

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on February 26th, 2012

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, February 26th, 2012, at ~3:32 PM EDT.

In attendance: Lee Fox (Treasurer), Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative & Communications Director), Christopher Kelleher (Vice-President), Benjamin Soencksen (Secretary & FGG Delegate), Mario Spenard (left at 4:23 PM EDT) & Barbara Zoloth (President)

Apologies: Sonja Furiya (Membership Chair)

The President posted the following agenda on February 22nd, 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. Procedures for inviting applications
 - b. Procedures for selecting judges
 - c. Criteria for selecting judges
 - d. System of data collection and maintenance
3. Coordination with other organizations
 - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
 - i. Report on searching for local organizers
 1. Carlos Pabon (local organizer of comp)
 2. Gregory Day, who organized Chicago 2006
 3. Rainbow Wrangles in Cleveland
 - ii. Have Gay Games organizers contacted anyone in Cleveland
 - 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 31st, 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. Rule infractions at Sacramento: changing Competition Rules to allow repeat participation in Show Dance with a different partner. Limit # of times?
2. Medals for winners of lower grades; participation medals. Report on financial impact. Whether to require both partners to be NASSPDA members.
3. 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.
4. How to respond to request for additional rules/regulations for Argentine Tango?
5. Does NASSPDA want to put ads in
 - a. PLDC competition program -- do they have one?
 - b. April Follies competition program – ½ page is \$50, full page is \$100?

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: \$5,039.18

B. Old Business

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

to B.2.a. through d.:

The Judges Committee proposed the following:

- Use rule of NASSPDA's Competition Rules on Page 15, under C.2 Officials, Rule 4 Adjudicators/Judges, Rule 4.2 Qualifications, to determine whether an applicant qualifies.
 - Add one more non-Board member.
 - The committee is solely responsible for reviewing the applications.
 - The chair of the committee assimilates and distributes the applications to the committee via e-mail, and the committee shall have 2 weeks to review.
 - The committee votes to accept or decline application and reports during the Board's regular meetings on submitted applications and the committee's recommendations.

- The Board will then have the opportunity to briefly discuss and agree with or object to any decisions made by the committee.
- The application form shall be available for download on NASSPDA's website.
- Require organizers of NASSPDA sanctioned competition to have their invited judges submit an application to NASSPDA, if they are not yet NASSPDA approved.
- Implement this entire process starting with 2013.

to B.3.a.:

The FGG has approved further changes to the Red Book for other sports and several new members to the FGG. No reports from GLISA.

to B.3.a.i.1.:

No response or further communication at the time of this meeting.

to B.3.a.i.2.:

The organizer of Dancesport at the Gay Games 2006 in Chicago, Gregory Day, managed the competition with his team that helps him run an annually held mainstream competition in Chicago, but was not involved in venue selection, registration, etc.

to B.3.a.i.3.:

The Rainbow Wranglers, a local same-sex Country Western dance group in the Cleveland, is no longer in existence.

to B.3.a.ii.:

The Board wants to follow up with another inquiry about whether any outreach had been made to any group for organizing the DanceSport competition at the Gay Games 2014 and/or whether a venue is being sought, registration process being set-up, individual volunteers being approached, etc., by the organizers of Cleveland 2014.

to B.3.b.:

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

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

to B.5.a.:

The eNewsletter sent out in February was opened by a very high margin, but with lesser use of the embedded hyperlinks, which suggests the need for some reformatting.

to B.5.b.:

Renewal notices to all members with a lapsed membership were sent on January 31st, 2012.

to B.6.:

No additional nominations to the three Board members up for re-election have been received by the deadline, February 26th, 2012.

to B.7.a.:

Several outstanding issues that had been discussed with the organizers of the PLDC have not yet been resolved, and some new issues still need to be addressed.

to B.7.b.:

No further updates on the organization of this upcoming competition.

to B.8.a.:

The Board's new liaison to NASSPDA's Dance Camp Committee has made some outreach efforts to committee members with limited success. NASSPDA's role seems to

be shifting from helping organize an event through the committee to identifying existing same-sex partner dance camps/weekends organized locally and to sanctioning those.

to B.8.b.:

No further updates on the Queer Youth Outreach Committee.

C. New Business

to C.1.:

Regarding inconsistencies with NASSPDA's Competition Rules during the North American NASSPDA Championships at "Dancing in the River City" in Sacramento in January, a letter from the Board was sent to the organizers pointing out and explaining these, but no further action was taken, since the Board considers this part of the growing pains.

Along with this incident, the Board decided to add an exception without limitation for the Showdance category, which will allow multiple partners in the future.

to C.2.: Postponed

Due to time constraint, the unavailability of all the data, and because the next Championships will be in April 2013, the Board agreed to postpone discussion on this issue to a later date.

to C.3.:

Regarding the request for summaries/explanations of the various procedures used within a competition, it was decided to address each topic in various issues of NASSPDA's eNewsletter.

to C.4.:

The Board affirmed that it fully supports and welcomes all same-sex partner dancers from the Argentine Tango scene, but that the request to include specific rules for Argentine Tango is unwarranted at this point.

to C.5.a. & b.:

The Board agreed to place ads in the programs of the upcoming PLDC and April Follies.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next conference call meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 18th, 2012, at 4:00 PM_EDT.