

Independence Squares Board Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2022
Minutes

Start: 7:00 PM Eastern (approx.)

Board Members in Attendance: Chris D., Dave T. (late: joined at 8:06pm), Drew, Ron, Steve, Vinney

Absent: John & Coco

Non-Board Members in Attendance: Deb C., Fred H., Tim H., Will H., George R., Mike R.

Secretary's Report (report submitted) – Vinney sent out revised October 6, 2022 minutes for Board members to review. **MOTION (by Steve/Ron seconded):** *Approve the August 2022 board meeting minutes?* **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Treasurer's Report – Chris (report submitted) – members reviewed report and noted that adjustments to hall rental revenue are needed. Treasurer also should break out the costs of the storage space from the hall rental space, and note money coming in and going out rather than just showing the net difference. **MOTION (by Steve/Ron seconded):** *Accept the treasurer report, with changes as specified in the meeting.* **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Investing Savings: Members discussed putting savings into interest-bearing accounts. **MOTION: (by Chris /Ron seconded):** *Board authorizes the Finance Committee to investigate CDs and Money Market accounts, and, upon agreement, open accounts.* **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Should IS Join the Federation? Members discussed the benefits and costs associated with joining the local Federation. For the time being, we're going to put this on hold.

Proposed Contract with Church: members reviewed and discussed proposed contract between IS and Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion. There appears to be some ambiguity in terms of a renewal fee, causing concerns that we should not sign the contract as is. Clarity is needed. Board provided guidance to treasurer to continue paying church what we're currently paying through December 31st. The President will reach out to church contact regarding rates as of January 1, 2023.

Fly-In Report – Vinney and Ron (report submitted)

Registration fee comp: Committee co-chair comped the registration fee for IS Caller Mark Franks and his spouse. Group also discussed comping Ottawa rep, should they attend our fly-in, as well as donating an IS registration at the Ottawa convention. Fly-in Committee to continue discussion.

Hotel Update: Committee members met with new hotel contact to get specifics in terms of decorations, space, sound equipment, etc. Hotel rep to check if we can hold a pool tip and if they will keep the bar open later.

Flyer: Roy Wilbur to potentially create a new flyer for the 2023 Fly-in.

Fly-in Report Revision: It was recommended to remove from any public reports the names of callers, until they are officially confirmed.

Communications with Chesapeake Squares: Ron provided dates for the 2024 fly-in to CS rep.

Harrisburg Fly-In Reflection: President shared thoughts on the Harrisburg Fly-in, stating that Darren and Sandie were amazing, and Chris was good, too. Attendees, many of whom will likely attend our fly-in, had a great time.

Return to Dance Committee (no report submitted)

Safety protocols: Club president relayed concerns that club protocols, such as wiping down surfaces, aren't always being followed. It was suggested that we ask dancers to volunteer each week during announcements. **ACTION ITEM:** Mike agreed to create a form for dancers to sign-up for weekly cleaning assignments before/after dances.

COVID Exposure Notifications: Members discussed concerns about how best to contact members when a COVID exposure has been reported. Possible solution would be sending a generic email (not identifying

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member) to the entire listserv. For those who are not on our listserv, we could ask them for contact information in the event there's an exposure we need to notify them of.

MOTION: *If notified about a positive COVID test result, we will send a note to our listserv. In addition, we will display a form at future dances for attendees not on our listserv to sign up for COVID notifications and asking if they want to be on our listserv. Finally, the weekly announcements will now include a mention of the sign-in sheet for those who may want COVID notifications.* **(Motion: Steve/Vinney Seconded): Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 1 (since he joined late)**

Caller Liaison Report (report submitted) – Mike

Glitter Ball: set for 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm on December 3, 2022 with Dayle Hodge. Ron & Vinney to transport equipment, decorations, and supplies to the Meeting House.

2025 Fly-in: negotiating with potential callers; nothing confirmed.

February 2023 Dance: confirmed to be held at the church.

Caller while Betsy is away: Clay Goss will call 1/10/23 and 4/25/23 while Betsy is away.

Co-hosted Dances: members discussed possibly co-hosting a dance with DC Lambda's and Chesapeake Squares for an August 2023 dance.

Princeton area venues: continue to look in the general area for suitable location for future dance. Chris D. to send contacts he found to Ron R.

Collingswood field trip: after in-person visits, it was determined they were not suitable venues.

Blast weekend: discussed potential blast weekend at George's church, since no venue cost is involved.

Recruitment Committee (report not submitted) – Steve

No meeting in months. President to reach out to PRIDE 2022 Mailing List to remind them of future dances and ask them if they are interested in potential future Fun Dances and/or blast weekends.

Publicity Chair (report submitted) – Ron

Communication with sister clubs: Chair reached out to sister clubs (DC, Times Squares, Chesapeake) about coordinating efforts to promote each other's clubs.

Newsletter: Ron will tinker with the idea of resurrecting the IS newsletter.

Mainstream & Plus (no report submitted) – Steve

Mainstream: We have 3 regular new attendees who attend Mainstream class regularly. Requested from caller a list of calls taught to-date.

Plus: President sending weekly emails to Plus students with calls covered and providing encouragement.

Punctuality: Members discussed the need to start class on time. It's disrupting when dancers start late.

Advanced & Challenge (no report submitted) – Dave

All going well so far, and classes are well attended. Nothing more to report.

Old & New Business

Old: None

New: President will be away for the first 10 weeks of 2023. President requesting board members to commit to taking charge while he's away (setting up/taking down, cleaning, taking money, registering attendees). He's sending a link for Board members to sign up for coverage.

MOTION: *Adjourn meeting?* **(by Steve/Vinney seconded): Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Vinney Finlay
Secretary, Independence Squares

Agenda for the Independence Squares Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

Secretary's Report – Vinney

Treasurer's Report – Chris

(A written report will be submitted.)

Revisit our decision about joining the Federation of Del Val Square Dancers
Contract from the church.

Harrisburg Fly-In Reflection

Any thoughts from Mike, Tim, Linda, Peg?

Fly-In Report – Vinney and Ron

Has anyone communicated our 2024 date to Chesapeake Squares?

Return to Dance Committee – Peg

Steve has a couple of concerns

Caller Liaison Report – Linda and Mike

Potential to cohost with both DC Lambda and Chesapeake Squares next year? (continuing discussion)

Potential to cohost a dance with Times Squares? (continuing discussion)

Potential for blast weekends in the spring. (Louise and Dana)

Space at the church is confirmed for February's dance.

Report on field trip to Collingswood.

Staffing our Glitter Ball and other logistics for that dance. – Steve

Recruitment Committee Report – Steve

Outreach to Louise

Outreach to our mailing list of names collected at Pride events etc.

Publicity Chair Report – Ron

Mainstream & Plus Report – Steve

Advanced & Challenge Report – Dave

Planning for the first nine Tuesday of 2023 – Steve

Old & New Business

Adjourn

Independence Squares Fly-In Committee Report November 16, 2022

The Fly-In Committee met on October 17, 2022. Topics of discussion included the following:

- Dates for the 2025 Fly-In were chosen as April 4-6. Callers selected are Jeremy Butler, Don Moger, and Vic Ceder. All three have agreed to call for us and negotiations are continuing through the Caller Liaison committee.
- Casey will visit the hotel ASAP to make plans for sounding the dance halls. She expects to have a plan in place by 1/31/23.
- Bob suggested that the Fly-In should have an official budget and he offered to put one together. That has been completed and the proposed budget will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- Approval was obtained for Ron to send a flyer to the Federation and a PDF copy of the flyer to All Join Hands for their next mailing.
- The next committee meeting will be in early January. A date will be determined in December.

Two new registrations have been received since the last report to the board, bringing our total registrations to 97 individuals. The latest registration came from Mark and Cheryl Franks, and it was agreed that their registration would be comped as a benefit of being one of our club callers just as Roy and Betsy's registration is normally comped.

Our hotel contact has changed. The new person is Toni Nespola. Vinney, Ron, Bob and Mary Kay met with her on November 11 for a site visit and a discussion about our event. The results of that meeting have been relayed to the Fly-In committee. Toni will follow up with us regarding several issues including decoration allowances, the use of the pool for a tip of dancing, and extending the bar hours.

We have received another promise for an exchange registration. The latest one is Hotlanta Squares. We previously received commitments from Chitown Squares, DCLS, and Times Squares. Ron is continuing to follow up on this.

Independence Squares Publicity Chair Report November 16, 2022

Website clean up continues. The “Classes and Workshops” page was rearranged to make it easier to find information. A new banner was created on that page to draw attention to new class information for those looking to begin square dance lessons with our club.

Ted helped to do some maintenance on the IAGSDC website as it relates to our club. Specifically, he backed up our club’s information. He also looked over the Word Press alerts that were present and determined that none of them were critical. Word Press is the content management system that we use to manage our website.

The Fly-In committee agreed to send a flyer to the Federation for publication in the next newsletter. Ron will be sending that flyer out soon.

Steve and Ron discussed the lack of any coordinated promotional efforts between IS and our sister clubs, DCLS, Times Squares, and Chesapeake Squares. Ron reached out to all three clubs on October 23 to suggest that we work together to advertise each other’s events and to provide physical copies of flyers. To date, there has been no reply from any of the sister clubs. Ron will follow up.

Ron has begun tinkering with the idea of reviving the Independence Squares newsletter as an email only publication. This project is contingent on a determination of how much time and effort it will entail. A sample of the beginnings of this project is attached. Note that this is only a rough draft and would be revised further. If resumed, the hope is to use the newsletter for two primary functions, as follows:

- Distribute information to the club members. This can be done more efficiently through emails to club members, but the newsletter can serve as another tool for non-time sensitive information.
- Create more of a community among our club members. This is likely the best reason for starting up the newsletter. During the early part of the

pandemic, the club had Zoom social nights where we got to know each other better. The newsletter can help us recreate that fun social aspect through member spotlights, quizzes, pictures, etc. A proposed list of things that could be included is provided on the last page of the sample document that is attached.

Caller Liaison Report

Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – November 2022

The information below is accurate as of Monday, November 14, 2022, 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.

Opening Discussions/Notes for Board

No additional contracts or promises have been made to any caller regarding the holding of workshops or classes, virtual or live, other than those listed below.

Dances Through April 2024

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place November 2022 through April 2024.

Saturday, December 3, 2022 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm
The Merion Meeting House

Saturday, February 25, 2023 – Mark Franks – Mainstream through Advanced – 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm The board needs to confirm the space at the church is available.

March 2023 Fly-In: Callers: Sandie Bryant, Dayle Hodge, Eric Henerlau March 24-26, 2023 Sheraton, Langhorne, PA

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Betsy Gotta 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House (Meeting House needs to be confirmed but probably not until later this year.)

April 2024 Fly-In: Callers: Darren Gallina, Betsy Gotta, Bill Harrison April 5-7, 2024

April 2025 Fly-in: April 4-6, 2025 Potential callers are in negotiations.

Open Houses and Classes

Mainstream and C1 Class with Betsy Gotta

Plus Class and Advanced Workshop with Mark Franks

FYI Notes

- 1) Based on the safety protocols that are now in place (proof of vaccination has been extended to require a booster when eligible), each caller is notified of this when they are hired.
- 2) As to contracts for the 2022-2023 classes, the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week and the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year's will be dark with no classes being held those weeks. This is in keeping with the practices of previous years.
- 3) A dance has been proposed for April 2023 and the committee is working on obtaining a caller. The format will be a double header with Mainstream and Plus in the afternoon and Advanced and C1 in the

evening. The space at the church will also need to be confirmed or a new space will need to be found if the church is unavailable.

- 4) Per Betsy's contract, she is away for two sessions in 2023. Clay Goss will be filling in on these dates. Clay will call Mainstream and Plus while Mark Franks will be calling Advanced and Challenge. Mark Franks and Betsy Gotta are aware of these updates.

Chris's motion

The board authorizes the Finance Committee (Chris, Steve, Drew and Ron) to investigate interest-bearing accounts. Upon agreement of these four people, the Treasurer is authorized to open one or two accounts at a bank that meets our needs for flexibility and additional income.

Steve's ideas about implementing Recommendation #4 below

The board agreed to the committee's recommendation that we notify all dancers at an event that they may have been exposed to Covid if any attendee lets us know that they have tested positive within 5 days of that event. It has slowly dawned on me how difficult that will be especially at an event like the Glitter Ball. The solution I have come up with is that if we are notified about a positive Covid test result we will send a note out to our list serve. In addition, at every event we have a sign in sheet available with the heading **Leave your email address for Covid notifications for this event**. When we read the Covid statement that we read at every dance we add on a statement like this. "We will notify everyone on our list serve if anyone does test positive in the next 5 days. If you are not on our list serve and you would like to be notified then please put your name on the Covid notification list at the treasurer's table."

***Recommendation #4 (Revised)**

Upon learning of a dancer being diagnosed with, or exposed to COVID-19, the board shall attempt to notify all dancers who were in contact with that dancer at a recent Independence Squares event. Notification can be made via email or phone contact and shall be done before the next Independence Squares event, if possible. In order to notify dancers who have not been contacted, notification shall be made at each Independence Squares event for 10 days following the date of notification to the board. The Independence Squares Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of attendance at our events and ensuring that we have contact information for each attendee. The Treasurer is also responsible for making that information readily available to the rest of the board in the situation where contact tracing phone calls are to be made or emails are to be sent out.