

## Independence Squares Board Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2023

### Minutes

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chris, Dave T. (arrived at 7:20pm, so did not vote on first 2 items), Drew, John & Coco, Steve, and Vinney. **Non-board Members:** Linda & Peg, Mike & Tim, and Will. **Absent:** Ron

Secretary's Report – Vinney (report submitted)

**Motion (Steve/Coco seconded): Accept November 2022 Minutes?** *Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0*

Treasurer's Report – Chris (report submitted)

Treasurer's 2022 Year-end report discussed. Key take-away: In 2022, the club made a profit. It was acknowledged that a loss was avoided because of the profits from the Fly-in.

**Motion (Steve/Vinney seconded): Accept Treasurer's Report?** *Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0*

Members discussed the finance committee's recommendation to move money to an interest-bearing account. Live Oak Banks, which is 100% online, is one possibility. It was suggested that we leave \$8K in PNC and put \$32K into a CD and \$2K in a Money Market Account. 3 months interest for withdrawing funds before 1 year. We also discussed closing out the reserve account.

**Motion (Steve/Chris seconded): Close reserve account?** *Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0*

Fly-In Report– Vinney (report submitted)

Co-chair reminded the group of the upcoming Fly-in Committee meeting. It was suggested that we add a bullet to the agenda to discuss a free registration for the Ottawa convention and whether masks will still be necessary for the Fly-in.

Return to Dance Committee– Peg (report submitted)

Members discussed if current cleaning protocols need to be amended.

**Motion (Chris/Dave seconded): No more wiping down tables, pens, doorknobs, or other surfaces:** *Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0*

Committee chairs discussed if modifying the current weekly COVID report, as a result of current trends and availability of reliable data.

**Motion (Steve/Vinney seconded): Change weekly stats report to bi-weekly, and display only new cases, hospitalizations, and ICU admissions.** *Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0*

The necessity of tracking the dates of COVID vaccinations was discussed.

**Motion (Steve/Coco): Amend the IS waiver to cease collecting vaccination dates.** *Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0.*

Members discussed whether to have a potluck dinner at the 2023 Glitter Ball. Some felt it was burdensome for those who must warm up/serve food. Others felt that the dinner allows dancers and callers a time to refuel and recuperate. It was also noted that we shouldn't underestimate the social value of the potluck dinner, as we are a social organization. A decision had not been made.

\* Action Item #1: President to speak to Mike and Linda about changing Glitter Ball 2023 to 3-7pm, instead of 4-8pm.

## Independence Squares Board Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2023

### Minutes

\* Action Item #2: RTD Chairs to put together safety guidelines for outdoor activities (e.g., no masks required).

Caller Liaison – Linda and Mike (report submitted)

Chair reminded members that the venue for February will be at the Holy Communion Church at 2111 Sansome Street (it was subsequently confirmed that the April dance will be held there, too). Members will continue thinking about cohosting future events with DC Lambda, Chesapeake Squares, and Times Squares. We also discussed whether the pool of callers for the Glitter Ball and other special events should be expanded.

**MOTION: Board approves committee's recommendation to hold the 2024 Glitter Ball on December 7, 2024 and will accept their judgement for whom they want to hire as caller.**

Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 1

*2023/2024 Classes & Workshops*: Club President recommended that IS consider offering Mainstream, Plus and Advanced classes and a Challenge Workshop for the 2023/2024 season. Due to time limitations, he suggested we continue the conversation at the next Board meeting.

Recruitment Committee Report– Steve (no report)

President/Chair discussed ideas for upcoming dances and the possibility of resurrecting the Fun Dances, perhaps outdoors with a different format. He also suggested that future advertisements include QR codes that directs interested parties to our website.

Some ideas from the IAGSDC R&R meeting on December 10

- Inexpensive lighting systems can change a Church basement into an intriguing space (Ottawa).
- Clubs experimenting with starting dances with instruction.
- Dances where the caller is remote have been successful.
- Use of demos at contra dances to recruit new square dancers.
- Clubs acknowledge that they must be flexible about students dropping into some classes and not necessarily coming consistently.

Publicity Chair Report– Ron (report submitted)

President suggested that members read the submitted report if they have not. It was noted that the Chair is planning on coordinating a Phillies 2023 Pride outing. (Note: post-meeting, June 23, 2023 was announced as the official PRIDE Game night).

Mainstream & Plus Report – Coco and John (no report)

Chair mentioned the possibility of students from a Thursday Cherry Hill class coming to our class.

\* Action Item: Coco to reach out to Arin, Marika, Sarah, Elissa and Maggie and ask where they would like to see themselves in September.

Advanced & Challenge Report– Dave (no report)

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 12, 2023**  
**Minutes**

Classes are going well. Chair mentioned we sometimes have enough for 2 advanced squares.

Old & New Business— Steve and all

Nominating Committee – President to ask Norma if she can be on the nominating committee. He also asked if anyone has a recommendation for President Elect and requested from current board members to let him know if they plan on leaving or staying on the board when their term ends. President stated he is dropping his intention to not require 2 signatories on every expense or contract. We will continue with 2 signatures requirement.

*February Dance Logistics: Steve*

Volunteers are needed to set up/tear down, and staff the tables. Chris, Dave, Drew, Ron and Vinney volunteered. If they can make it, John & Coco may help, too.

*Tuesday Night Staffing: Steve:*

President pulled up the Tuesday night schedule to update the list of volunteers to help with set-up, tear down, and staffing tables.

*Club Directory Update:* Steve and Mike to craft an email to current members asking if they need to update any information in the club directory (e.g., address, email, phone number, etc.), or, for those not currently in the directory, if they would like to be added to it. The board members also agreed that only current club members should update the directory.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Finlay  
Independence Squares, Secretary

Agenda for the Independence Squares Board Meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

Secretary's Report – Vinney

Suggestion made at Club Night about updating our directory.

Treasurer's Report – Chris

Update on opening a CD.

Fly-In Report – Vinney

Committee next meets on Monday.

Return to Dance Committee – Peg

Thoughts on pot luck dinner at Glitter Ball 2023.

Caller Liaison Report – Linda and Mike

Venue for April 29 dance.

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

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

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

Do we offer Mainstream or class level at the February dance?

First thoughts about what classes/workshops to offer in 2023-2024 session.

Staffing our February dance and other logistics – Steve

Revisit the list of who is in charge on Tuesdays.

Recruitment Committee Report – Steve

Some ideas from the IAGSDC R&R meeting on December 10

- Inexpensive lighting systems can change a Church basement into an intriguing space (Ottawa).
- Clubs experimenting with starting dances with instruction.
- Dances where the caller is remote have been successful.
- Use of demos at contra dances to recruit new square dancers.
- Clubs acknowledge that they have to be flexible about students dropping in to some classes and not necessarily coming consistently.

Publicity Chair Report – Ron will be absent but he submitted a report

Mainstream & Plus Report – Coco and John

Advanced & Challenge Report – Dave

Old & New Business – Steve and all

Nominating Committee

Update on Steve's idea to change the bylaws requirement for 2 signatories on every expense.

Celebration of our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

Adjourn

**Independence Squares  
Fly-In Committee Report  
January 12, 2023**

We have 98 registrations as of 1/8/23 and 70 room nights booked as of the same date. We are responsible for 100 room nights with an attrition rate of 80%.

Our hotel contact has confirmed that we will not be permitted to hold any dancing in the pool area. She is working to see if we can get the bar hours extended for at least one evening. Additionally, she has fixed the reservation link so that dancers can book rooms for up to 3 days early or stay for up to 3 days later and receive our special room rate.

An ad was included in the latest Delaware Valley Federation newsletter and will be included as well in the next All Join Hands mailing.

We have exchange certificates from Times Squares, Boots In Squares, and DCLS. We also have commitments from Hotlanta, Suncoast Squares, Chesapeake Squares, and Chi-Town. Ron will continue to reach out to other clubs that have annual Fly-Ins.

The Fly-In committee will meet next on January 16.

## **Return to Dance Committee Report to IS Board**

REVISED & UPDATED Minutes November 30, 2022, Return to Dance Committee Meeting

The RTD Committee is proposing to the IS board to consider reassessing these protocols:

- Wiping down surfaces before and after classes
- Reporting weekly statistics on COVID
- Mask wearing requirements
- Tracking dates of vaccinations

### **Wiping Proposal**

- Cease the effort of wiping down surfaces before and after weekly dance class.

The coronavirus behind the pandemic can linger on doorknobs and other surfaces, but these aren't a major source of infection. We implemented a protocol to wipe down surfaces before and after class to be proactive with preventing the spread of monkeypox virus at square dance classes. Monkeypox is not as widespread in the greater Philadelphia area as was feared. Monkeypox incidence has fallen in Philadelphia to fewer 10 new cases on October 31, 2022. There is an effective vaccine for monkeypox, which really helps with control of spread of monkeypox.

### **Statistics Reports Proposal**

- Cease weekly reporting of some (but not all) of the data points currently being tracked

To help inform the IS board in making decisions about meeting in person for dance class and dances, the RTD committee started tracking COVID statistics. RTD committee tracked incidence, positivity results, vaccination rates, deaths due to COVID, and community risk levels. Recently we added tracking hospitalization and ICU admissions for COVID patients and percentage of hospital beds occupied by COVID patients.

RTD Committee proposes that we stop tracking COVID incidence, testing and vaccination rates, deaths, hospital bed occupancy and community risk level as there is no current data or the data is not significantly different week to week.

- As of September 21, 2022 CDC has stopped collecting testing data and positivity rates in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.
- Community risk level is based on weekly new reported cases per 100K, weekly covid admissions per 100K, and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by covid patients.
- If we no longer track new reported cases and we are not tracking inpatient bed use, the community risk level is not a useful tool.
- We stopped tracking deaths due to COVID since there has been a drop in death rates in 2022 with virtually no change since we started tracking death rates in June 2022.

RTD Committee proposes to continue to report on:

- Hospitalization (which is different from bed occupancy) and ICU admission to track severity of illness
- RTD Committee proposes to report on a revised schedule of Bi-weekly or monthly or only when there is a significant change

#### Mask Wearing Proposal – Continue current practice

- Continue monitoring COVID cases and continue discussion on mask wearing during our classes and dances

RTD Committee proposes that the RTD Committee and the IS Board continue to monitor and discuss COVID and consider reassessing the mask wearing requirement during classes and dances in the future. Point of information: DC Lambda Squares recently went mask-optional. However, their club requires proof of COVID vaccination, 2 boosters, and the bi-valent booster, which is more stringent than IS requirements. \*\*And as of January 2023, they returned to requiring masks for their dances.

Making mask wearing optional might make the club more attractive to younger dancers.

Also, if we have any outdoor dances in warm weather (Gay Pride events or other show cases) the strict protocols can be relaxed. RTD Committee would develop protocols for outdoor dances if the IS board would like to schedule such events.

#### Vaccine Date Tracking Proposal

- Revise the IS waiver and Release of Liability to cease tracking the dates of vaccinations and boosters.

It was important early on during the COVID pandemic to track dates of vaccination to note when a person was eligible for the second dose or booster. This is no longer as important since we are requiring two vaccinations plus a booster, so the dates of eligibility are no longer needed.

RTD Committee proposes that a revised waiver be used. The revised waiver would include fields for a club officer to indicate:

- that the vaccination records were checked and are in line with our current protocols
  - remove the section for recording the vaccination dates
- Photo ID was checked
- Initials of the club representative who verified the information

The person signing the waiver would include this identifying information:

- Signature
- Printed name
- Date signed
- Phone number
- Email address

Once the signed waivers are scanned into a secure drive, the paper copies would be destroyed.

---

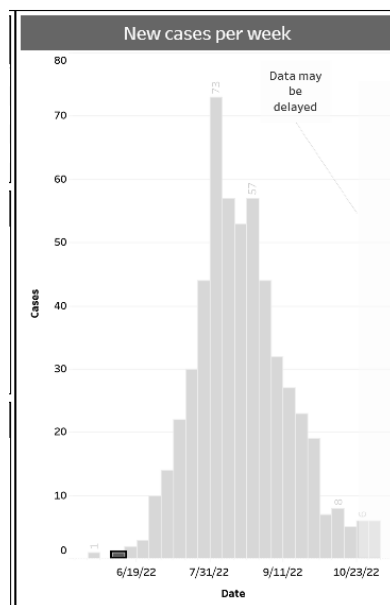
## Notes in Support of RTD Committee Proposals

### Wiping surfaces

The coronavirus behind the pandemic can linger on doorknobs and other surfaces, but these aren't a major source of infection. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00251-4>

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/monkeypox/data/>

Monkeypox 544 cases in Philadelphia since June 2022 through October 2022; only 10 cases on October 31, 2022.



### Data collection

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/pennsylvania>

#### THE CRC HAS STOPPED COLLECTING TESTING DATA

This chart is officially out of date as more than 30 states across the US have stopped reporting testing positivity or significantly scaled down their testing reports. The CRC data visualizations will remain available for past dates and reports, but will no longer have up to date information on testing positivity and criteria.

[https://www.covidactnow.org/us/pennsylvania-pa/county/philadelphia\\_county/?s=43283072](https://www.covidactnow.org/us/pennsylvania-pa/county/philadelphia_county/?s=43283072)

### **Daily new cases per 100k population**

Daily new cases, also known as incidence, is the number of new COVID cases emerging each day in a location. This is measured by the number of positive test results, and it does not include individuals who are infected but asymptomatic or never get tested.



### Positive test rate

Positive test rate is the percentage of COVID tests that come back positive. It measures both the severity of COVID and the limitations of testing. If a place has a high positive test rate, it is a sign of insufficient testing in that area. Positive test rate does *not* include at-home positive test data.

Testing a larger number of at-risk populations (essential workers, people notified via contact tracing , etc.) is key to catching unknown infections before they can lead to an outbreak.

### DAILY NEW CASES PER 100K 2022 AVERAGES

	<b>1/3/2022</b>	AVERAGE from 9/5/2022 through 11/28/2022	Difference between 1/3/2022 and averages Sept – Nov 2022
PA-Bucks County	<b>131.9</b>	12.71	-119.19
PA-Chester County	<b>137.1</b>	11.52	-125.58
PA-Delaware County	<b>194.1</b>	13.18	-180.92
PA-Montgomery County	<b>157.9</b>	13.15	-144.75
PA-Philadelphia County	<b>183.3</b>	12.14	-171.16
NJ-Burlington County	<b>216.7</b>	20.32	-196.38
NJ-Camden County	<b>231.5</b>	20.46	-211.04
NJ-Gloucester County	<b>211.4</b>	18.22	-193.18
NJ-Salem County	<b>171.7</b>	17.68	-154.02
NJ-Mercer County	<b>229.8</b>	20.46	-209.34
DE-New Castle County	<b>218.1</b>	16.36	-201.74

Numbers may be down because of home testing and not reporting.

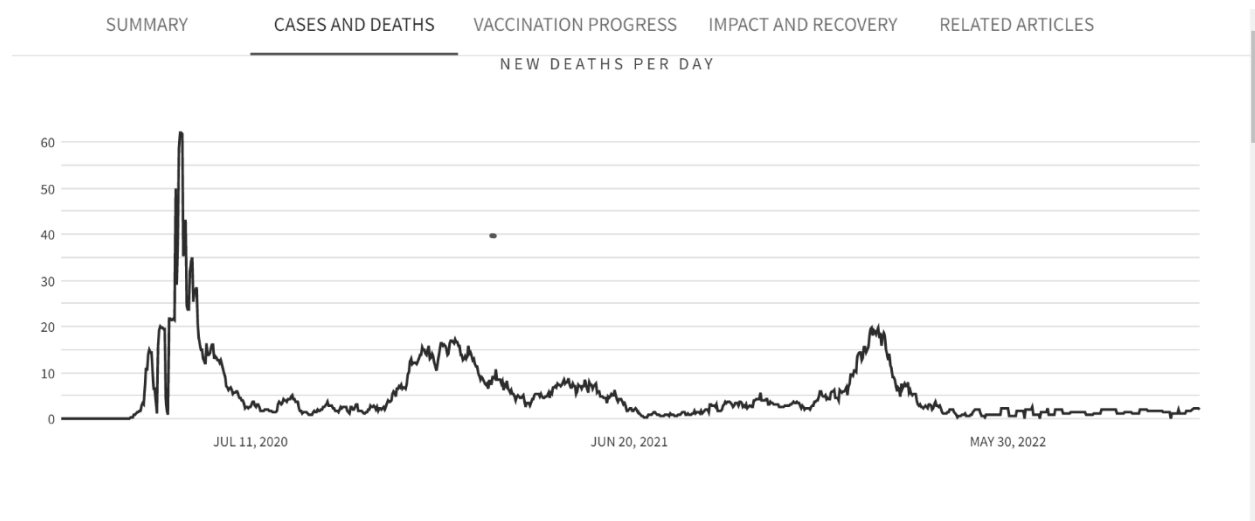
Not checking positivity rates due to home testing and not reporting and not tracking deaths since ..... 2022.

Started tracking hospitalization and icu admissions September 1, 2022. Not tracked prior.

<b>DAILY DEATHS PER 100K</b>	<b>6/13/2022</b>	<b>10/3/2022</b>
PA-Bucks County	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
PA-Chester County	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
PA-Delaware County	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>

PA-Montgomery County	0.9	0.1
PA-Philadelphia County	1.6	0.1
NJ-Burlington County	0.9	0.0
NJ-Camden County	0.9	0.1
NJ-Gloucester County	0.3	0.0
NJ-Salem County	0.1	0.0
NJ-Mercer County	0.1	0.1
DE-New Castle County	1.0	0.1

## Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania coronavirus cases and deaths | USAFacts



### Masking

[Help Stop the Spread \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/help-stop-the-spread)

#### Wear a Mask

The department continues to urge Pennsylvanians to follow CDC [guidance](#) for wearing a mask where required by law, rule, and regulations, including healthcare, local business and workplace guidance. For the protection of themselves and others, individuals who have not yet been vaccinated or are partially vaccinated are still encouraged to wear a mask when in public. The CDC requires individuals to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs, such as airports and stations. In addition, all individuals should still follow guidance at workplaces, local businesses, long-term care facilities, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, prisons, and shelters.

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/updates/>

**Masks strongly recommended in indoor public settings.**

- Average new cases per day: 149
- Case increase: Less than 50% in the previous 10 days
- Hospitalizations: 195

*Last updated: November 17, 2022*

<https://www.dclambdasquares.org/newsletter--events.html>

### Change in Club COVID Protocols

After lengthy discussion at Board Meetings and input from club members, the Board is revising the Club's mask policy. Subject to a mask requirement by the church, masks will be optional at DCLS dances so long as DC's numbers reported to the CDC remain low. In addition to this change, all attendees **MUST** be completely up-to-date with Covid boosters, including the bivalent, by January 1, 2023.

We recognize that the CDC's reported information is delayed. However, with vaccinations, boosters, Paxlovid, and monoclonal antibodies, the country is in better shape than it was even a year ago. Should Covid numbers go up in DC, the Board will reinstitute masks.

To support increased air circulation, we will continue to use fans. Additionally, we encourage all those who wish to wear a mask, to feel free to continue doing so.

And as usual, if you are feeling unwell, please stay home.

We look forward to seeing you at Club Night!

## **Caller Liaison Report**

### **Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – January 2023**

The information below is accurate as of Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 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, 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, Eric Henerlau, Dayle Hodge March 24-26, 2023 Sheraton, Langhorne, PA

Saturday, April 29, 2023 – Double Header with Kent Forrester

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Mainstream and Plus

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Dinner Break – Nothing formalized. Social hour.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Advanced through C1. Possible C2 star tip.

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: Callers: Jeremy Butler, Vic Ceder, Don Moger April 4-6, 2025

#### **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) A dance has been scheduled for April 29, 2023 and Kent Forrester has been contracted to call the dance. The format will be a double header with Mainstream and Plus in the afternoon and Advanced and C1 in the evening. A space has yet to be confirmed.

- 3) Per Betsy's contract, she is away for two sessions in 2023 – January 10 and April 25. 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.
- 4) The Caller Liaison Committee would like to hire a caller for the Glitter Ball in 2024. The date would be Saturday, December 8, 2024.

## **Independence Squares Publicity Chair Report January 12, 2023**

Ron reached out to Staples to inquire about special programs that they might have to help non-profit organizations reduce their printing costs. Unfortunately, they have no such program for a group like ours that has relatively small printing needs.

A flyer for the February Fab Fest dance was put together and has been printed and distributed on Tuesday nights. Copies were given to club representatives from Times Squares and DC Lambda Squares at the conclusion of the Glitter Ball. A Facebook event was created and shared with Times Squares, DC Lambda Squares, and Chesapeake Squares.

Website updates include an announcement regarding the new prepay period and continued updates to our dance schedule including the addition of the February Fab Fest flyer and notices regarding Clay Goss' substitution for Betsy Gotta at two Tuesday night classes. Broken links in the "Resources and Links" section have been fixed or removed.

I have begun looking into another Pride night outing for the club with the Phillies this year. I've called the Phillies group ticket office twice to find out if/when they are going to have it this year, since the website doesn't show it yet. I've been told that they are working on it and to check back later this month.

venue	available?	location	price	pros	cons
Merz Hall	yes	Center City	\$85	good price	dancing on carpet. may be challenging to access the kitchen since there is another booking in the Red Cross room
Holy Trinity United Church of Christ	yes	Willingboro, NJ	free	free, good parking	It feels like a church basement. There are poles we'd have to dance around. Accessibility for those with disabilities is workable but not ideal. The ceiling is low. The floor is linoleum.
William Way Community Center	no	Center City	\$810	beautiful space, nice floors	price, parking
Merion Meeting House	yes	Merion, PA	at least \$500?	beautiful space, nice floors	price
Chris Church	no?	Ridley Park, PA		good floor, good parking	accessibility, used by Lone Rangers that night? Lone Ranger FB page implies that they use it on the 5th Saturday.
Encore Experiences		Harleysville, PA		good sized community room	
Park Avenue Community Center		Swarthmore, PA		large, beautiful space	
Arden Guild Hall		North Willmington, DE			expensive?
Hightstown American Legion	yes	Hightstown, NJ	\$75 per hour	possibility of getting Times Squares dancers to come to the dance	It would be an extra half hour drive in each direction for Fred but Ron and Vinney would offer to put him up for the night.
Trenton American Legion	yes	Trenton, NJ	\$550		need for on-street parking. Slight odor of cigarettes
Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Washington, PA	pending	Fort Washington, PA			Hall is not available on April 29 but is willing to rent to us in the future
Hightstown firehouse		Hightstown, NJ			Ron left two phone messages. Tried again on 1/10 and their recorded message says to submit an inquiry through their website. He did so. Turnaround time says one week for a response

## SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY NIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

The board member in charge will make sure the venue is opened up, set up (including wiping surfaces), run smoothly (including collecting money and making the required announcements) and put back in the condition we found it in (including wiping surfaces). That person can delegate responsibilities, but it is preferable that they be there from 6:30 until the church is locked behind us. If you sign up to be the person in charge you must not remove your name unless you can find a replacement who will put their name in.

Date	29-Nov	6-Dec	13-Dec	20-Dec	3-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan
Board Member in Charge	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Drew, Bob, MK</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Vinney</b>	<b>Drew, Bob, MK</b>	<b>Chris</b>	<b>Dave T.</b>
Other Board Members	Chris	Ron	Ron	Ron	Ron	Vinney	Ron	Dave T.	Ron
who plan to be there.	Ron	Vinney	Vinney	Vinney	Vinney	Chris	Vinney		Vinney
	Vinney			Chris					

7-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	7-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	28-Mar
<b>Dave T.</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Vinney</b>	<b>Dave T</b>	<b>Chris</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Vinney</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Steve</b>
Ron	Vinney	Ron		Vinney	Ron	Ron	Ron
Vinney		Vinney			Vinney	Vinney	Vinney
							Chris