

Independence Squares Board Meeting

November 1, 2018

Present: Kevin Gisi, Tim Harper, Ted Marvel, Bob Rohde, Bruce Zangwill (in person); Leda Sportolari, Susan Turkel (via phone)

Meeting was held at Ted Marvel's house.

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Approved unanimously, with requested clarification regarding the means by which we would like to distribute Board meeting minutes.

Caller Liaison:

The role of IS Caller Liaison has been held by one individual, Deb Cassel, for a number of years. The board feels that it is important to rotate these complex responsibilities between club members and to expand the expertise of others in the club. As a result, the Board has endorsed the President's appointment of a new Caller Liaison. This proposal was unanimously approved.

The board wishes to recognize all of the work that Deb has done for Independence Squares over the years, and to thank her for her many years of service.

Deb has already made arrangements for all dance and club callers through May 2019 (there may be one contract that needs to be renegotiated between now and then) so there will be time for the next appointee to get up and running.

Class Schedule:

We discussed the altered class schedule that was tested on Tuesday, Oct. 30. In this variation, the night began with two C1 tips in a row and then two Plus tips in a row in the back room, while the front room maintained its usual schedule of alternating MS and Advanced. This allowed for the C1 class members to dance with the MS class for one tip, and the Advanced class members to dance in the Plus room for one tip.

Some board members liked the altered schedule, and others had criticisms of it. In informal conversations with dancers during the evening, we received a variety of responses ranging from positive to negative to indifferent.

The Advanced class instructor found the altered schedule disruptive, as it resulted in students switching in and out of the room and therefore missing some instruction.

A motion was entered to revert to our usual class schedule and to stick with it every week on an ongoing basis. There were five votes in favor; Leda was opposed.

PA Farm Show:

Several board members were interested in pursuing the possibility of having an IS square in the PA Farm Show in Harrisburg this year, following on a fun and successful experience last year.

The square dance competition in the Farm Show will take place on Monday, January 7, 2019, 6:30-9:00 PM.

Leda volunteered to submit the club's application form, which is due November 3, so that we'll have the opportunity to participate. She will take the lead on checking with club members to ascertain whether we have enough volunteers to put together a square with some spares. She'll also check with ML Werneke to see if she is able to help with coordination. Susan is willing to help with some of the coordination as well.

If we have enough participants and decide to move forward, we will need to:

- Order the music CD (Susan has the form)
- Arrange for one or more practice sessions (Susan has the sheet with full choreography for the dances)
- Plan our outfits (club shirts, preferably)

The Board has agreed that the club budget will cover any costs/fees involved with our participation in the Farm Show.

NB: Do Pas O in Lancaster, PA will have a practice session that we can attend the weekend before the Farm Show.

Glitter Ball:

Bob has provided us with several documents regarding the Glitter Ball:

- "Glitter Ball Details" describing how to set up the tables and the kitchen
- Decorations sign-up sheet (including sections for Set-up Helpers and Decorations you are willing to lend)
- Volunteer sign-up sheet for potluck supplies (e.g., napkins, serving utensils, ice, tea bags)
- Potluck food contributions sign-up

We need to bring these sheets to every Tuesday night session in November starting next week and make sure to announce them.

PrideDay 2019:

Bob shared that we have the opportunity to sign up to participate in the PrideDay Parade and festival in June 2019 at a 25% discount if we apply by November 24. The fee for a 10-foot space in the festival for a non-profit group (with parade registration included) is \$125. The fee for parade participation only (with vehicle to carry our sound system) would be \$50.

We felt that Pride was an important part of our recruitment last year, as the vast majority of Open House participants heard of us via the cards we gave out during the parade. (The booth at the festival seemed to be less effective; however, the weather turned bad after the parade ended, so we aren't sure how effective the booth might have been under other circumstances.)

We agreed unanimously that we want to participate again. Bob will complete the registration form and we will discuss specifics at future meetings.

IS Schedule, Summer 2019:

The Board discussed dance/class/outreach options for June through September. Our current classes are scheduled to go through May 21, 2019, and the IAGSDC Convention will be held in Philadelphia in early July.

We reflected on our very successful Open House program last summer: 29 new dancers attended across the 4 sessions; our highest attendance was 30 dancers at the last Open House. We also examined participation rates for non-Open House Tuesday nights and Saturday dances last summer. Participation on non-Open House Tuesday nights ranged from about 14-18 dancers; attendance at Saturday dances during the summer was poor.

We agreed in theory to the following:

- We'd like to continue weekly Tuesday classes throughout June so that we can have consistent opportunity to practice and stay sharp up through Convention.
- We want to hold monthly Open Houses in the interest of recruiting new MS dancers.
- We already have a Saturday dance scheduled in May, and we'd like to have another in August.
- We would like for fall classes to start in September next year.

Tim will write up a proposal suggesting two sessions per month--one open house and one dance---for the Board to review.

Outreach/recruiting suggestion: IS club members could carry flyers on the Fun Badge Tour during Convention to hand out to bystanders in order to recruit for Open Houses. Why waste such a great free advertising opportunity?

Budget Request:

Bob requested that the Board allow him to release funds for him to purchase new checks and for MK to purchase other supplies. Approved unanimously.

Etiquette Statement:

As a follow-up to the points discussed at the September meeting, Bob found some previous etiquette statements and will assemble the most relevant points into a new document which Board members will review.

Once the statement is approved, we would like to have it read aloud to all dancers during a break on a Tuesday night. Bob will also send the statement out to the listserv.

Club Policy on Role Consistency:

We spent some time discussing the importance of dancers choosing and sticking with a specific gender role, rather than flip-flopping throughout an evening or a class. The Board agreed that this needs to be a club rule, and that instructors/callers should re-emphasize this to the dancers. This is the policy:

- Class members should choose and dance a specific gender role throughout the class until graduation.
- Angels should choose and dance a specific gender role throughout any given evening.

This helps to reduce confusion for both **the learner** and for **the other dancers** who cue off of an individual who typically dances a specific gender role.

Stonewall 50 Contribution:

Times Squares is trying to raise \$10,000 so they can participate in the Stonewall 50 March with a float. (See their website: <http://timessquares.nyc/wp/stonewall50/support-the-cause/> for a breakdown of the budget for this.) They say “Please support our effort to make it possible for all of us to march under the IAGSDC banner.”

Dance clubs contributing \$100 or more will have their name listed on the Times Squares website and their logo printed on the commemorative t-shirt. We agreed that we would like to support this effort with at least the minimum donation.

We decided that we would contribute the club’s share of the 50/50 drawing at the Glitter Ball to this effort, with a guaranteed minimum of \$100. We anticipate that dancers will be enthusiastic in their support for this good cause.

Points to Address re: Tuesday Night Classes:

MS dancers have remarked that the squares are sometimes imbalanced in terms of the distribution of newbies and angels. We will remind the instructor to keep an eye on this and make adjustments as needed.

We will also remind all callers to try to stick with the schedule so that dancers can be in the appropriate room at the beginning of each session. (This may necessitate running the sessions slightly short at times.)

Next Meeting:

We will decide on a date for the next meeting via Doodle poll. Our plan is to meet at 30th Street Station to facilitate easy transit for everyone.

Meeting adjourned: 8:51 PM.

Appendices: see attached

- Glitter Ball details.doc
- Detailed items needed for Glitter Ball.doc
- Decoration sign up sheet for Glitter Ball.doc
- Glitter Ball needs volunteer sign up list.doc
- Glitter Ball potluck sign up sheet.doc

Details for Glitter Ball

Glitter Ball: December 2017 notes at Merion Friends

Caller is on stage.

Table by the door for money. Had sign with Welcome Glitter Ball \$10. Smaller sign with 50/50 info/tickets/basket.

Tables for eating/socializing: 3 across the back with chairs on both sides. (10 tables for eating.)
**Caller & C2 people ate first. Then they danced while the rest ate. Worked well.

Beside the longer divider (on kitchen side of room): 3 or 4 tables with tablecloths
desserts / appetizers --small plates, napkins, toothpicks / beverages (with bowl of ice & cup to scoop) & cups. (popular: cider, blood orange soda, seltzer, coke, reg. ginger ale)

In the "window" of kitchen: ice water in blue jug/ cups/ punch.
(2 bags of ice worked for the evening. Acme around the corner for ice. One bag for the ice water and other for bowl near other beverages.)

Kitchen: Great space! Refrig. & Freezer and extra counter space.
(Note: outlet near backdoor does NOT work. May want to check this year.)
Used 2 club power strips in outlet on either side of window. Hot items were along this wall.
Coffee & hot water as well. Hot food on counter. Cold foods on table in middle of the kitchen.

**take 3x5 cards & pen: have people identify dish & ingredients.
(*****mention this on sign-up sheets: helpful for all to know about the great foods, also considerate of those with allergies.)

(In the past, Dave T. brought an urn for reg. coffee and another for hot water (tea & instant decaf).

Need: small container of ½ & ½. (another option would be box coffees.)

Detailed items needed for Glitter Ball

MK will get from the church: 2 power strips; 50/50 tickets, basket & bag; flyers

Deb is housing the second blue water jug. Hope she can bring it.

Other items Rohdes will bring:

large sign (welcome) & 50/50 details

blank name tags

3x5 cards & pen (for potluck dishes & ingredients)

basket for plastic ware & plastic ware

3 plug converters

garage bags

roll of paper towels

toothpicks (for appetizers)

pitcher & drip bowl (if needed for water jug)

punch bowl & ladle

drink cups (for beverage table & window with ice water & punch bowl)

couple of extension cords (just in case needed)

4-5 hand sanitizers

small plates (for appetizers & desserts)

large sturdy dinner plates

2 knives with teeth (for meat, etc.)

2 pie servers

Glitter Ball: decoration sign-up sheet

If you have decorations that you could lend to decorate the hall for our Glitter ball this year, or if you'd like to show up a little early to help us with set-up, please sign up below!

Set up Helpers: (arrive at the hall between ___ & ___)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Decorations you are willing to lend: Please mark any items with your name so they can be returned after the dance.

Name: _____ Deoration: _____

Name: _____ Decoration: _____

Volunteers needed to bring the following to the Glitter Ball, December 1.

Please sign up! THANKS!

Someone to bring 2 bags of ice: _____

Extra serving utensils (serving spoons, large forks, ladle for soup/stew)

Coffee: (urn, makings: coffee for regular & instant decaf, filters OR box coffees)

Urn for hot water: _____

Selection of tea bags: _____

Hot chocolate: _____

Sugar, sugar substitute, creamer: _____

small carton of $\frac{1}{2}$ / & $\frac{1}{2}$ _____

2-3 packages of parker house rolls: _____

Paper / plastic tablecloths (4 long ones): _____

Lots of small white napkins for appetizer & dessert table: _____

75-100 dinner napkins (don't need to be holiday): _____

Glitter Ball Potluck: Sat. Dec.1
eating around 5:30-7pm

Here's how you can help. Sign up to bring one of the following.
Please put on a 3x5 card the name of your dish &
ingredients.(Thanks!)

Appetizers

Main dish

Salads

Desserts

Beverages