

# Independence Squares Board Meeting

## October 14, 2019

**Present:** Dave Blatt, Tim Harper, Dick Michelin, Susan Turkel, Mike Rutkowski

**Absent:** Steve Demos, George Rizor, Leda Sportolari

Meeting was held at 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station.

### Approval of Minutes - Susan

August meeting minutes were approved with minor updates. This is a summary of the status of last month's outstanding action items:

- Tim has deposited the spare key to the club's storage locker into the red box at the church.
- Dave B. will forward a copy of the IS Fly-In flyer to All Join Hands for their next newsletter. (Update: he sent it out on Friday, 9/13.)
- Dick provided Dave with the bank account information necessary so that Dave could set up the PayPal account.
- Tim asked Mike to provide visual highlighting of new and/or updated items in future Caller Liaison Reports. (Update: this highlighting was in place for the October report – thanks, Mike!)
- Susan added the approved Facebook screening questions to our FB group.
- Dave told Ted to go ahead with finalizing the website on the WordPress platform. The transition is on track to happen in November.
- Dave still needed to advertise our A and C workshops to local straight clubs. (Update: this email was sent out on November 13, and included Betsy's MS workshop as well.)
- Susan reached out to PATMAD re: how their sliding scale program is working. Donna Hunt reported that the program has been very successful so far; they are making money at dances rather than losing it, and in 2.5 months they were \$500 ahead. She noted that in the past, they've done fundraising at the end of the year to correct the usual deficit. They also noted that they share any bonus money they make at the door with the performers.
- Leda had planned to take the lead in facilitating the collection and provision of feedback to callers/teachers on Tuesday nights. She has solicited this feedback via announcements at dances.
- Mike had planned to talk with the callers about making sure their timing was synched up on Tuesday nights. This has happened and timing has worked well thus far.

### **Treasurer's Report – Dick**

Dick presented his report for the income and expenses incurred in September. The group discussed it briefly.

Dick informed the board that checks for callers of Saturday dances are written up ahead of time and are secured in the red box in the locked closet. This way, if Dick isn't present at the dance, whichever board member staffs the table can pay the caller.

Tuesday night callers/teachers are paid at the last dance of the month for that month.

### **Follow-up to prior board's decision to open a third bank account – Dick and Tim**

Dick investigated the options for interest-bearing bank accounts and Certificates of Deposit. The interest available via these accounts is very low. In addition, there are penalties for early withdrawal of CDs. We discussed the pros and cons of the various options.

A motion was proposed: *Independence Squares will not open a third interest-bearing bank account.* The motion passed unanimously.

### **Caller Liaison Report - Mike**

We discussed the Caller Liaison Report that Mike sent out before the meeting, which was nicely highlighted to indicate the new and revised items (see Appendix).

We felt that the timing of the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 dance might be problematic, given the likelihood of it being a beautiful summer afternoon leading to possibly low attendance. The planned time was 3:00 – 5:30 pm. The board discussed moving the time to later in the afternoon or early evening.

**Action item:** *Mike will ask the caller, Zip Warmerdam, if she would mind moving the time to 4:00 – 7:00 pm.*

The Caller Liaison Committee is trying to organize a dance for October 1, 2020. Those present agreed that it would be best not to schedule it for 2:00 – 5:00 pm, as this year that time slot on the first Saturday of October resulted in only 6 dancers showing up.

We discussed the pros and cons of various configurations of programs at our dances (i.e., two programs per dance vs. all-skate). We have two dances scheduled some months, and we wondered whether A/C dancers would want to or be expected to attend both Saturday dances.

Dave proposed a new option:

- We could offer one MS-A2 dance per month, to be held on a Saturday.
- We could offer one C1 dance per month, to be held on a Wednesday night.

Those present thought that this was an intriguing idea.

**Action item:** *Steve will include questions relevant to this option in the survey he is preparing.*

With the concern about possible low attendance at two-program dances, the group agreed it might be better to proactively change any two-program dances to MS/Plus/A2. The affected dances are:

- 11/23/19 – Howard Richman – currently MS/Plus
- 1/18/20 – Mark Franks – currently MS/Plus
- 4/18/20 – Ken Ritucci – currently MS/Advanced

**Action item:** *Mike will contact these callers to confirm the change to the programs they will call on those dates. (Update: this has been done and each caller agreed to this change.)*

### **Publicity Chair Report – Dave**

Dave had a variety of updates for us this month:

- Dave has set up the club's PayPal account and has connected it to the checking account. Our understanding is that any money collected via PayPal will not automatically be transferred to the checking account; the transfer will need to be made manually.

**Action item:** *Over the next month, Dave will set up a test dance event so we can test the process of receiving payments via PayPal.*

- Allie has created a flyer for the Glitter Ball. It is posted to the website.
- Lou has spoken with Pearl about the possibility of her helping with flyers for our dances.
- Ted is making great progress on the club website. It should be live in November.
- The Yahoo! Group still works, and we are still using it for sending emails to club members and others who have signed up for the listserv.

- Betsy has created a teaching schedule for the MS Workshop. She would like it to be posted to the website.

**Action item:** *Dave B will post Betsy's MS Workshop teaching schedule to the website. He will send Steve a link to the file so Steve can send it out via email. (Update: this has been done.)*

- We still don't have our schedule posted to "Where's the Dance?" (<https://www.wheresthedance.com/>).

**Action item:** *Dave will solicit a volunteer to help with Where's the Dance?*

### **Program Rep Report**

Neither program rep was present, so there was no program rep report.

### **Making our club more welcoming/fun**

Those present decided to hold off on this conversation until the next meeting, as the missing board members were very interested in discussing the topic and we wanted them to be present for this agenda item.

### **Update on Committees** – Tim

We discussed several of the existing committees and talked about new committees we might consider setting up.

#### Fly-In Committee:

- Mary Kay will ask for volunteers to help with the Fly-In.
- Dave B will be the registrar for the Fly-In. Mike can help.
- We need more new people to join the Fly-In committee, as we have lost committee members.
- The Fly-In Committee will provide reports to the board as the Fly-In approaches.

#### Newsletter Committee:

- We considered setting up a newsletter committee.
- We will solicit a volunteer to take the lead on a club newsletter.

#### Theme Dance Committee:

We discussed various possible approaches to theme dances. We were concerned about the amount of work that would be necessary to decorate and take down decorations related to a theme.

- We agreed that we preferred the approach of announcing dance themes on an ad-hoc basis (e.g., St. Patrick's theme for a March dance); attendees can feel free to wear what they want.
- We agreed not to institute a Theme Committee.

#### Social Committee:

- The purpose of the Social Committee would be to organize social activities for club members outside of dance classes and events.
- We agreed that this would be a good committee to institute.
- We will discuss this committee at the next meeting. (Update: Steve has already set up a bar night and a game night for two Tuesday nights in November!)

#### Retention Committee:

- This committee will focus on retaining active members and attempting to bring back members who don't attend our events very often.
- We will discuss this committee at the next meeting.

**Action item:** *Susan will check other MWSD club websites for ideas about other committees we might consider instituting.*

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm

## Communication Chair Report September 9, 2019

The information below is accurate as of Saturday, October 12, 2019, and may not reflect any updates received after this report's preparation. Please note that all dances are at the Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted.

### Dances Through December 2020

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place October 19, 2019 through December 5, 2020.

Saturday, October 19, 2019 – Advanced/C1 with C2 Star Tip – Brian Jarvis 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, November 23, 2019 – Mainstream/Plus with Advanced Star Tip – Howard Richman 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, December 7, 2019 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C2 – Dayle Hodge 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House will once again be the site of the Glitter Ball with paperwork and checks to be finalized.

Saturday, January 18, 2020 – Mainstream/Plus with Advanced Star Tip – Mark Franks 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 1, 2020 – Advanced/CI – Drew Allen 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 29, 2020 – Mainstream through Advanced – Betsy Gotta 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm For The Love of Sadie Hawkins and Chocolate!

Saturday, April 18, 2020 – Mainstream & Advanced with Plus Star Tip – Ken Ritucci 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Saturday, May 16, 2020 – John Marshall Double Header with Potluck

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Advanced through Challenge 1

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Potluck

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm Mainstream through Plus with Advanced Star Tip

Saturday, June 6, 2020 – Mainstream through Plus – Zip Warmerdam 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Saturday, June 20, 2020 – Advanced through C1 – John Hawley 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, July 18, 2020 – Plus and Advanced – Daryl Murphy 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, August 15, 2020 – Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm The dance will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek in Newark, Delaware, the same site as this past August.

Saturday, September 12, 2020 – Barry Clasper Double Header with Potluck

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm Advanced through Challenge 1 with C2 Star Tip

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Potluck

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Mainstream through Plus with Advanced Star Tip

Saturday, October 17, 2020 – Advanced through C1 – Geo Jedlicka 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, December 5, 2020 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Betsy Gotta 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
The Merion Meeting House is being explored as the site of the Glitter Ball 2020.

### **FYI Notes**

- 1) The committee is hiring callers for through December of 2020.
- 2) 2020 Fly-In Callers: Sandra Bryant, Todd Fellegly, Dayle Hodge March 27-29, 2020.
- 3) 2021 Fly-In Callers: Bill Harrison, Eric Henerlau, Kris Jensen March 12-14, 2021
- 4) 2022 Fly-In: Dates and callers are being explored by the Fly-In committee.
- 5) Upcoming Fall Classes – Contracts have been offered to both Joe Bradshaw and Betsy Gotta for the classes and workshops beginning in September 2019. Joe will be teaching the Mainstream class and the Advanced Workshop beginning September 10, 2019. Betsy will teach the C1 Workshop and the Mainstream Workshop beginning October 8, 2019. The Mainstream Workshop will become a Plus class beginning January 7, 2020. All sessions will end on May 19, 2020. Substitute callers will be hired when either of them is unavailable.

### **Items of Concern for the Caller Liaison – To Be Discussed by the Board**

- 1) Based on the attendance at the October 5, 2019 dance and feedback from the caller, consideration is being given to not holding afternoon dances in the warmer months. Any feedback is appreciated.

### **Upcoming Callers**

Please let me know of any callers that you would like to have call for our dances, and we will do our best to bring a variety of callers to our dance halls. Bigger name callers require more advance time to hire them as they are booked two and three years out.