infraction of NASSPDA's Competition Rules occurred, especially since the head judge may make exceptions to those rules, which did occur in this case.

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

The competition "Manatee Madness" in Florida has been postponed to April 2012, and the planned inclusion of same-sex dancing has been cancelled, due to the NDCA's objection.

**to B.7.c.:**

No further update on this agenda item was available at the time of this meeting.

**to B.7.d.:**

The date of the Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge (PLDC) hosting NASSPDA's 2012 US Championships, which is usually on the last Saturday in March, still needs to be confirmed.

**to B.7.e.:** Approved

The Board unanimously approved asking all organizers of NASSPDA sanctioned competitions to offer a discount to participants in their competition, which gives a \$10 discount to all NASSPDA members at the point of registration, and for which the organizers will get reimbursed \$5 per person taking advantage of that discount by NASSPDA, as was for the first time successfully done at April Follies 2011.

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

No further update from the Dance camp Committee was available at the time of this meeting. The Board's liaison to this committee will contact this committee and request a report.

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

The Queer Youth Outreach Committee had a local meeting between 3 members in the Bay Area, forming a sub-committee named "Queer Dance Connection" (QDC). QDC wants to concentrate on the queer youth in the Bay Area by contacting schools, colleges and queer youth organizations, in order to invite to and organize dance classes, which will aim to prepare dancers/couples for participating at April Follies 2012. The Board is concerned though that the sub-committee's name does not include "youth," or makes any such reference.

**C. New Business**

**to C.1.: Postponed**

This agenda item has been postponed due to lack of time.

**to C.2.: Approved**

(see under “B. New Business, to B.3.b.”)

**to C.3.:**

The Board approved placing an ad by NASSPDA in the program of the upcoming Country Western dance event “Sundance Stompede” in San Francisco.

**D. Schedule next Board meeting**

The next conference call meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 1:00 PM EDT.

This meeting adjourned at approx. 2:30 PM EDT.