

**NATIONAL SMOOTH DANCERS, INC.**  
**Marriott Hotel - Bakersfield, CA**  
**Bakersfield Chapter – Saturday, March 19, 2016**  
**Minutes - Board of Directors & Presidents Joint Meeting**

Board of Directors President Bill Landry called the meeting to order at 9:30am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOD Members in attendance:**

Los Angeles –	Chuck Johnson	Palomar -	Peter Hanson
Los Angeles –	Susan Johnson	San Fernando Valley -	Joan Robinson
Los Angeles –	Tom Wells	Bakersfield -	Steve Peterson
San Diego –	Alberta Valentini	Visalia -	Paul Storey
Golden Gate –	Dan Ansaldi	Fresno -	Lynn Sanders

**Presidents in attendance:**

Los Angeles -	Victor Lee	San Fernando Valley -	Bill Morey
San Diego -	Shirley McCloskey	Bakersfield -	Ben Wilson
Golden Gate -	Vlad Gites	Visalia -	Jerry Bailey
Palomar -	Fred Deutsch	Fresno -	Carla Hartunian

**Guests in attendance:**

Bill Steeber, Marsha Hanson, Rachel Seward

**Current Membership Report:** (Includes paid & Lifetime members; excludes Honorary)

Los Angeles	32	San Fernando Valley	63
San Diego	113	Bakersfield	92
Golden Gate	55	Visalia	84
Palomar	68	Fresno	52
		State Membership Total	<u>559</u>

**Minutes of September 5, 2015:** – Ben Wilson moved to approve the minutes as emailed, seconded by Carla Hartunian. Minutes approved. Home Office Secretary - no report.

**Old Business:**

**1. Convention 2016 – Los Angeles**

Tom Wells announced that the Convention contract is signed with the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel for September 2-5, 2016. The theme is "Dancing on Parade" with each dance being themed around a particular parade. There will be a 4,000 sq. ft. dance floor. The room rate is \$129.99++ with complimentary self parking. This rate is good for the 3 days before and 3 days after the event. Tom noted that we are covered under the hotel's license for any ASCAP requirements. It was suggested that we obtain a letter of confirmation on this from the hotel. A question arose concerning if NSD were charged a fee what would that amount be and would it be levied on the chapter or on the organization? No answers available at this time. Bill Landry said that NSD does not use music for profitability so we are not subject to payment of fees.

Tom indicated that they are adding 4-Star American Rhythm and 4-Star International Latin categories for competition as well as a Senior Rumba category. In addition, they will be offering two included and complimentary line dance classes.

The LA chapter is pleased and very appreciative of the response from other chapter members interested in volunteering their time to assist us with the convention. Our 2016 Convention brochures will be distributed tomorrow at the Sunday Awards Breakfast.

**2. Convention 2017 – Golden Gate**

Dan Ansaldi announced that the theme will be "Viva Las Vegas" and Dan also confirmed that the San Francisco Airport Marriott is the hotel for the 2017 convention. It has a 14,000 sq. ft. ballroom with a 4,000 sq. ft. beautiful, seamless dance floor. Room rate is \$124.00++ and the rooms have all been refurbished. Self Parking rate is \$10.00 per day. There is a complimentary Airport Shuttle to and from the airport. It is acknowledged that these rates are amazingly competitive, given the San Francisco area's pricing.

## **New Business:**

1. Peter Hanson commented on the balancing of convention locations between North and South and that for three years running it has been in the South. This is partly due to the Los Angeles chapter's request to have the convention in 2016 to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Another factor that can interrupt the North-South balance is the availability of facilities in an area. This situation will begin to resolve itself with the 2017 convention located in San Francisco. Terry Schroeder with the Marriott Hotels is an excellent resource for assistance.

2. Bill Steeber proposed the establishment of a Statewide NSD Website as an effective tool for centralizing information and event advertising among the chapters. The idea of some kind of central website had previously been put forward by Peter Hanson as a way to consolidate information. Knowing that it is very time consuming for chapters to keep all information up to date and needing a person well versed in computer programming skills, Bill volunteers to head this project to create an aid for chapter webmasters, and eliminate the duplication of effort, while at the same time retaining the integrity and personality of each chapter's own website.

A larger vision and outreach for the operation of NSD will require selecting a new name to register the statewide website - with a probable cost of \$20 a year. Authorization by the chapters would be necessary before we go forward with the selection of a Website Service Provider at an estimated yearly cost of \$60-\$100.

Bill would contact the current webmasters in each chapter requesting their ideas and ask if they would wish to partner in the creation of the website. The immediate task will be the setting up a mock website to see how it could look, how it could work and show the chapters how they will benefit while ensuring privacy and security. It was requested that this mock up be prepared for a preliminary presentation at the convention.

Dan Ansaldi moved that Bill Steeber put together a team to investigate and create a mock website for chapters to review. Motion seconded by Steve Peterson. Motion passed unanimously. This presentation of the mock website will be an added item on the agenda of the joint BOD & Presidents meeting on September 3, 2016.

Also it is suggested that a new meeting for "Webmasters" be added to the lineup of meetings held at the 2016 Convention.

3. Peter Hanson posed a question on the Purpose, Authority and Differentiation between and among the Board of Directors, the Presidents and the Delegates.

Dan Ansaldi commented that the BOD's purpose and duty is to clearly inform their chapters about the information, ideas and positions discussed in the BOD meeting. Board Members may recommend, suggest and offer insight and guidance to their chapter delegates and membership.

Much discussion followed regarding the efficiency of effort and length of process time for an item to be 1) proposed, 2) be taken back to each chapter to be discussed and voted on, 3) be put on the convention Delegates Meeting Agenda and, 4) be voted upon by the Delegates at the yearly meeting.

- a) Could the presidents and board members, acting as two of the five delegates from their chapter, take the recommendations and proposals directly to the membership of their chapter.
- b) Could each of the chapters then be able to discuss, decide and vote via some kind of signature process?
- c) Could the discussed and voted recommendations be formally considered to be accepted as opposed to waiting until the next Delegates meeting?
- d) Could the process as it currently stands, be what provides the chapters the time for a full and thorough consideration of an issue?

4. Alberta Valentini gave a 2015 Convention Evaluation Report highlighting the necessity of setting up a detailed budget and allowing a "miscellaneous category" to capture unforeseen or overlooked expenses. She stressed the importance of keeping accurate and updated financial records throughout. Alberta also emphasized the importance of having the competitions well organized and run on schedule.

An idea with a positive impact from the 2015 San Diego convention was having two separate "early registration" drawings, one of them being for chapter members only. Having the two drawings guaranteed that someone from another chapter would win

Alberta commented on what she established for the etiquette and duties of a Dance Host. Alberta said that she made it clear to her hosts that they were not to dance with only good dancers but to make sure that the single ladies were asked to dance. She touched on the proper attire, escorting to and from the dance floor, etc. Alberta will email a full copy of her report to the Presidents and Board Members.

5. Bill Landry commented that among the chapters there are some overlapping dates for dances and special events. It is never the intention to interfere with another chapter's events, but by planning with consideration of other chapter calendars, perhaps an overlap can be avoided.

6. Joan Robinson made a suggestion that each chapter might provide two Dance Hosts for their single ladies at Convention and at the Bakersfield Weekend so that this responsibility would not fall totally on the host chapter. Individual chapter cost considerations might include:  
The hosting chapter could offer an "at cost" rate for the two hosts so no profit is built in.  
If the hosting chapter is financially healthy, they could sponsor the hosts on behalf of their single female members.  
The cost could be shared among all the single ladies attending who choose to "opt in" to dance with their chapter hosts.

**Dance Rules Report - John Gutierrez, Dance Rules Chairman:**

Reviewed that East Coast Swing competition tempos are at 34-36bpm as voted and passed by the chapter and initiated in 2016. For any "Senior", "Beginner" or "Non-Sanctioned" competitions, the tempos and attire may be determined by the hosting chapter.

**Nomination of BOD President & Vice-President for 2016:**

Joan Robinson-nominated Bill Landry for BOD President, seconded by Susan Johnson. Vote passed unanimously.  
Lynn Sanders nominated Joan Robinson for BOD Vice President, seconded by Vlad Gifcs. Vote passed unanimously.

**Announcements:**

A final comment from Peter Hanson suggested that a person in each chapter be appointed to handle the responsibility of timely electronic updates to the Roster and Profile information. These duties should reside with one person who is familiar with computers and knowledgeable in the Excel program. When selected, Peter requests that person's name to be forwarded to him.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Greenlaw  
Home Office Secretary

Sent by email to:  
BOD President  
NSD Board Members and Chapter Presidents  
Dance Rules Chairman

To the Presidents and Board of Directors:

This email missive refers to item #3 on page two of the Minutes of the March 19th meeting. The main question, posed by Peter Hanson, of the purposes of the various positions was answered correctly by Dan Ansaldi, also outlined in the minutes.

But there was an underlying question posed by Peter Hanson which was to ask if the present structure of making proposals to take to the Delegates Meeting is still an efficient way for NSD to conduct business.

In the Minutes, there are four questions which correctly present the discussions at the Board Meeting. In an attempt to find the right answers, I am posing more questions to determine whether we feel the efficiency of our Board and Delegates is as good and as effective as it was when the Constitution was written at a time when our "Founding Fathers," so to speak, had a true vested interest in NSD as an entire organization.

- 1) Should it take two to three years for any new ideas to be voted on? OR
- 2) Is this slow method a good one to protect us from making rash decisions?
- 3) Are the Delegates chosen to attend the Delegates Meeting truly chosen because of their knowledge of the agenda and the wishes of their chapter? OR
- 4) Are the additional three Delegates only chosen because it is required to have three more attendees at the meeting? If so, do these Delegates show up without knowledge of the agenda, issues, or wishes of their chapter members, thus making them ineffective?
- 5) Should there be two Delegates meeting per year to speed up the voting process? OR
- 6) Should the Constitution be amended so the Delegates are the Board Members and Presidents who then present the proposals to their chapters and get answers from their members - thus negating the need for Delegates' Meetings?
- 7) Do Board Members merely give a report at their next board meeting on topics discussed at the BoD's meeting? OR
- 8) Do Board Members actually request input and discussion from their members so they know their wishes for the Delegate's meeting?

General Question For All To Understand:

What kind of items are required to be put on the Delegate's agenda? I know there is some confusion about this. Would an NSD website decision need to go to the Delegates for approval or not? If so, this is the time line for this idea:

Convention 2015: The concept of an NSD website was introduced.

Board Mtg. 2016 : The proposal was presented.

Convention 2016: The NSD website mock up is presented.

Convention 2017: The NSD website is approved at the Delegate's Meeting.

2018: The NSD website is finalized and open for business.

This is purely a "food for thought" email which could help us make stronger and more effective decisions at our next joint meeting when we will be asked to answer the four questions outlined in the Minutes of March 19th, 2016.

Best regards.

Joan Robinson  
Vice President  
NSD Board of Directors

## **SUGGESTIONS RE DANCE HOSTS:**

By Joan Robinson

If the chapters could step up to the plate and locate two hosts to dance with their single ladies, it would relieve the strain of having the host chapter sponsor four hosts for approximately 70 single ladies. I suggest two hosts as they would share a room, thus being more affordable.

Here are some ideas: appoint a "Dance Host Coordinator." The best person would be one of your single ladies who goes out and dances at other locations. She should be outgoing and friendly, preferably a good dancer, and not being bad looking would also be a "carrot." She could review other leaders she meets for their abilities and interest in getting a free weekend package.

There are several ways to fund these free packages and a combination of them all, depending on the individual chapter, could be chosen:

- 1) The hosting chapter offers an "at cost" rate for the two hosts so no profit is built in.
- 2) The chapter, if financially healthy, could sponsor the hosts on behalf of their single female members.
- 3) The cost could be shared among all the single ladies attending who choose to "opt in" to dance with their chapter hosts.

Another benefit is that it would introduce non-Smooth Dancers' single leaders to your events and may interest them in attending your monthly dances – thus, over time, increasing the number of leaders. They may very well join and become members. Then your "Dance Host Coordinator" goes out and recruits two new leaders for the next time.

## **WEB SITE GOALS:**

By Joan Robinson

One of the goals to be presented today will be the ability to encourage people to start a new chapter. This is not as easy as it was back in the 1950's to 1980's when our value systems were different and people easily volunteered to run clubs. Today, the invitation could read:

"Do think about starting a new NSD Chapter in your area. All you need to do is volunteer many hours of your time for no pay, work extremely hard throughout the month, maybe even work the front door so you never get to dance, and if you win the monthly raffle, you generously donate the winnings back to the club and its cause."

OK. Not an easy sell, is it? (Although I do have a potential possibility in Orange County.) Therefore, let's consider the words "non profit." It doesn't have to mean that one volunteers and any profits go into the chapter bank account. A new chapter could be created and run by a professional teacher or studio owner. The funds that come in the door would pay for the rental of the studio, the professional's lesson fee, and maybe if there is anything left over – a management fee for running the club. This still falls into the category of non-profits. (Think of the enormous salaries that CEO's get for running charities. We're lucky anything is left over to go to the cause.)

If we are to promote new chapters on a new NSD website, we would need a New Chapter Advisory Committee who would work with the new chapter to help them get started. The LA Chapter probably has the wisest and most knowledgeable people to be part of this committee.