

# Independence Squares Board Meeting

## November 21, 2019

**Present:** Dave Blatt, Steve Demos, Tim Harper, Dick Michelin, Susan Turkel

**Absent:** George Rizor, Leda Sportolari

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

### **Approval of Minutes - Susan**

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

- Mike was to ask the June 6, 2020 caller about changing the time frame for that dance to 4:00 – 7:00 pm instead of 3:00 – 5:30 pm. He has made the request and is awaiting a decision.
- Mike was to inform several callers of our request that their dances to cover MS-A2, rather than only two programs. He has made the request, and all callers were happy to oblige.
- Dave was to set up a test event on the IAGSDC website so we could test the process of collecting payment via PayPal. This is underway.
- Dave was to post Betsy's MS Workshop teaching schedule to the website, and send Steve a link so he could send the information out via email. He has done so.
- Susan was to visit other MWSD club websites for ideas about committees we might consider instituting. This item is still outstanding.

### **Treasurer's Report – Dick**

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

Dick noted that Tuesday night attendance is very strong. During October, average attendance was 34.5 dancers; during October 2017, it was 25.6 dancers.

We discussed prepay options for the 20 weeks between the beginning of January and MS class graduation. We agreed to break the term down into four five-week pre-pay segments. The pre-pay cost for each of the first three five-week segments will be \$40, while for the last segment it will be \$32, thus giving pre-paying members a bonus free week during that last quarter.

We will encourage continuing members to pay their annual membership dues in time for the Annual Meeting. The membership fee will remain \$45, with a 50% discount for students. New MS graduates are given their first year's membership for free.

We discussed the possibility of trying a pay-what-you-will model at dances. Various points were raised and debated.

A motion was proposed: *We are shelving the idea of offering a pay-what-you-will option for dance admission for the foreseeable future.* The motion passed unanimously.

### **Caller Liaison Report - Tim**

We discussed the Caller Liaison Report that Mike sent out before the meeting (see Appendix).

We agreed that the Caller Liaison Committee has been doing a great job in identifying and hiring callers for the club.

We discussed possible alternatives for when our MS/Advanced caller retires and relocates away from the Philadelphia area in 2020.

### **Publicity Chair Report – Dave**

We discussed a variety of topics related to publicity.

PayPal account:

Dave has linked our PayPal account to a test event on the IAGSDC site. If one logs into the IAGSDC site using one's username and password, one can see it. There are still some issues with the process and Dave is getting support from the IAGSDC web person.

**Action item:** *Dave will email the board with instructions when we're ready to test the process of receiving payments via PayPal.*

New club website on WordPress:

Ted has set up a beta version of the club website on the WordPress platform. He will be able to set up logins for multiple site administrators, which will allow individuals to edit the parts of the site that fall under their purview (e.g., the caller liaison will be able to update dance listings, and the secretary will be able to upload meeting minutes). The site will be editable from any web browser. There will be a newsfeed on the front page that will allow us to have more dynamic content.

**Action item:** *Susan and Mike will look over the site over the next several days and give Ted feedback by Monday so that Ted can take the necessary steps toward making the new site visible to the public.*

## Meeting announcements

We discussed the Bylaws requirement that board meetings be announced to the membership. We currently inform Tuesday night attendees of upcoming board meetings during announcements. We agreed that after the website is moved to WordPress, we will use the site's newsfeed to announce monthly board meetings and the availability of meeting minutes.

## Other minor updates

- Dave has added our 2022 Fly-In to the IAGSDC website listing.
- Dave has announced our workshops to local straight clubs.
- We haven't yet found a volunteer to maintain our listings on wheresthedance.com.

## **Program Rep Report** - Steve

Steve reported on the Mainstream program. As part of his role as program rep, he sends regular emails to the new MS class and takes attendance at each Tuesday session. Steve will be out of town between January and February, and has identified a club member who will be able to take over his role of communicating with the MS class during his absence.

He anticipates that most of the new class members will attend the Glitter Ball.

Very few members of last year's mainstream class have been frequent attendees on Tuesday nights, so there is some question about whether we'll have enough people to take Plus class starting in January. Steve will continue to reach out to these folks.

Leda wasn't present, so we didn't get a report on A/C.

## **Glitter Ball**

We discussed some of the logistics related to the Glitter Ball, including how and when certain supplies and materials will be transported from storage to the Lutheran Church, and how materials will get from the Lutheran Church to Merion Friends.

We also discussed the dance program for the GB, and debated whether full MS should be called or only MS at the class level. We decided that Steve and Dave would communicate with the caller re: how many dancers were present at each level so the caller can decide how to arrange the program.

A flat-screen television has been donated to the club to be used as a fundraiser. We'd considered raffling it off at the Glitter Ball, but decided that we'd get more bang for our buck if we raffled it off at the Fly-In.

## Update on Committees – Steve

### Social Committee:

Steve noted that we haven't yet been able to recruit any members for the Social Committee. He agreed to select one Tuesday night in December for pre-dance games, and one Tuesday night in December for post-dance bar night. He identified club members who might be able to take the lead in arranging and announcing game and bar nights for January and February, while he's away.

**Action item:** *Steve will approach the identified club members and ask if they'd be willing to coordinate game and bar nights in his absence.*

### Bylaws Committee:

We discussed whether the bylaws needed to be rewritten, or whether they could simply be amended.

A motion was proposed: *The Bylaws Committee will review and plan to offer amendments to the club bylaws, rather than completely rewrite them.* The motion passed unanimously.

We noted that the updated bylaws had not yet been posted to the club website.

**Action item:** *Susan will send Dave the amended bylaws (as of June 2019) and Dave will upload them to the website.*

### Retention Committee:

Steve is willing to serve on this committee, but doesn't want to chair it. We will discuss this committee at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:49 pm

# Caller Liaison Report

## Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – November 2019

The information below is accurate as of Wednesday, November 20, 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 November, 2019 through December 4, 2021.

Saturday, November 23, 2019 – Mainstream through Advanced – 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 through Advanced – 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 through Advanced – 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 with a C2 Star Tip – John Hawley 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm John will be using the club equipment and spending the night with a club member.

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 – Dayle Hodge 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House is the first choice as the site of the Glitter Ball 2020.

Saturday, June 5, 2021 – Ken Ritucci Level and time to be determined when schedule is fuller.

Saturday, December 4, 2021 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Betsy Gotta 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House is the first choice as the site of the Glitter Ball 2021.

### **FYI Notes**

- 1) The committee is hiring callers for through December of 2020. Two dances have been scheduled for 2021 already, but full scheduling for the rest of 2021 will not start taking place until January 2020 or after.
- 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: Set for March 25-27, 2022 Callers are being explored by the Fly-In committee.
- 5) Fall and Spring Classes –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. Betsy will be unavailable January 14, 2020 and April 7, 2020. Mark Franks will be filling in for Betsy on April 7. We are trying to find a fill-in for January 14 and hope to have that done this week.

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

- 1) Discussions should begin as to who to hire in place of Joe Bradshaw beginning in September 2020. For an ongoing engagement of this sort, we should hire sooner rather than later. Linda and I have not discussed this, however, several club members have suggested hiring Mark Franks for this spot. No discussions have yet been held with Mark about his availability or willingness to take on this responsibility.

### **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.