

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on September 20th, 2013

MINUTES:

In-person meeting started on Friday, September 20th, 2013, at ~9:00 PM EDT.

Location: Union Bar & Grille, 1357 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118

In attendance: Lee Fox (Treasurer & Finance Committee Co-Chair), Garret Gerritsen (Membership Co-Chair & Finance Committee Co-Chair), Christopher Kelleher (Vice-President), Benjamin Soencksen (Secretary & FGG Delegate), Kathy Wildman & Barbara Zoloth (President)

Apologies: Pat Hogan (GLISA Representative, Membership Co-Chair & Communications Director)

The President posted the following agenda on September 16th, 2013, with important sections to address highlighted in red:

A. Standing Items

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

B. Old Business

1. Items temporarily on hold –
 - a. Proposed changes in NASSPDA Board Policies and Procedures — remaining questions
 - i. Definition of quorum and “super majority”
 - ii. Committee to review and “rationalize” policy and procedure documents
 - iii. Election of Board members/officers
 - b. Request for history of same-sex ballroom dance (for website) and explanations of rules and procedures (for eNewsletter)
2. Adjudicator Application Committee’s report
 - a. **Luc Richer’s application for approval**
 - b. **New applications, other business**
3. Coordination with other organizations
 - a. Gay Games 2014: FGG/ESSDA/GLISA
 - i. Coordination with Rob Smitherman, Sports Director for Gay Games 9
 - ii. **Report on venue**
 - iii. **MC, scrutineer, judges**
 - iv. **NASSPDA’s 2014 scholarships: allocation between Gay Games and North American Championship (if there is one)?**
 - v. **Provide medal count to GG9**
 - b. IFSSDA
4. Website: **Report on bid for website**
5. Membership initiatives
 - a. **Newsletter report (targeting September 2013)**
 - b. **Affiliate members: Required to renew membership annually?**
6. Upcoming/recent competitions
 - a. Boston Open, September 21, 2013

- b. Dancing in the River City, Sacramento, CA State Championship, January 19, 2014
 - c. Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge, PA State Championship, March 29, 2014
 - d. April Follies, Oakland, US National Championship, April 26, 2014
 - e. Gay Games 9, Cleveland, World Championship, August 12-15, 2014
 - f. Boston Open, North American Championship, Fall 2014
 - g. North American Outgames, St. Louis, 2016
 - h. World Outgames, Miami, 2017
 - i. Gay Games 10, Orlando (?), 2018
7. Competition Rules
- a. **“Add reverse-role couples to the list of authorized titles?” [deferred to this meeting]**
8. Non-Board committees
- a. Dance Camp committee
 - b. Queer Youth Outreach committee
9. Scholarship Committee

C. New Business

D. Schedule next Board meeting(s)

- 1. Next conference call meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, October 20th, 2013, at 4:00 PM EDT.

A. Standing Items

to **A.1.:** n/a

to **A.2.:** Approved

Minutes & Notes 130908

to **A.3.:** Postponed

(see previous Minutes)

B. Old Business

to **B.1.a.i. through iii.:** Postponed

to **B.2.a.:** Approved

The Board approved the application of Luc Richer from Montreal, Canada.

to **B.2.b.:**

There had been no other application at the time of this meeting.

to **B.3.a.i. through v.:**

Cleveland’s Renaissance Hotel agreed to make changes to the contract, as requested, and three members of the GG9 Organizing Committee are planning an onsite walk-through. Rob Smitherman forwarded the Board’s decision from the previous meeting to the couple, consisting of one female and one male, who transitioned from female to male (FTM), planning to participate in Showdance. The Board decided to make an exception and allow the couple to enter as a reverse-role couple, adhering to the requirement that the female partner leads 75% of the entire routine. The couple responded negatively to this suggested solution and requested reconsideration based on the Games philosophy of inclusion. The Board recognizes that the issue brought up is valid, but that it is more complicated than the couple realizes. Opposite-gender couples are able to compete all over the world in mainstream, which prohibits explicitly any other configuration of a couple. This is why a same-sex DanceSport community formed to organize and structure

its own events. The community decided quickly based on experience and fairness to separate different gender configurations into separate categories and to be more inclusive by also allowing reverse-role couples with the restriction of the female leading at least 75%. The Board fears that adding to this an exception for an opposite-gender couple will open the door for many mainstream couples requesting participation at GG9, resulting in a much larger competition and an undesired refocusing of the DanceSport at GG9. Taking into account that visually some same-sex couples have chosen an opposite-gender presentation, and rereading the FGG's general rules on gender (<http://gaygames.org/wp/sport/sports-policiesd/gender/>) and the GG9's specific rules (<http://www.gg9cle.com/participate/policies/gender/>), the Board decided the following: If the FTM leader registers for GG9 as a female, there would be no objections, since it would define the couple under NASSPDA rules as a female couple, no matter what the couples visual presentation. In the event though the FTM registers for the Gay Games as a male, then the couple may enter the Showdance event as a reverse-role couple with the stipulation that the female must lead at least 75% throughout the entire dance number, which should be noted as an exception made by NASSPDA for this couple. Not adhering to the 75/25 rule will effect the couples final score and placement.

to B.3.b.: Postponed

to B.4.: Postponed

to B.5.a.:

The next eNewsletter is likely to be published some time in October.

to B.5.b.:

Affiliate Membership with NASSPDA is currently free and doesn't need to be renewed. The Board decided to ask Affiliate Members annually whether they would like to renew or upgrade their membership to an Individual Membership.

to B.6.a. through i.: Postponed

to B.7.a.: Disapproved

Even though NASSPDA's name itself spells out the focus of the organization, it recognizes that, like same-sex couples, reverse-role couples are prohibited to participate at mainstream competitions. The number of reverse-role couples is still limited and adding this category to the list of awarded titles would complicate the organization of a competition, including having to engage an invigilator, the person ensuring that all reverse-role couples adhere to the 75/25 rule regarding lead and follow. The Board reluctantly therefore decided against the addition.

to B.8.a. & b.: Postponed

to B.9.: Postponed

C. New Business

Items related to GG9 to consider:

1. "Open judging" (showing of the chosen rank in each dance for each couple after each dance), which is common in several European countries and had been done at the Games in Sydney and Cologne, for GG9.
2. A single fee for the registration of formation teams, and how this would affect one or two teams that have already registered.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

1. (see agenda)