

Independence Squares Annual Membership Meeting for year 2018-2019

June 11, 2019

Meeting was held at the Lutheran Church, 2111 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA at 7:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin

We did not have a finalized year-end report from our outgoing Treasurer. We will share one with members as soon as it is available.

Kevin reported that the Club is doing very well financially. We have more than \$50K in the bank, and we had a positive net from our classes, our dances, and our Open Houses this past year.

Our Open Houses were our most successful dances of the summer. This translated into a large class of new MS dancers, so our Tuesday dances throughout the year were well-attended and made money.

Kevin handed out a chart comparing Fly-In data over the years 2012-2019. He noted that the 2018 Fly-In was especially successful, which made the 2019 Fly-In look disappointing by comparison. However, the fundraising total for the 2019 Fly-In was \$3125.

Pride Report – Steve

The Pride parade event went very well. Steve thanked the dancers, the callers (Zip and Howard), and especially Casey Bradshaw and her mom Karen for providing and driving the truck.

We handed out 2,000 cards to parade watchers, and we encourage members to continue to pass them out to friends and colleagues so that we can have good attendance at this summer's Open Houses.

We discussed the possibility of getting a wireless headset for the callers so that they wouldn't be tied (literally) to the truck carrying the sound equipment. Casey knows of appropriate equipment and said she would send information to the board.

We invite more members to participate in the Parade in future years so that we can have two or three squares, rather than one.

Volunteer of the Year Award – Leda

Leda recognized our past Volunteers of the Year: Lou Partridge, Casey Bradshaw, Norma Beard, and Mary Kay Rohde.

She then presented this year's award to **Dave Tavani**, who she recognized as a great booster for the club. Dave has served as a one-man nominating committee, as steward of the C1/C2 Wednesday class, and as the South Philly voice of Belle. Leda described Dave as friendly, warm, fun, kind, industrious, and sassy! Dave has been a member of IS since the 1994-1995 year, approximately.

Dave's gift will be delivered soon: a club polo shirt with "Volunteer of the Year" embroidered on the front.

Kudos, Dave!

By-Law Updates – Tim

Tim read us the two proposed updates to the Club by-laws.

The first proposal refers to changing the name of the "class rep" role to "program rep," as this individual represents all dancers at a given level, not only those who are currently taking a class.

The second proposal suggests splitting the position of secretary into two roles:

- a secretary who manages club records, writes up meeting minutes, etc., and
- a publicity chair who takes the lead on communications outside the club, including maintaining or overseeing social media sites, email lists, etc.

A member asked why the publicity chair needed to be a board member; an alternative might be to create a publicity committee with a publicity chair heading that committee. Tim answered that having the publicity chair be a board member would serve to increase the size of the board, which would facilitate the board to making decisions given the decreased likelihood of tie votes. Also, the maintenance of the club's image is a board-level responsibility. The publicity chair will be present at board meetings and will be accountable to the board, so communications are more likely to be timely and accurate.

The ballots were passed out and the vote was held. Results: 35 in favor, 1 opposed. Both proposals passed.

Board Elections – Tim

This is the slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 IS Board:

President-Elect: George Rizor

Treasurer: Dick Michelin

MS/Plus Rep: Steve Demos

A/C Rep: Leda Sportolari

Club Secretary: Susan Turkel

Publicity Chair: Dave Blatt

As previous President-Elect, Tim Harper will automatically become our new President.

The ballots went out and the vote was held. Results: unanimous affirmation of the slate of candidates.

New Business

Kevin opened this to the floor. Topics covered:

NYC Pride Parade:

Are IS folks organizing any kind of presence there? There had been an email about possibly organizing a bus to the parade, but only four people had indicated interest. Members are encouraged to attend any of the Pride events: a free dance on Friday night, the parade on Sunday afternoon (the parade starts at 11 am; Times Squares are lining up at 5 pm). More information is available on the Stonewall 50 page on Facebook.

Day rates for Convention:

Dancers may sign up for a single day of convention attendance for \$100. This price does not include the Meal Deals or the Banquet.

Club Photo at Convention:

The official club uniform is the long-sleeved club shirts. However, we want everyone to participate, so members are encouraged to come to the photo shoot even without the uniform.

GCA Caller School preceding Convention:

The caller school needs volunteer dancers so that the callers have someone to call to.

Volunteers are needed during the day on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. There is no charge to dance during caller school.

Special free dances at Convention:

All Join Hands is sponsoring several free dances at Convention that are open to all. These include the Trail-In dance on Wednesday night, a country-western dance on Friday night, and a contra dance on Saturday night. Please come and bring your friends.

Volunteering at Convention:

There is still a great need for volunteers to help with tasks including setting up the memorial room, staffing the registration desk, doing tour check-ins, stuffing goodie bags, and setting up and picking up the dance floors. Please sign up on the Philadelphia2019.com website.

Words of Recognition – Kevin

Kevin thanked the 2018-19 board members for their service. We accomplished our goal, which was to improve the dance and give all of our dancers floor time. We are the only club in the area that supports five different dance programs. We have tried different dance times and different types of summer programming. It is difficult to make everyone happy, but we did our best with the club's best interests in mind.

Kevin noted that the club gave him purpose in life after his heart attack. He cares for everyone here and is grateful for the club's support.

Final words from our new President – Tim

Please fill out dance surveys for the last two IS dances! These surveys are very helpful as we gather information on dance times, callers, lengths of dances, etc. in order to best serve the club's members.

The board wants your feedback! Members can contact any board member, including but not limited to the program reps. We want to know what's on your mind.

The board is hoping to develop some new committees this year. Please consider volunteering! Tim will be recruiting.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm